



Department of Natural Resources Update

Southeast Conference

Presentation by Corri Feige
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
February 12, 2019



LAND BASE & OWNERSHIP



Land Base

- 586,412 sq. miles—more than twice the size of Texas
- Larger than all but 18 sovereign nations
- More than 3 million lakes; half of world's glaciers
- Approximately 40% of the nation's freshwater supply

Southeast

- 94% of Southeast lands are Federal, 78% of Southeast is the Tongass National Forest, 16% is Glacier Bay National Park
- 2.5% of Southeast are State Lands including those managed by Mental Health Trust and University of Alaska
- In 1880, Joe Juneau and Richard Harris found large pieces of quartz mixed with gold that became Gold Creek Mine.



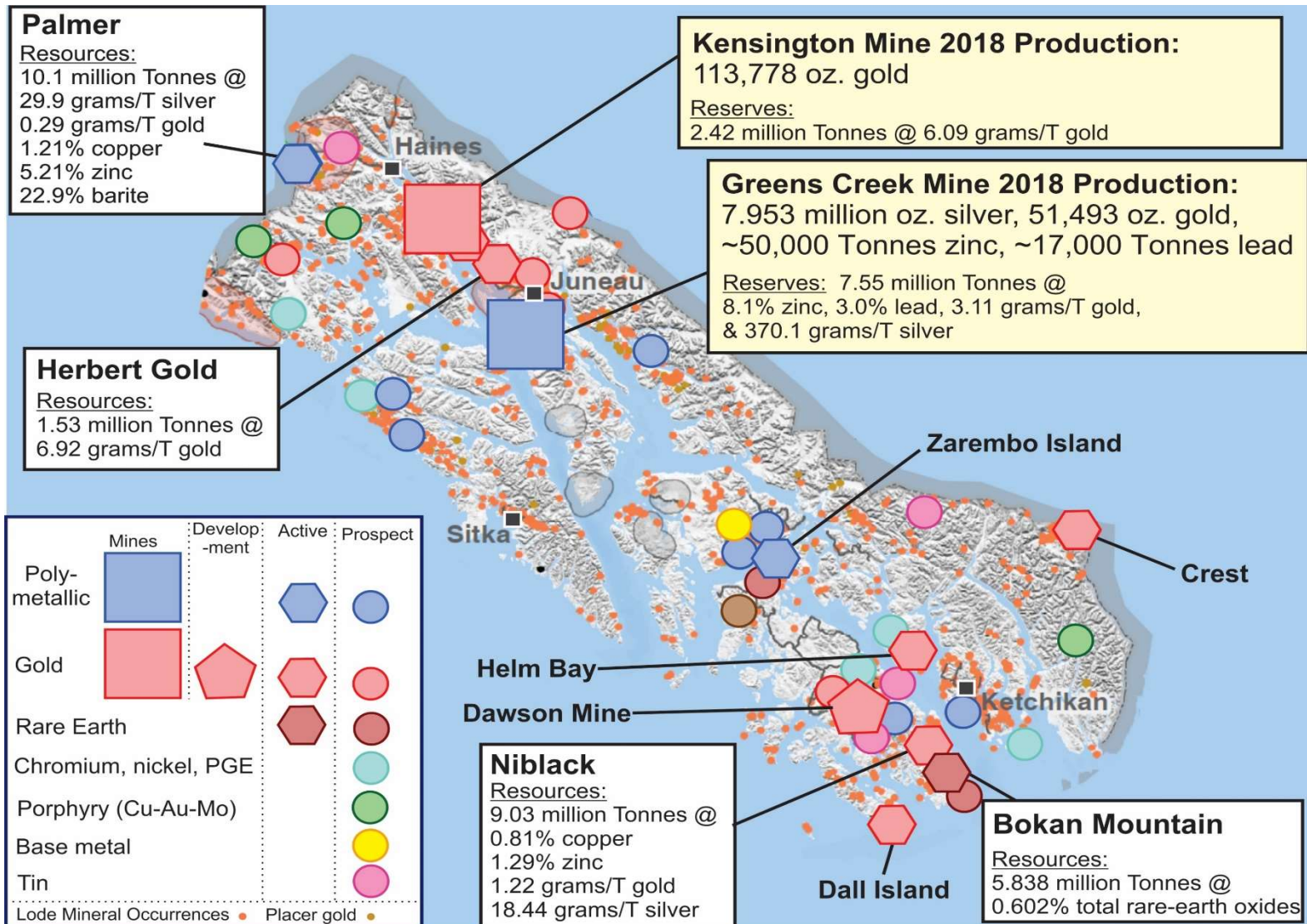
RESOURCE POTENTIAL: MINERALS



Alaska ranked among the top ten mineral provinces in the world

- **Copper:** 4% of the world's copper;
 - (8th most in the world)
- **Lead:** 4% of the world's lead;
 - (6th most in the world)
- **Gold:** 8% of the world's gold;
 - (5th most in the world)
- **Zinc:** 6% of the world's zinc;
 - (6th most in the world)
- **Silver:** 4% of the world's silver;
 - (9th most in the world)
- **475 State Mining Claims in the Southeast**
- **Alaska ranked 2nd for mineral potential**

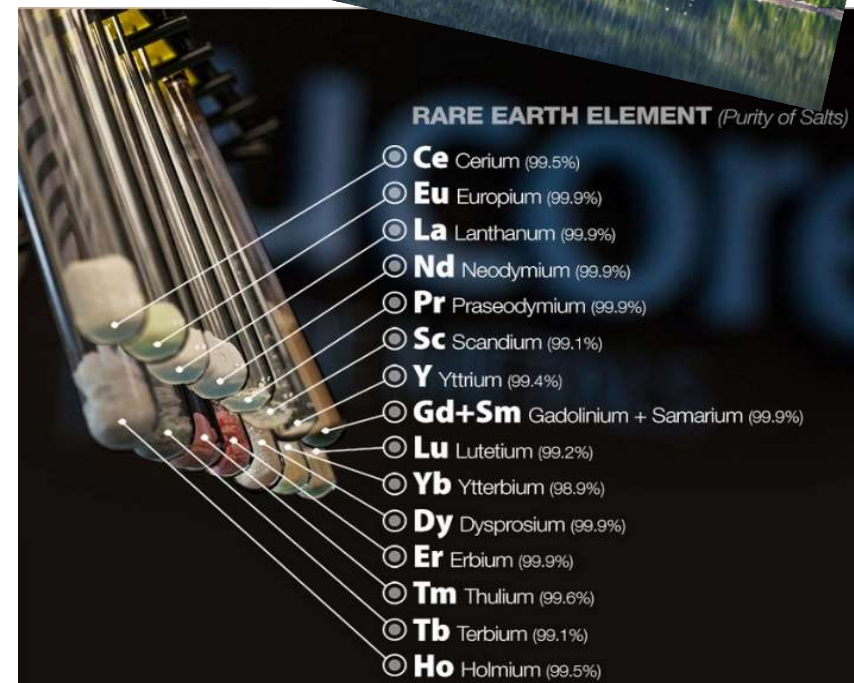
SOUTHEAST MINES



UCORE RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE)

2018 Milestones:

- Ketchikan Borough → New Strategic Metals Complex site
- September 2018 - Ucore entered an Agreement to purchase REE-separation plant's development site
- Process Bokan & REE ore from deposits worldwide
- Initiated engineering & design of strategic metal complex
- US\$145 million proposed AIDEA financing package for Bokan mine & processing facilities
- FY2019 National Defense Authorization Act - U.S. DoD banned from acquiring Rare Earth magnets from China



FORESTRY



Division of Forestry activities:

- Offer approximately 33MM board feet this year...utilizing the full allowable cut and all surplus volume to help stabilize the timber industry
- Complete the Roadless Rule making process for the Tongass National Forest;
- Considering two long-term timber sales in Southeast Alaska;
- Review and streamline regulations and statutes;
- Complete and implement new fire prevention regulations.

TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS RULE

- **Petition:** In January of 2018 the State petitioned to USDA to Permanently exempt the Tongass National Forest.
- Commence a revision or amendment of the 2016 Tongass Forest Plan (Plan) to remove provisions of the 2001 Roadless Rule.
- To reconsider the State's objections that were not addressed in the Plan.
- **MOU:** August 2018 - The State and USDA signed a cooperating MOU.



- **Rulemaking:** August 2018- USDA Notice of Intent to initiate an environment impact statement and public rulemaking process.
- **Advisory Council:** September 2018 – Alaska Roadless Rule Citizens Advisory Committee formed, drafted initial report describing four options, comments were provided to USDA with the report.
- **Litigation:** Five different Governor's have challenged the 2001 Roadless Rule in various courts.
- The current case is before the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in D.C. awaiting oral argument.

MAJOR SE PROJECT SUPPORT



DNR's Office of Project Management & Permitting supports...

Mining

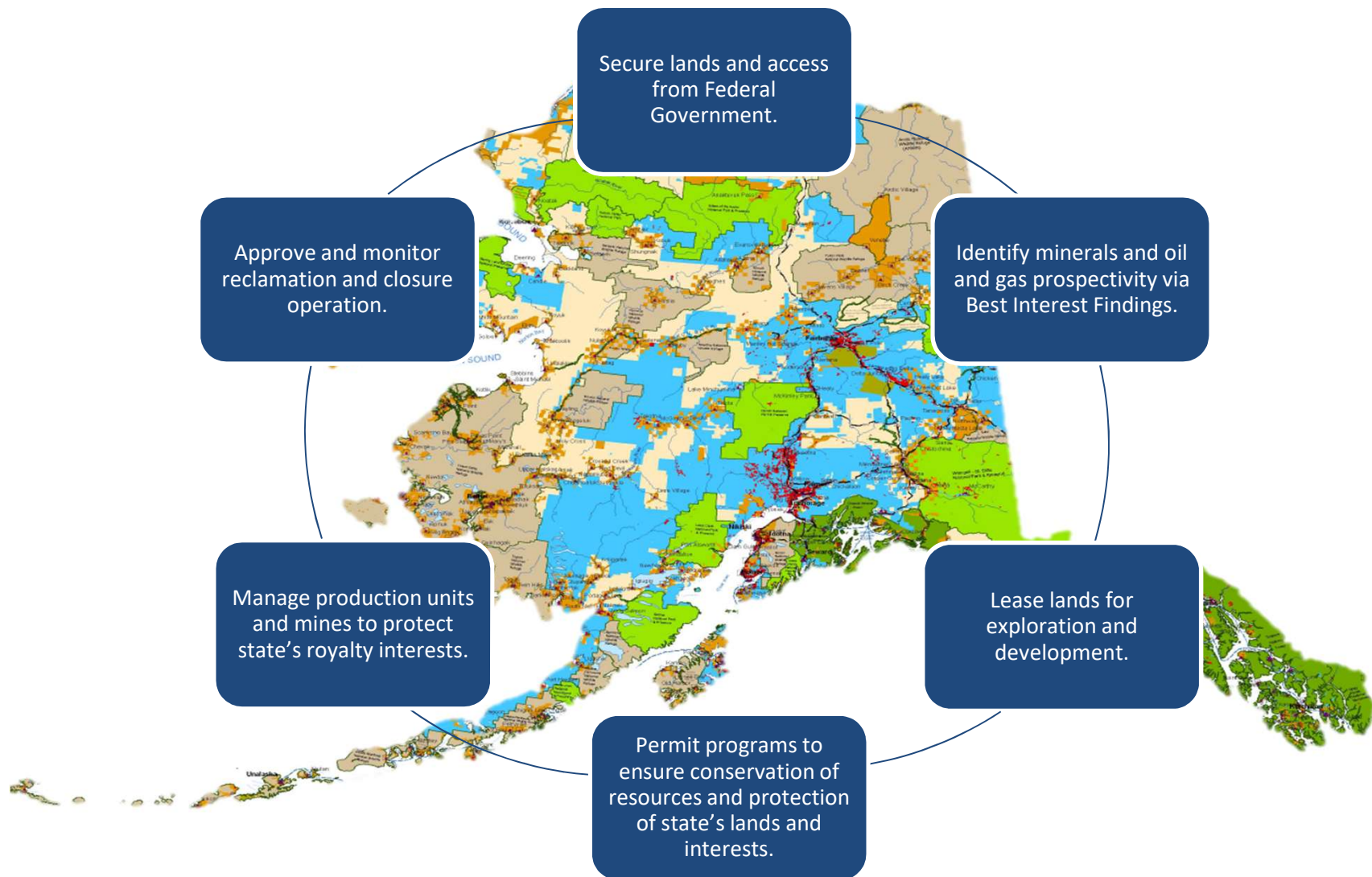
- Represent State as a cooperating agency during the environmental review process for a proposed expansion of the Kensington Gold Mine.
- Coordinate state permits for a proposed underground exploration adit for the Palmer Exploration Project.
- Supporting a timely, transparent process for Bokan Mountain Project permits.

Forestry

- **Coordinate** the State of Alaska review and technical comments on the proposed **Tongass Roadless Rule** and the associated **Draft EIS**

OPMP helps ensure timelines are met, agencies communicate & the process moves forward

LAND LIFE CYCLE



THANK YOU!

