



**page 10** Fort Knox gold production drops on lower second-quarter grades



## NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

### Mining loses highly regarded engineer, gentleman, friend

With immense sadness, Ucore Rare Metals Inc. Aug. 2 reported the sudden passing of COO Ken Collison, a mining engineer highly regarded both professionally and personally. "Ken was a towering figure in the mine engineering industry," said Ucore President and CEO Jim McKenzie. "His outstanding successes at Ucore, Coeur Alaska, Crandon Mining, and Blue Pearl Mining/Thompson Creek speak to the diversity of his accomplishments in developing best-of-breed mining and minerals processing facilities." As COO of Blue Pearl Mining/Thompson Creek Metals from 2005 to 2009, Collison was part of the team that purchased Thompson Creek Metals and built it into one of North America's premier molybdenum producers. He previously held the positions of vice president at Crandon Mining Corp. and Coeur Alaska, the Alaska subsidiary of Coeur d'Alene Mines. He brought extensive experience in mining operations, permitting and preparation of mining feasibility studies to Ucore and its work to develop the Bokan-Dotson Ridge rare earth element project in Southeast Alaska. "Ken's innovative outlook was instrumental to generating the company's process flowsheet for the Bokan-Dotson Ridge project, and in laying the foundation for the utilization of MRT processing across the technology metals space," continued McKenzie. "Ken was a mentor, a respected colleague, a gentleman and a friend. His easygoing manner and his passion for the industry will be missed by all who had the pleasure to work with him."



KEN COLLISON

### Coeur AK reports lower costs at Kensington; Jualin progress

Coeur Mining Inc. July 27 said the costs to produce each ounce of gold at its Kensington Mine reached a new historical low in the second quarter. The Southeast Alaska operation churned out 32,210 oz. gold at US\$740/oz. during the period, compared with 29,845 oz. gold at US\$745/oz. during the same

see **NEWS NUGGETS** page 10



SHANE LASLEY

The Pedro dredge, which recovered its final gold near the community of Chicken in 1967, is a monument to the long and storied history of mining in the Fortymile Mining District. In a proposed management plan for Alaska's Eastern Interior, BLM is attempting to strike a balance between continued mining and conservation in this mineral-rich area.

### PUBLIC POLICY

# BLM seeks balance

Interior Alaska plan opens acreage to mining, creates conservation areas

By SHANE LASLEY  
Mining News

Roughly 74 percent of U.S. Bureau of Land Management-administered lands in Alaska's Eastern Interior region will be off limits to mining, according to the preferred resource management plan published July 30 by the federal land manager.

BLM is responsible for the management of 6.5 million acres in the federal government's Eastern Interior planning area, a roughly 30-million-acre, triangle-shaped expanse of eastern Alaska that stretches from the Yukon Territory border to a point about 240 miles into the interior of the state. This area, roughly the size of New York State, blankets most of five historic mining districts – Fortymile, Goodpaster, Fairbanks, Circle and Tolovana (Livengood). It has produced roughly 21

*Virtually all of the BLM-administered lands in the Steese and White Mountain subunits of Eastern Interior ... are off limits to mining under the preferred management plan.*

million ounces of gold and is known to host a broad range of other minerals.

BLM said its preferred plan, which is set to serve as a framework for decision-making across this swath of Alaska going forward, seeks to strike a balance between responsible development and conservation.

"We've worked hard to listen to the concerns of a diverse group of local stakeholders who rely on

see **BLM BALANCE** page 12

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Matt Budin

907-644-3966

matt.budin@dynonobel.com

www.dynonobel.com

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