



# Update on the Deposit Classification Scheme for the Critical Minerals in Ores Database

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# Critical Minerals Mapping Initiative: Goals

- Compile a global Critical Minerals in Ores (CMiO)
   Database and serve it to the public via a web-based portal
- Develop a unified Deposit Classification Scheme to sort and use the geochemical data on ores
- Place Critical Minerals in a Tectonic & Systems Framework
- Research Assessment Techniques for Critical Minerals





# Critical Minerals of each Country

Critical to the Energy Transition

Critical Minerals	<u>Australia</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<b>United States</b>
Aluminum (Al)		X	X
Antimony (Sb)	X	X	X
Arsenic (As)			X
Barite			X
Beryllium (Be)	X		X
Bismuth (Bi)	X	X	X
Cesium (Cs)		X	X
Chromium (Cr)	X	X	X
Cobalt (Co)	X	X	X
Copper (Cu)		X	
Fluorspar		X	X
Gallium (Ga)	X	X	X
Germanium (Ge)	X	X	X
Graphite	X	X	X
Hafnium (Hf)	X		X
Helium (He)	X	X	
Indium (In)	X	X	X
Lithium (Li)	X	X	X
Magnesium (Mg), Magnesite	X	X	X

<b>Critical Minerals</b>	<u>Australia</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<b>United States</b>
Manganese (Mn)	X	X	X
Molybdenum (Mo)		X	
Nickel (Ni)		X	X
Niobium (Nb)	X	X	X
Platinum group elements (PGE)	X	X	X
Potash		X	
Rare earth elements (REE)	X	X	X
Rhenium (Re)	X		
Rubidium (Rb)			X
Scandium (Sc)	X	X	X
Tantalum (Ta)	X	X	X
Tellurium (Te)		X	X
Tin (Sn)		X	X
Titanium (Ti)	X	X	X
Tungsten (W)	X	X	X
Uranium (U)		X	
Vanadium (V)	X	X	X
Zinc ( Zn)		X	X
Zirconium (Zr)	X		X

38 Critical Minerals

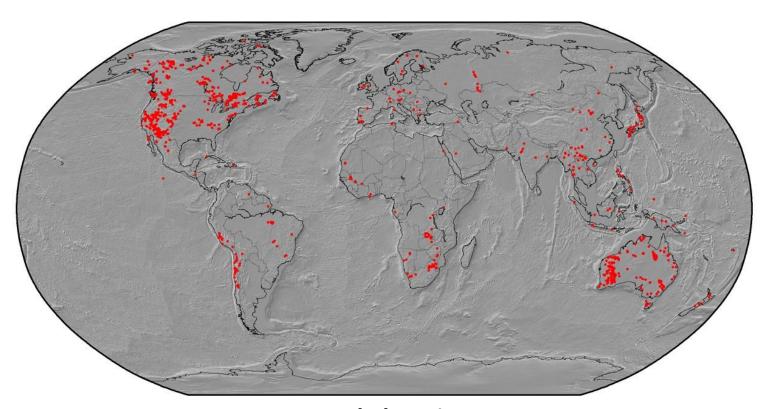
To be useful, ore samples must be analyzed for many elements





# Critical Minerals in Ores (CMiO) Database

### criticalminerals.org



Ore sample location map

- Geochemical data compiled from GA, GSC, USGS sources
- 7,311 Samples
- 1507 Deposits
- 60 Countries
- Updated annually





# Deposit Classification Scheme

**Genetically related features / System type (N=38)** 

Linked to samples in 2022

**Deposit environment (N=12)** 

**Deposit group** (N=52)

Deposit type (N=189)

Synonyms

Examples

References (N=313)

Linked to samples in the CMiO Database

USGS OFR 2021-1049

https://doi.org/10.3133/ofr20211049





# CMiO Database: Info linked to samples

System type (N=40)

Linked to samples in 2022

**Deposit environment (N=12)** 

**Deposit group** (N=52)

**Deposit type (N=189)** 

Deposit Classification Scheme

Deposit (name, ID, primary & secondary commodities)

Sample (name & ID)

Sample Location (exact or deposit location, state, country)

Sample source & character (several entries)

**Prep & Analytical methods** 

Results & Detection limits (many elements)





# System type

Calc-alkaline porphyry-epithermal system Porphyry copper system of Sillitoe, 2010

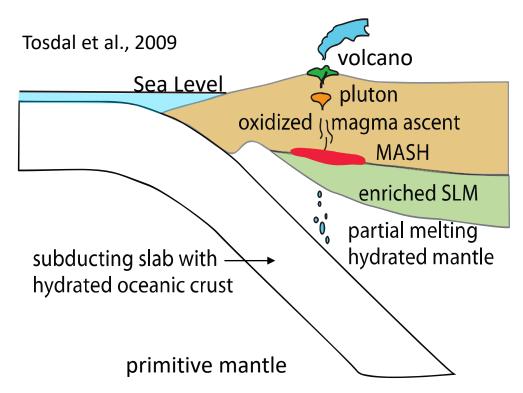
# Genetically related features

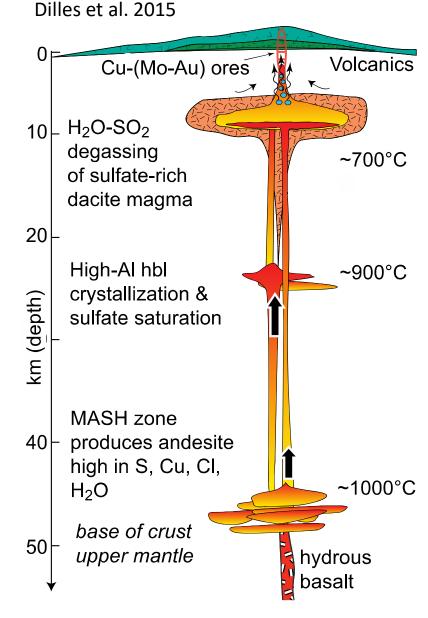
Arc, magnetite series, calc-alkaline volcano-plutonic center, magmatic fluid, alkali and hydrolytic metasomatism, and myriad deposit types.





# Example: Subduction-related Calc-alkaline Porphyry-Epithermal System:



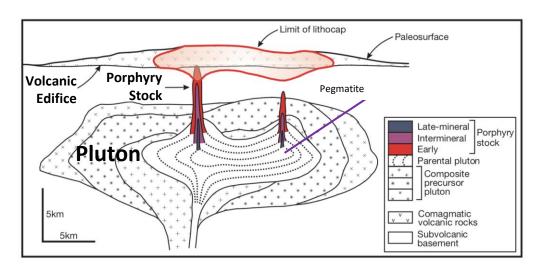




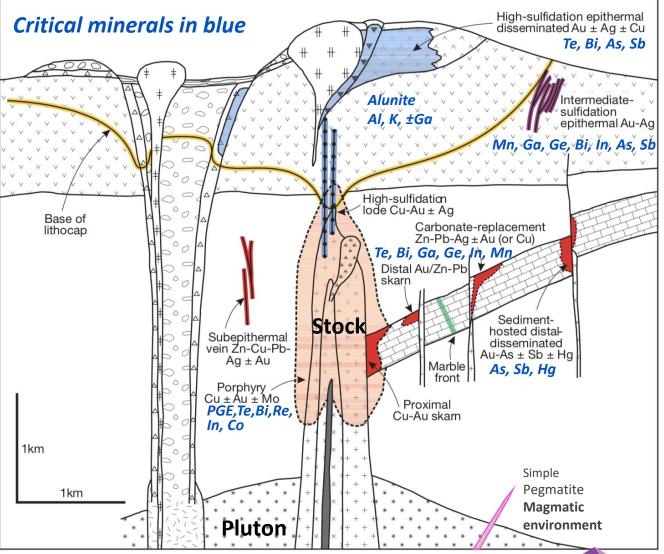
# Calc-alkaline Porphyry-Epithermal System:

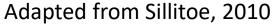
Cogenetic deposit types (same time, same place)

1 System type → many Deposit types Magmatic hydrothermal environment



#### Trap part of the system







# System types

### Kreiner's working group on Tectonics and Mineral Systems

**Placer** 

Laterite

Saprolite

**Meteoric Infiltration** 

**Epithermal** 

**Lacustrine Redox** 

**Lacustrine Evaporite** 

**Marine Evaporite** 

**MVT** 

**Siliciclastic-Carbonate Basinal Brine** 

Siliciclastic-Mafic Basinal Brine

**Basin inversion** 

**Rift-Initiation Basinal Brine** 

**Epicontinental Basin-Basement Redox** 

**Marine Black Shale** 

**Marine Shelf** 

**Superior Fe** 

**Superior Mn** 

Metamorphic

Orogenic gold

**Orogenic basemetal** 

**Hydrogenetic Oceanic** 

**Seafloor Hydrothermal** 

**Ophiolite** 

Komatiite

Impact-related

**Convergence-related mafic-ultramafic** 

Plume-related mafic-ultramafic

Mantle-derived alkaline

**Carbonatite** 

Alkaline-peralkaline

Alkaline porphyry-epithermal

A-type high-silica porphyry-epithermal

Calc-alkaline porphyry-epithermal

Carlin-type gold

Intrusion-related gold

Intrusion-related rare metal

Metasomatic iron oxide alkali-calcic





# Deposit environment = Ore-forming environment

- Erosional
- Supergene
- Infiltrational
- Basin evaporative
- Basin chemical
- Basin hydrothermal

- Metamorphic
- Metamorphic hydrothermal
- Regional metasomatic
- Volcanic basin hydrothermal
- Magmatic hydrothermal
- Magmatic





# Deposit group term = Key attribute

Most of the deposit type names consist of a term that describes a key attribute that is preceded or followed by one or more commodities that are typically recovered from the ore, e.g. orogenic gold, porphyry copper, iron skarn

In some cases, the deposit group term is preceded by a modifier that describes another characteristic that enables further discrimination, e.g. epizonal orogenic gold





# Deposit type naming format

**Deposit** 

Optional modifier + group term + Commodity(s)

Epizonal Orogenic Gold

Porphyry Copper

Skarn Iron

High sulfidation Epithermal Gold-silver

Carlin-type Gold





# Deposit Types form in System Types

# Plume-related mafic-ultramafic system

- U-M layered intrusion Cr
- U-M layered intrusion Fe-Ti-V
- U-M layered intrusion PGE
- U-M layered intrusion Ni-Cu-PGE
- U-M intrusion Ni-Cu-PGE
- U-M conduit Ni-Cu-PGE

#### **MVT** system

- MVT zinc-lead
- Sandstone zinc-lead
- Non-sulfide zinc-lead ±Mn
- MVT barite
- MVT strontium
- MVT fluorspar





# Deposit Groups share a key attribute

#### **Porphyry Group**

- Porphyry Cu ±Au
- Porphyry Cu-Mo
- Low-fluorine Porphyry Mo
- Climax-type Porphyry Mo
- Porphyry W
- Porphyry Sn

#### **Epithermal Group**

- LS Epithermal Au-Ag
- IS Epithermal Ag-Au
- HS Epithermal Ag-Au
- Alkalic Epithermal Au
- Epithermal Sb
- Epithermal Hg
- Epithermal Be
- Epithermal U





# System Types operate in Deposit Environments

#### **Magmatic environment**

- Mantle-derived alkaline
- Carbonatite
- Alkaline-peralkaline
- Convergence-related maficultramafic
- Ophiolite
- Plume-related mafic-ultramafic
- Komatiite
- Impact-related

#### **Basin hydrothermal environment**

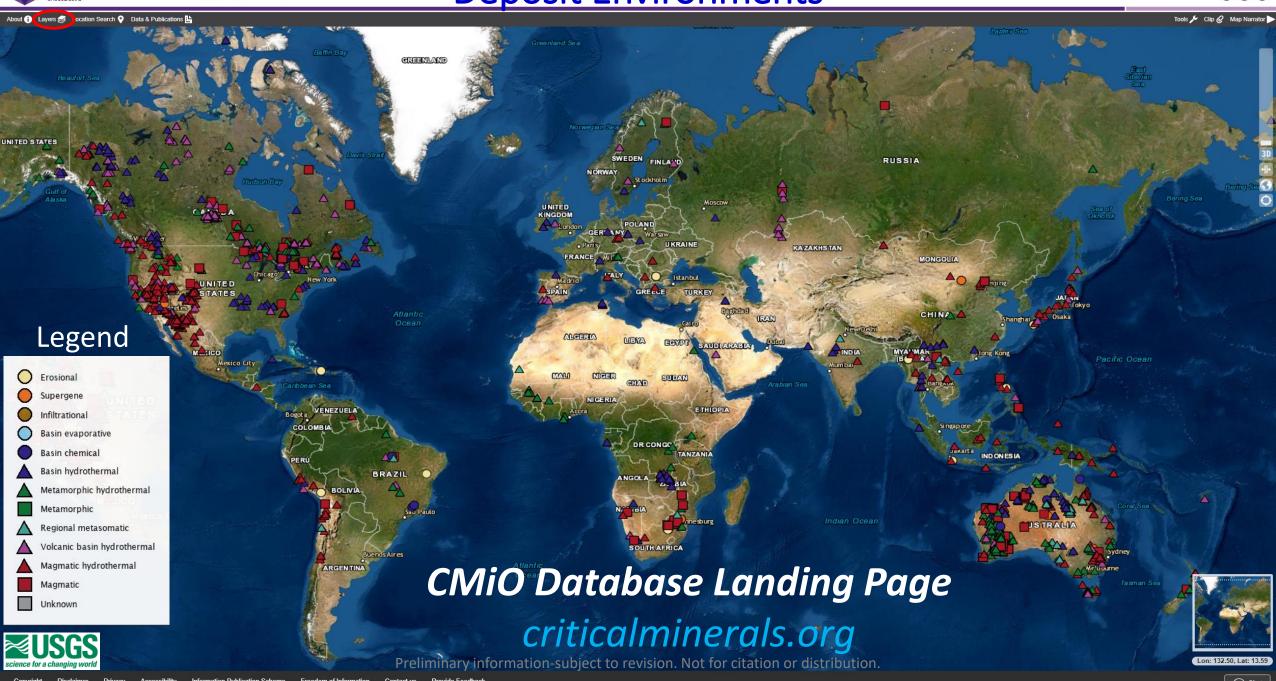
- Rift-initiation basinal brine
- Siliciclastic-carbonate basinal brine
- Siliciclastic-mafic basinal brine
- Basin inversion
- MVT
- Epicontinental basin-basement redox





#### **Deposit Environments**

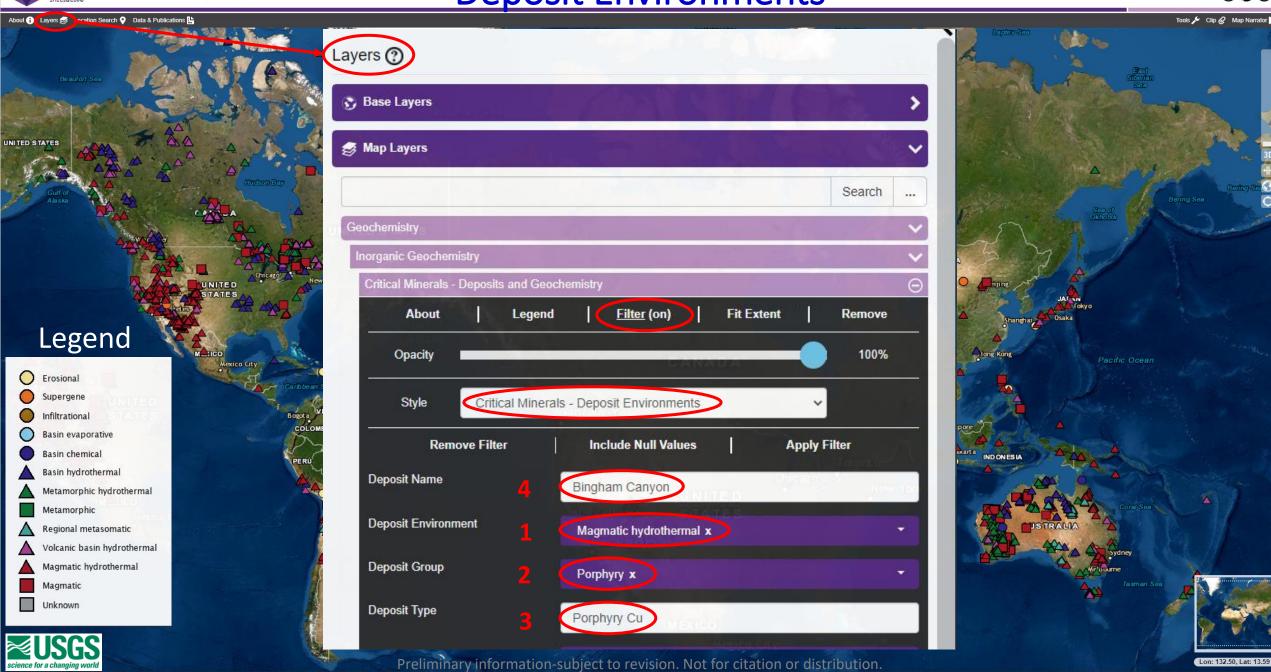




Freedom of Information Contact us Provide Feedback

#### **Deposit Environments**

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#### Magmatic Hydrothermal Environment





#### Porphyry Group





#### Porphyry Cu Deposits





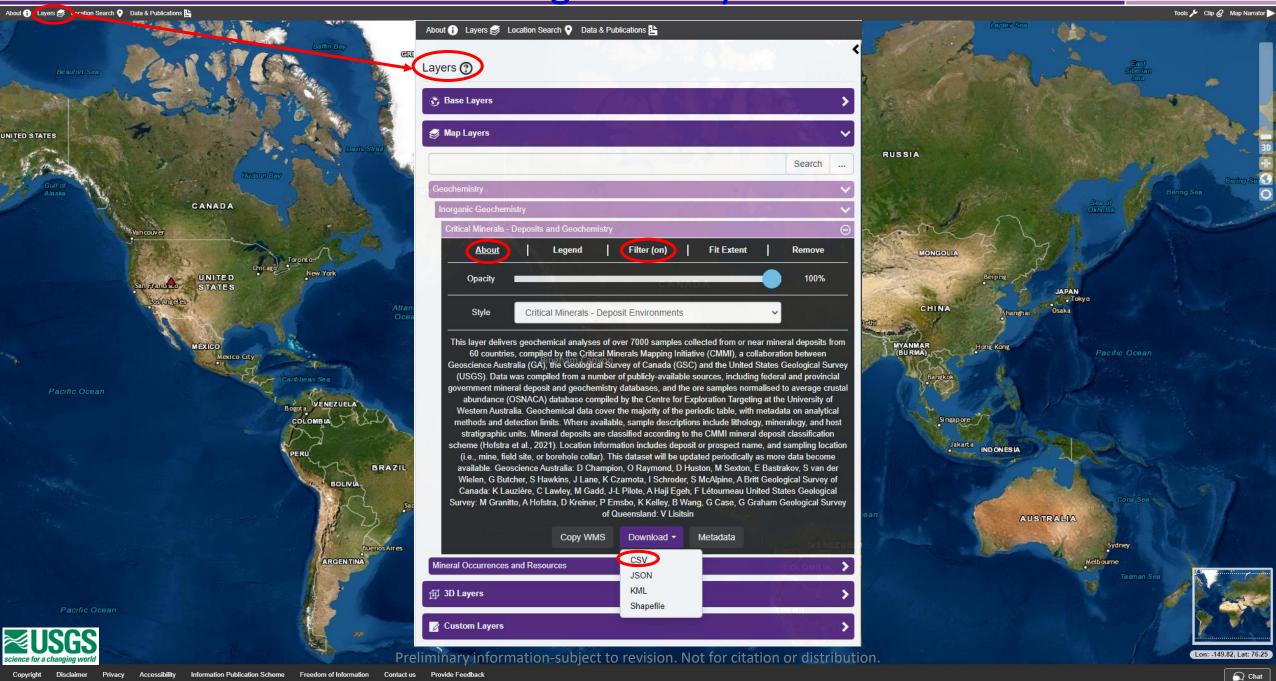


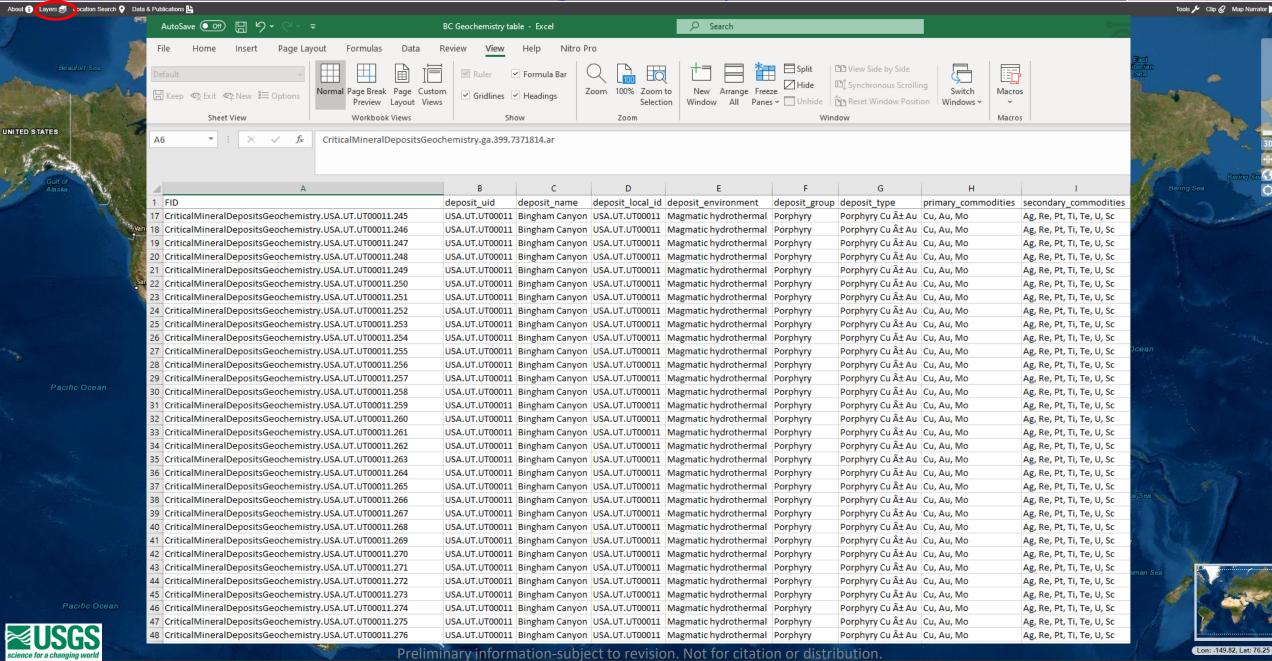


**Critical Minerals Mapping Initiative** 

#### Bingham Canyon

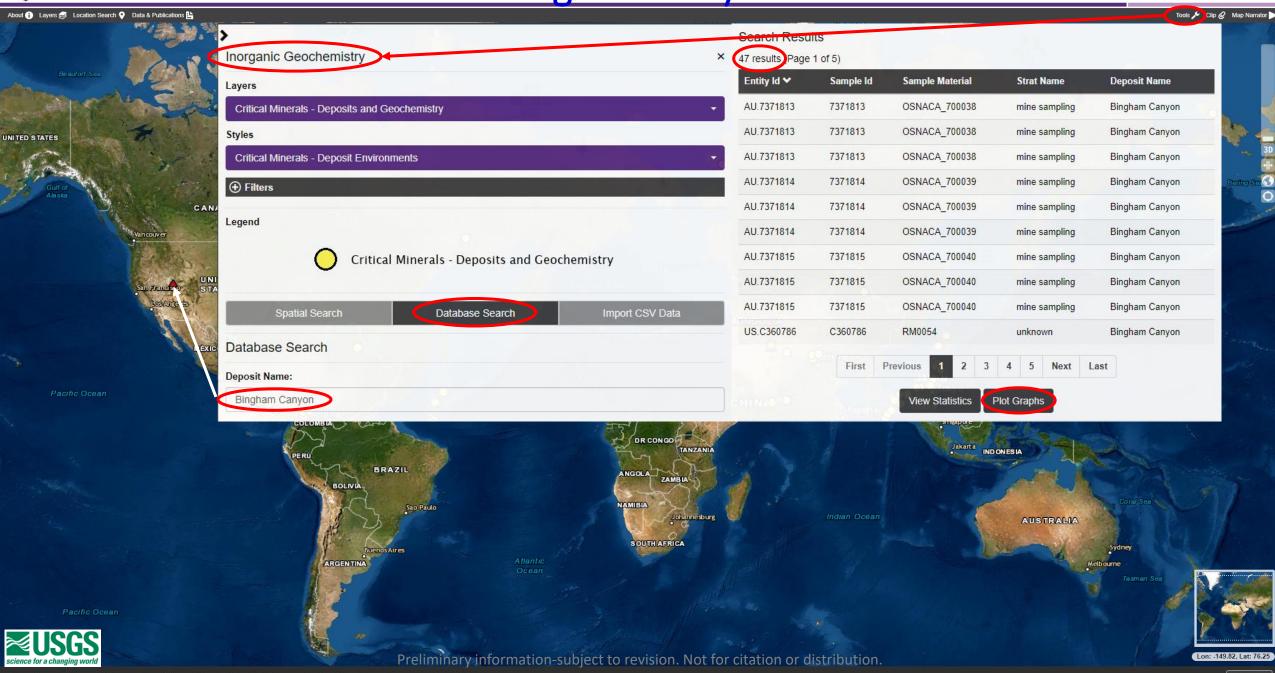




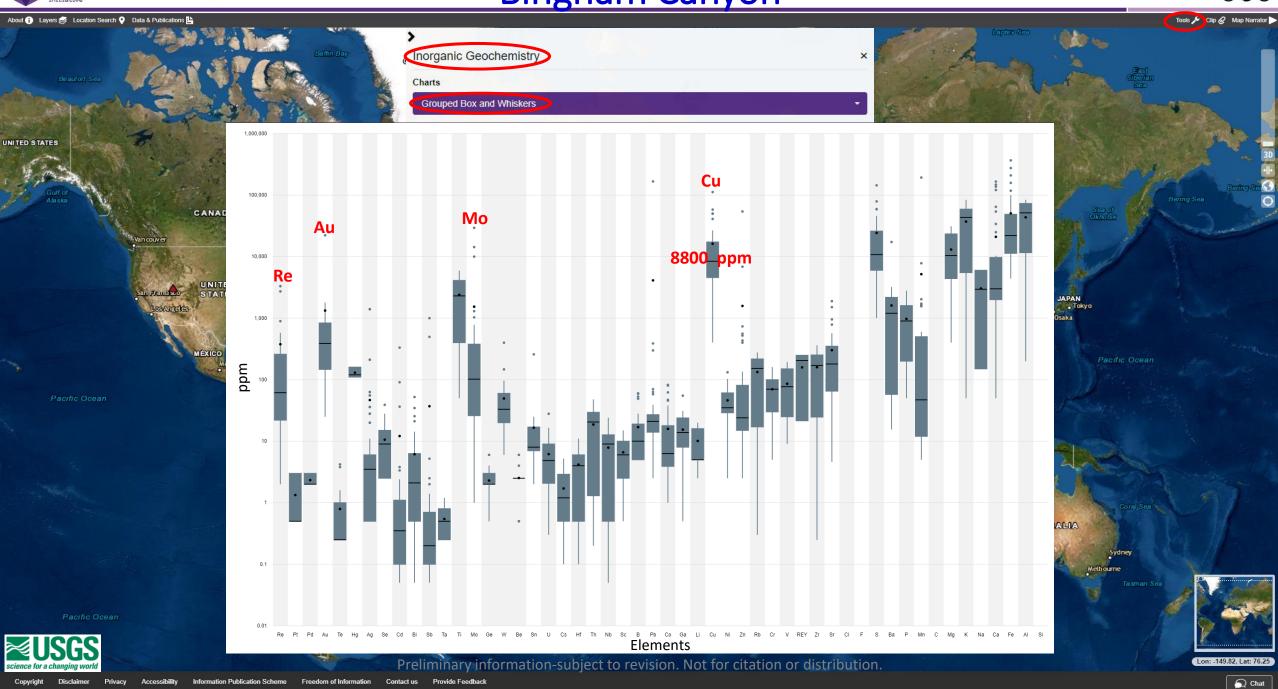


Provide Feedback

Chat







### Estimated Critical Mineral Endowment of Bingham Canyon

#### [Critical Mineral/Primary commodity] x Primary commodity t = Critical Mineral t

```
Pri. Com. = Cu 28,500,000 t *
                                production + resource
              Ti 10,880,342 t *
                                small amount produced
              W 133,162 t
                                none
             Sc 24,359 t *
                                small amount produced
*Energy
             U 13,121 t *
                                550 t produced in 1978-1979
Transition
              Bi 3,573 t
                                small amount produced
              Te 812 t *
                                new plant will produce 20 t/yr
                                small amount produced
              Re 714 t
              Sb 650 t
                                none
              In 325 t *
                                none
              Pt+Pd 32.6 t *
                                small amount produced
```



# **Utility of Critical Mineral/Primary Commodity Ratios**

**CM/PC** in ore x tonnes **PC** in deposit = tonnes **CM** in deposit

Tonnes PC <u>Production</u>: Estimate tonnes CM in processed waste

\$ value, Recoverability, Waste as a resource?

Tonnes PC Resource: Estimate tonnes CM future(?) production

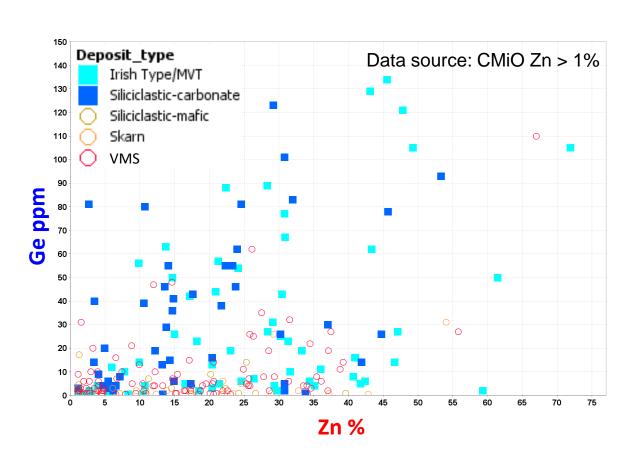
\$ value, Recoverability, Incentives?

**CM** resource maps

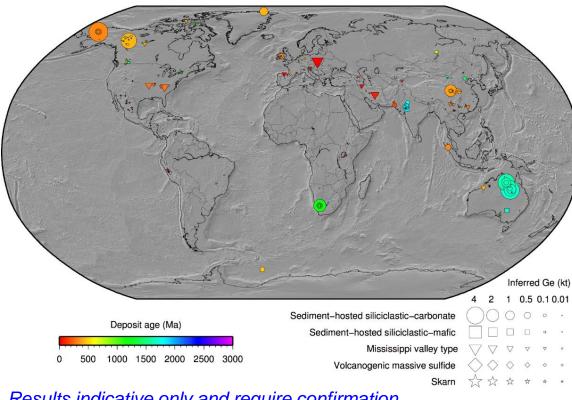




# Utility of CM/PC ratios: Estimate tonnes of Ge in 5 different Zn deposit types



#### Ge Resource Map



Results indicative only and require confirmation





# Uses of the CMiO Database: Identify Data Gaps

Deposit environment (12) data for 10

2 no data, 1 <5 analyses

Deposit group (52) data for 42

10 no data, 7 with < 5 analyses

Deposit type (189) data for 102

87 no data, 49 with < 5 analyses

We need more data from CMMI and other sources!





#### Uses of the CMiO Database

Document the critical mineral signatures of each deposit type.

Improve deposit classifications and Focus exploration

Identify individual systems/deposits that are unusually enriched in critical minerals.

Research to explain why

Compare critical mineral abundances in different deposit types

Mineralogy, Recoverability

Calculate the dollar value of critical minerals in ore.

Foster recovery

Place critical minerals in a systems framework

Resource assessments





#### Conclusion

By combining forces to fill the knowledge gap on the abundance of critical minerals in ores, classifying the geochemical data by deposit type, and serving it to the public, geochemists and economic geologists now have a powerful tool to address current and future critical mineral resource problems.



