



Minerals Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota on October 18, 2017 and summarized here by the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

Narrative: AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota (AGAM) submitted a project plan to explore for metallic mineral deposits by drilling this winter when the ground is frozen. The project area is located about 7 miles southeast of Bigfork in northern Itasca County and covers about 4 square miles (Figure 1). AGAM will use the rotosonic drilling method to drill exploratory borings at 10 locations. Rotosonic drilling uses high frequency vibration of the drill bit to advance and collect cores of soils, glacial sediments, and a short length of the underlying bedrock. The borings will end shortly after the top of bedrock is encountered. No drilling fluids are circulated during drilling, so sumps are unnecessary. AGAM plans to permanently seal each boring immediately after drilling is complete.

State nonferrous metallic mineral lease ids: Drilling is proposed on four leases: MLMB200202, MLMB200203, MLMB200206, and MLMB200207.

Public Land Survey location: Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30 of T60N-R25W.

Types of exploration activity: Exploratory borings (rotosonic drilling).

Expected time period of activity: When the ground is sufficiently frozen, approximately from December 2017 through March 2018.

Access: AGAM will open and use existing logging trails to get to the drill sites. Brushing will be done with a boom-mounted mulcher. AGAM is not proposing new trails.

Surface ownership: Private parties own the surface estate over portions of the state mineral leases listed above. None of the proposed exploration activities on those leases, including drilling and the access trails, would occur on private lands. Pending DNR approval, which may include stipulations, AGAM will have the right to explore as described in the exploration plan on state-owned surface lands. AGAM plans to coordinate with Itasca County when using tax-forfeited lands.

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This report is posted on the [DNR's exploration plan webpage](#).

Maps and Data Disclaimer

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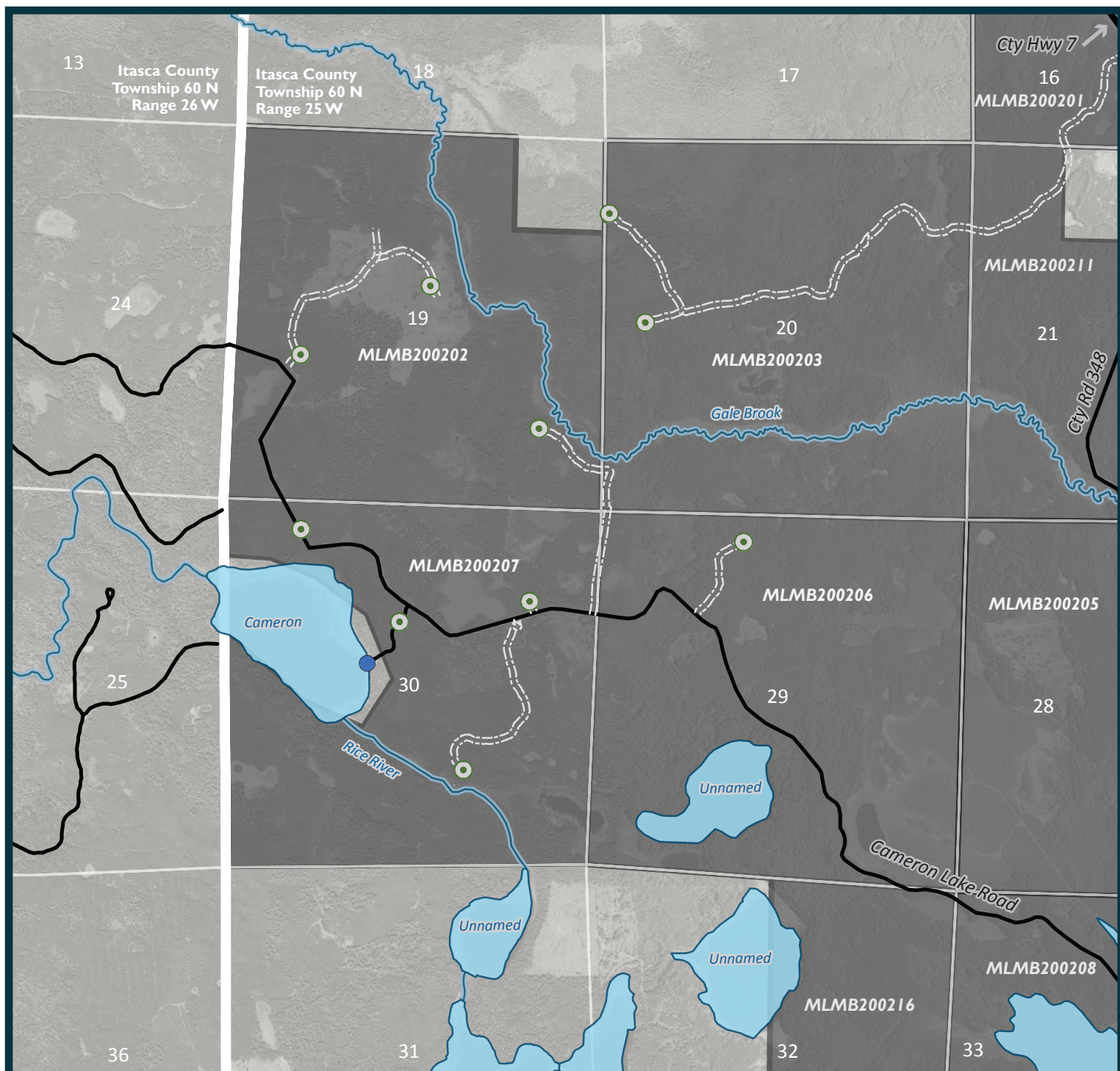
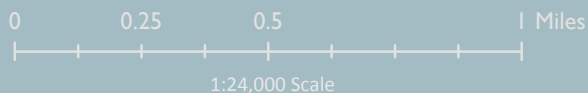


Figure 1. DNR Summary Map of Exploration Plan

- Proposed exploratory boring (rotosonic) sites
 - Existing logging trails proposed to be opened and used to get to drill sites
 - Roads from MnDOT - county, township, or forest
 - Active state nonferrous metallic minerals leases (ex. MLMB200207)
 - The beds of DNR's Public Waters Inventory are excluded from exploration activity on public lease sale nonferrous metallic mineral leases.
 - Public water sites are special features
- There are natural heritage features in lease MLMB 200207. These are special features and are nonpublic data.

State lease boundaries depicted are for reference only. The state of Minnesota's land and mineral interests GIS data is mapped at the 40 acre Public Land Survey level of resolution.



Basemaps - MnDot Roads;
DNR Public Land Survey
Townships and Section Bounds; 2010
FSA Black and White Air Photo

