

Geoscience BC is pleased to announce the QUEST-Northwest Project, a program of regional mapping, airborne geophysical surveys and ground geochemical surveys that will take place this summer in northwestern BC. The QUEST-Northwest Project is designed to stimulate new mineral exploration activity in the northwest part of the Province, and to enhance the success of existing exploration activities in the region.

The QUEST-Northwest project will include three separate activities: airborne geophysical surveys, a regional geochemical program and geological mapping. These surveys will help industry identify mineral exploration target areas.

Geophysics is essentially remote sensing of the properties or rocks in the ground, in this case the magnetic susceptibility of the rocks. Two surveys are planned, between Dease Lake and Iskut, and west of Telegraph Creek (see map on back). The surveys will be flown by helicopter and will operate out of local airports and exploration camps.

Geochemistry studies the chemical composition of the earth, using rock or soil samples. The QUEST-Northwest regional geochemical program will include the collection and analysis of new stream sediment and water samples from streams in the Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake areas (see map). In addition, stream sediment samples collected in 1986 will be reanalyzed using modern geochemical methods. Geoscience BC is also working with the Northwest Community College School of Exploration and Mining to develop a work experience program for some of their students.

Finally, Geoscience BC is also supporting a partnership regional bedrock mapping program in the Dease Lake area, which will be led by the BC Geological Survey (BC Ministry of Energy and Mines). This work will be based out of Dease Lake and conducted by a small team of geologists accessing the area by truck and helicopter.



PHOTO 1. Collecting stream sediment samples for geochemical analysis. Photo by W. Jackaman

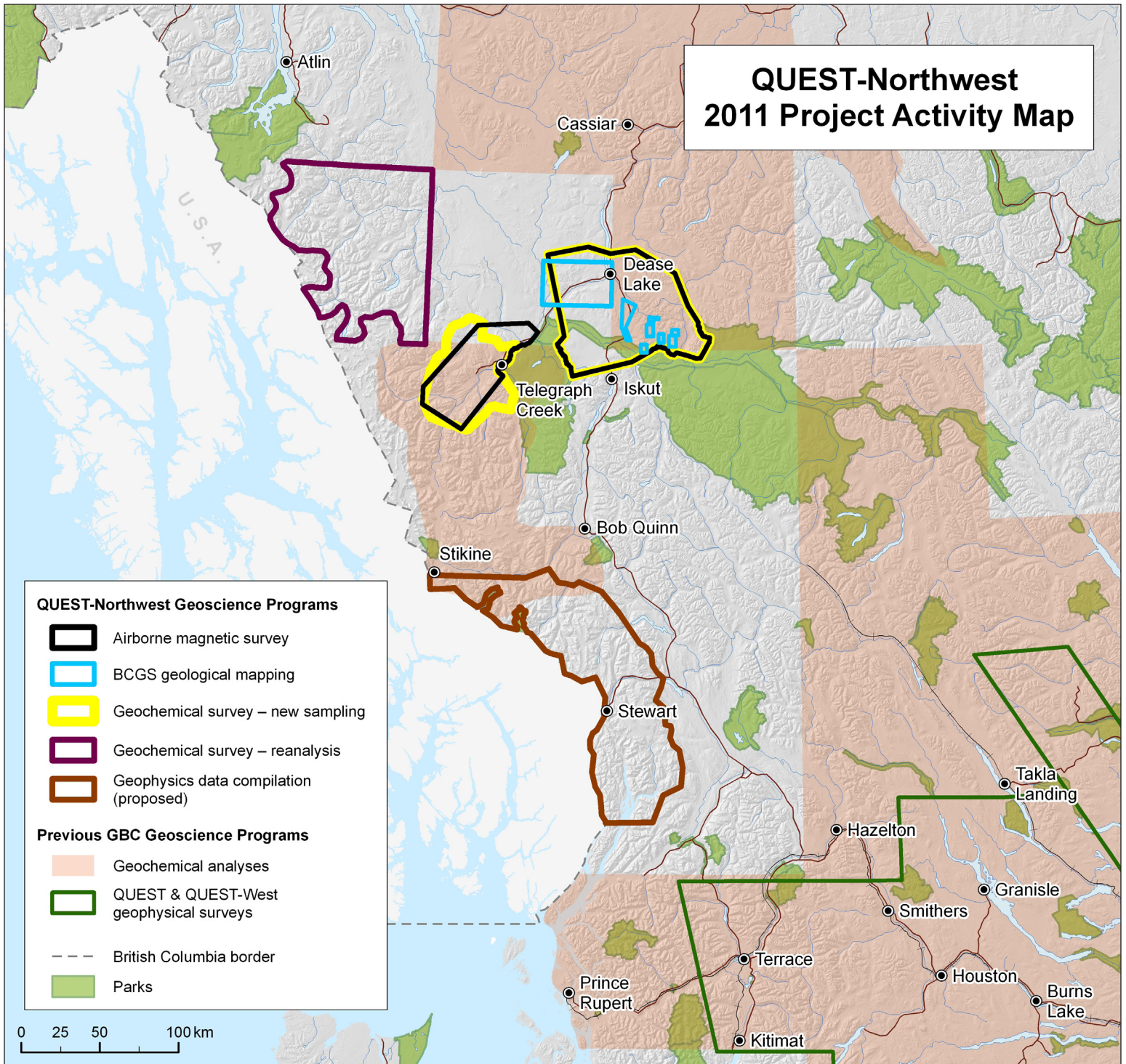


PHOTO 2. Regional mapping in British Columbia.
Photo by R. Goodin

The QUEST-Northwest program will produce new digital geoscience products and a series of maps combining the results of the above surveys with existing publically available geoscience information. All results are expected to be available in early 2012.

If you have any questions concerning these activities, or would like more information about Geoscience BC, please do not hesitate to contact us.

QUEST-Northwest 2011 Project Activity Map



QUEST-Northwest Project Partners



Geoscience BC is an industry-led, not-for-profit, applied geoscience organization. Geoscience BC works in partnership with industry, academia, government, First Nations, and communities to fund applied geoscience projects with the objective to attract mineral and oil & gas exploration to British Columbia. Geoscience BC's mandate includes the collection, interpretation, and delivery of geoscience data and expertise, to promote investment in resource exploration and development in British Columbia. www.geosciencebc.com



The British Columbia Geological Survey is the Ministry of Energy & Mines branch responsible for producing and housing the public geological and geoscientific information about mineral resources and mineral potential in the province. The main activities include: geological and geochemical surveying; mineral, coal and industrial mineral inventories management; mineral potential assessments for land use planning; monitoring exploration activities; assessing geological hazards; publishing maps and reports; and providing geoscience expertise to support government's sustainable development objectives. www.empr.gov.bc.ca/MINING/GEOSCIENCE