

Assessment of mineral resource potential in Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Began with Wilderness Act of 1964 that required the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to conduct mineral surveys of Forest Service (and later, BLM) lands.

Studies were completed by 1983 that included:

- multiple publications of each WSA
- statewide publications
- comprehensive publications
 - by USGS in 1984: "Professional Paper 1300" and
 - by USBOM in 1993: "Availability Special Report"



General process

- Geologic map compilation and new mapping
- Compilation of past producing mines
 - production records, reports etc.
- Geochemical sampling and assays
 - "prospecting"
- Assessment of resource potential
 - Reports and maps

Typical description from a report (emphasis added):

"The staffs of the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines collaborated on the many investigations required to assess the mineral resources of the wilderness lands designated by Congress for study. The work involved geologic, geochemical, and geophysical studies by the Geological Survey. The Bureau of Mines sampled and mapped mines and prospects, compiled information on claims, and compiled data from exploration, mining, and production records.

A geologic map was prepared for each area. Data from field observations and measurements, with existing geologic maps as a starting point, were used to compile the map that shows the distribution and structure of the various types of rocks-features that generally control the location of mineral resources. The geologic maps were prepared at scales appropriate to show the information necessary to make the assessment, generally at scales between 1:50,000 and 1:100,000 (1 inch equals 0.8 miles and 1 inch equals 1.6 miles)."



Wilderness mineral potential: Assessment of mineral-resource potential in U.S. Forest Service lands studied in 1964-1984: Volume 2, Professional Paper 1300- 2, Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Edited by: S.P. Marsh, S.J. Kropschot, and R.G. Dickinson.

"USGS Professional Paper 1300" (emphasis added)

Areas that have <u>substantiated mineral-resource potential</u> are shown in red on the maps. The term "substantiated" is based on a record of past production or the occurrence of identified resources, and (or) on an assemblage of geologic data that strongly indicate the presence of undiscovered mineral resources.

Areas that have <u>probable mineral-resource potential</u> are shown in pink on the maps. The term "probable" is based on an assemblage of data that support the interpretation that undiscovered mineral resources may be present. In some areas, probable and substantiated mineral-resource potential overlap. In these areas, a darker shade of red is used.



"USGS Professional Paper 1300" continued...(emphasis added)

<u>Identified resources</u> are those whose location, grade, quality, and quantity are known or estimated from specific geologic evidence.

<u>Demonstrated resources</u> is a term for the sum of measured and indicated resources whose quantity is computed from dimensions revealed in outcrops, trenches, workings, or drill holes and whose grade and (or) quality are computed from the results of detailed sampling.

<u>Inferred resources</u> is a term for resource estimates that are based on assumed continuity beyond those of the measured and (or) indicated categories for which there is geologic evidence that might or might not be supported by samples or measurements.



US Bureau of Mines (Mineral Resource Potential of the West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area, Beaverhead County, Montana, Byron R. Berger, Lawrence W. Snee, William Hanna, U.S. Geological Survey and John R. Benham, U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1983)

"In this report, mineral resource potential refers to the extent to which characteristics suggestive of the presence of concealed mineral deposits fit various mineral-deposit models that are based on our professional experience, geological theory and reasoning, and field and laboratory observations. The mineral resource potential of mines and prospects was effected by detailed geologic mapping of vein exposures and bulk-sampling vein material for assaying. The degree of geological resource potential was determined by comparing all of the observations made and data accumulated to descriptive ore-deposit models. The models used are based on three categories of mineral occurrence: (1) the types of mineral deposits actually known to occur in the study area; (2) the types of deposits that occur in the region around the study area; and, (3) the types of deposits that may occur in the geological environments recognized in the study area based on geological inference but were not recognized in or around the study area."

(emphasis added)



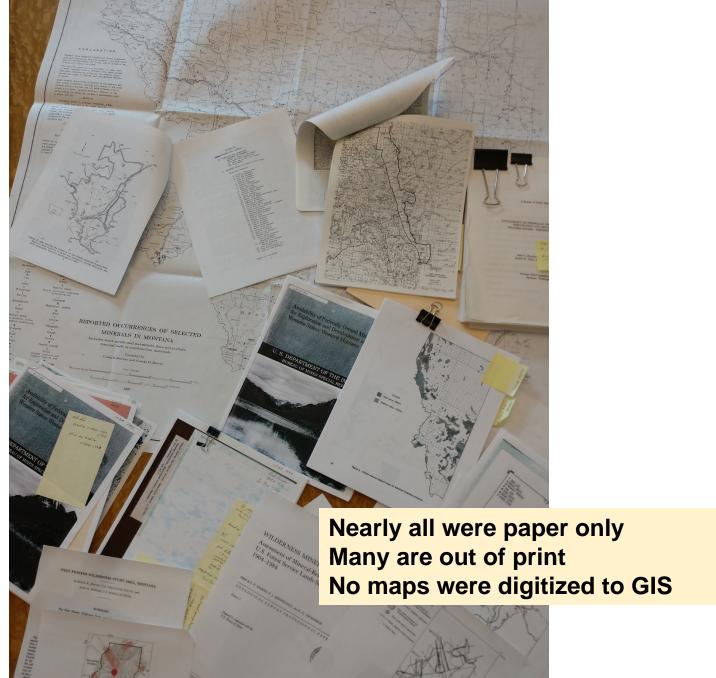
US Bureau of Mines continued...(emphasis added)

A <u>high mineral resource potential</u> is deemed to exist where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics favorable for resource accumulation are known to be present, or where enough of these characteristics are present to give strong support to genetic models favorable for resource accumulation and where evidence shows that mineral concentration-- mineralization in the broad sense has taken place. This category includes not only known mining districts but also other areas where data are adequate to demonstrate or indicate an excellent possibility that mineralized rock exists. Where available, data on the size, grade, and location of individual deposits are important in making this assessment, but the availability of these data is not a primary requisite. <u>Areas with high mineral resource potential are more closely judged with respect to current economic conditions than those with lesser resource potential.</u>

<u>Moderate mineral resource potential</u> exists where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics favorable for resource accumulation are known or can reasonably be interpreted to be present but where evidence for mineralization is less clear cut or has not yet been found.

<u>Low mineral resource potential</u> is assigned to areas where geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics are unfavorable, where evidence indicates that mineral concentrations are unlikely, or where requirements of genetic models cannot be supported, such as a lack of source or mechanism of accumulation







MBMG activities

USFS and BLM Abandoned Inactive Mines (AIM) inventory (1990-2003) Included mineral assessment studies where appropriate (some studies extended beyond the WSA boundary) and available.

MBMG Data Preservation Program

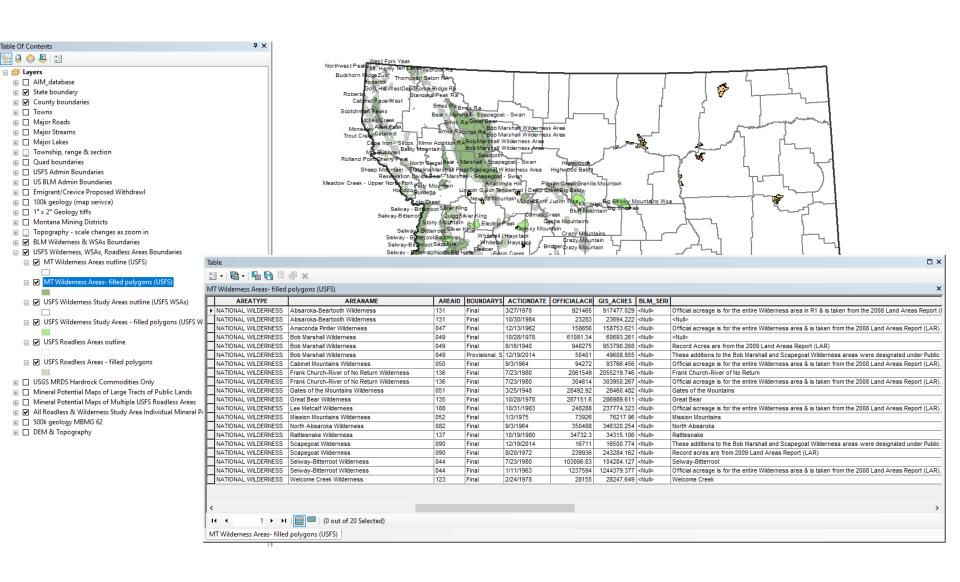
- General
 - Acquisitions of reports, maps, data related to WSA/RAs
 - We may have the only copy...
- Senator Jon Tester request:
 - selected WSA/RAs in southwest Montana
- Senator Steve Daines request:
 - selected information for mineral withdrawal near YNP
 - MBMG AIM and Ground Water Assessment Program data
 - expanded request to include statewide WSA/RAs
- Earth Mapping Resource Initiative
 - USGS funding (w/matching funds)
 - excludes WSA/RAs, Tribal Lands, etc.



67 publications or reports Page Layout 31 BLM WSAs ab Wrap Tex 80 maps scanned and georeferenced 10 USFS WSAs Clipboard Font D3 Peggy 60 maps scanned and georeferenced 8400 AIM sites Title Ref# Document authors Base maps Mineral Resource Investigations of Selected Roadless Areas in topography Montana National Forests: U.S. county, roads, streams 4 Stotelmeyer, Ronald B., 1994 Bureau of Mines MLA 9-94, 41 p Mineral Resource Potential Map geology (MBMG) of the Middle Mountain-Tobacco Root Roadless Area, Madison County, Montana: USGS Map right) only scan MF-5 O'Neill, J. Michael, Cather, Et 1590-C, 17 p Pubs or USG 1590C https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_7673.htm Yes Simons, Frank S., Tysdal, Mineral Resource Potential Map Russell G., Van Loenen, of the Madison Roadless Area, scan entire map and Richard E., Lambeth, Robert | Gallatin and Madison Counties. legend (not text on H., Schmauch, Steven W., Montana; USGS Map MF 1605-A, right) only scan MF-6 Mayerle, Ronald T., and 7 p Pubs or USG 1605-A https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc 7671.htm Yes Map Showing Mineral Resource Assessment for Silver, Cobalt, and Base Metals in Proterozoic Sedimentary Rocks and for Iron, Chromium, Nickel, Talc, Chlorite, Gold, and Graphite in Archean scan map & legend Pearson, R. C., Hanna, W.F., Crystalline Rocks, Dillon 1° x 2° but not text/only James, H. L., Loen, J. S., Quadrangle, Idaho and Montana: work with areas Moll, S. H., Ruppel, E. T., and U.S. Geological Survey Map 1covered by roadless 7 Trautwein, C. M., 1990 1803-D. Pubs or USG or WSA https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_9927.htm htt Yes Maps Showing Mineral Resource

Data sources

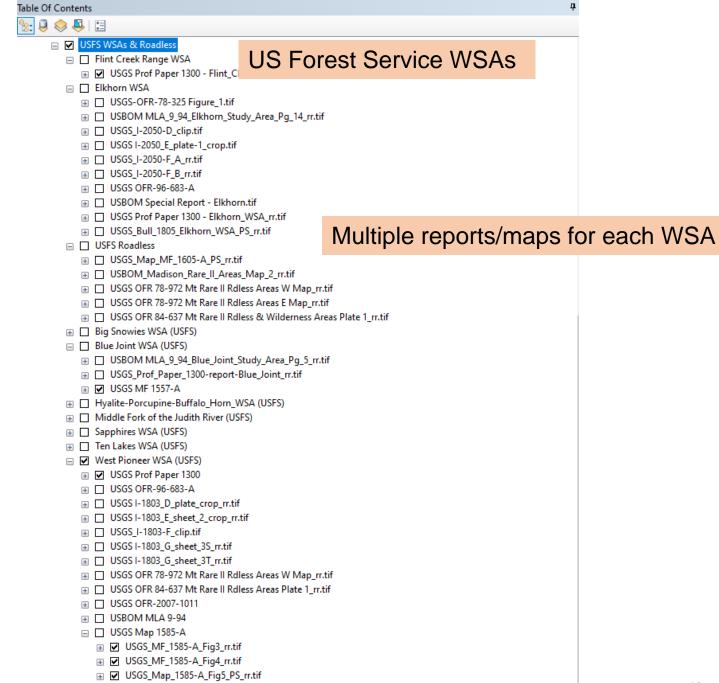






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AIM_database	
Quad boundaries	
Topography - scale changes as zoom in	
□ 1° x 2° Geology tiffs	
All Roadless & Wilderness Study Area Individual Mineral Potential Maps	





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☐ Mineral Potential Maps of Individual	
☐ Antelope Creek WSA (BLM)	US Bureau of Land Management WSAs
	3
☐ Axolotl Lakes WSA (BLM)	
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□ Beaver Meadows WSA (BLM)	
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□ Bell/Limekiln Canyons WSA (BLM)	
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□ Quigg West WSA (BLM)	
□ Ruby Mountains WSA (BLM)	
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USFS (green) and BLM land (yellow)

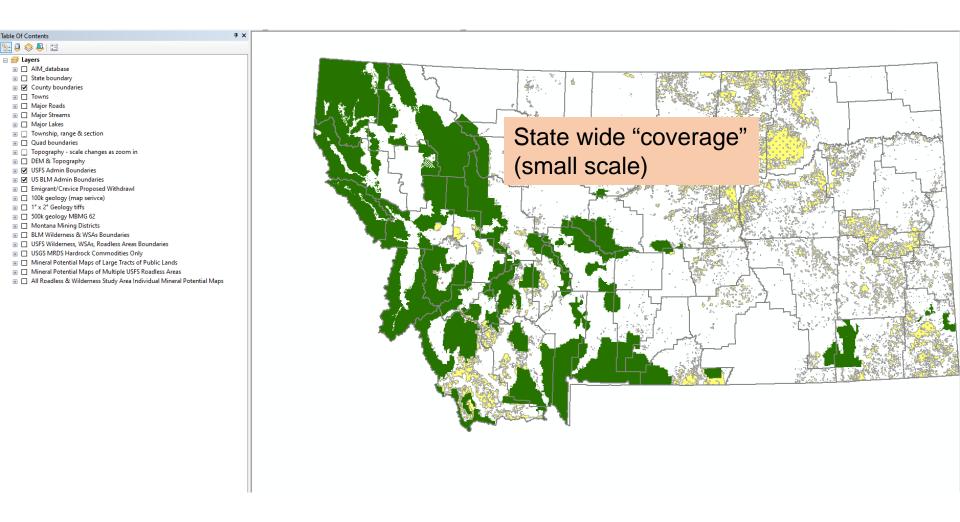
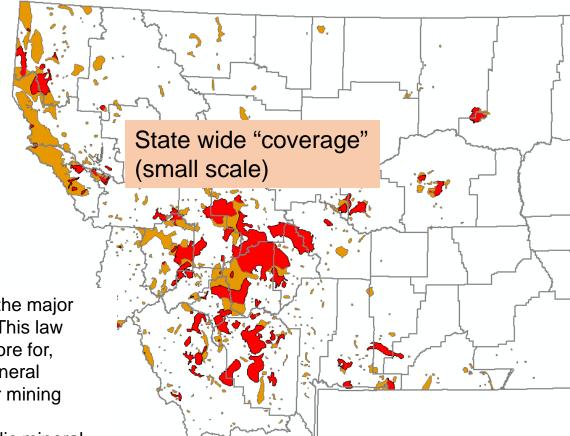




Table Of Contents Lavers □ Towns Township, range & section Quad boundaries Topography - scale changes as zoom in **USFS Admin Boundaries** US BLM Admin Boundaries Emigrant/Crevice Proposed Withdrawl 100k geology (map serivce) 1° x 2° Geology tiffs 500k geology MBMG 62 Montana Mining Districts BLM Wilderness & WSAs Boundaries USFS Wilderness, WSAs, Roadless Areas Boundaries USGS MRDS Hardrock Commodities Only USBOM Statewide Locatable Mineral Potentia

US Bureau of Mines Locatable Mineral Potential



The **Mining Law of 1872**, as amended, is the major Federal law governing locatable minerals. This law allows U.S. citizens the opportunity to explore for, discover, and purchase certain valuable mineral deposits on Federal lands that are open for mining claim location (open to mineral entry).

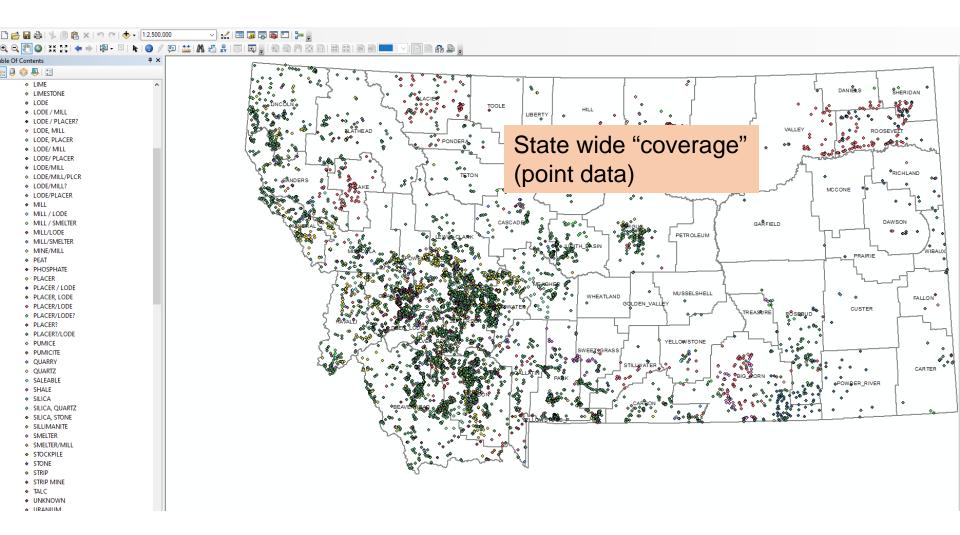
These mineral deposits include most metallic mineral deposits and certain nonmetallic and industrial minerals. The law sets general standards and guidelines for claiming the possessory right to a valuable mineral deposit discovered during exploration.

USBOM in 1993: "Availability Special Report" – Digitized by MBMG

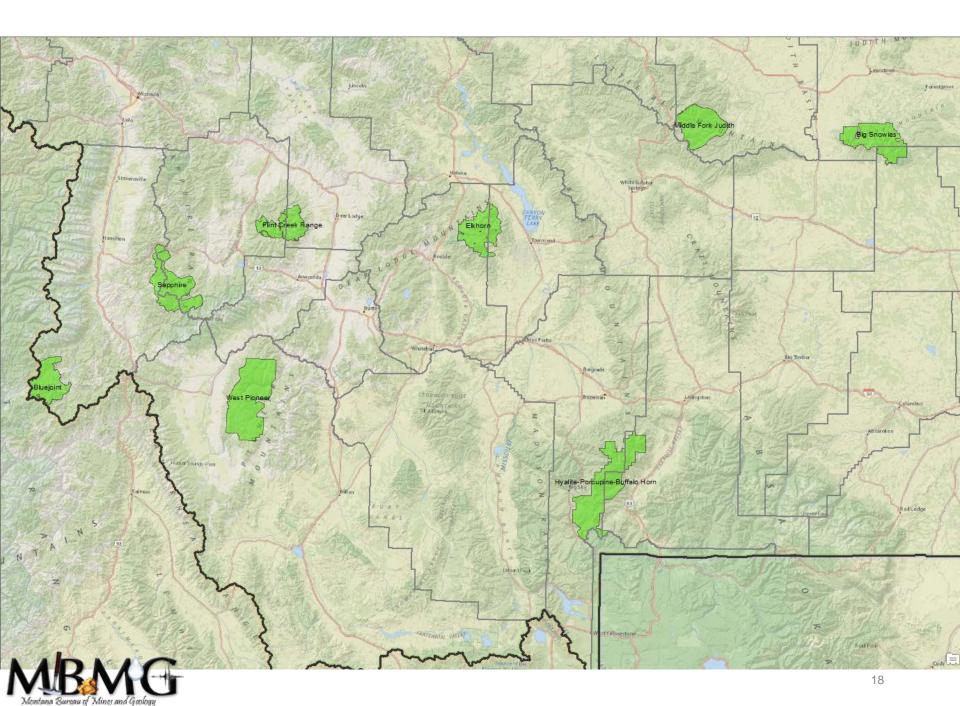


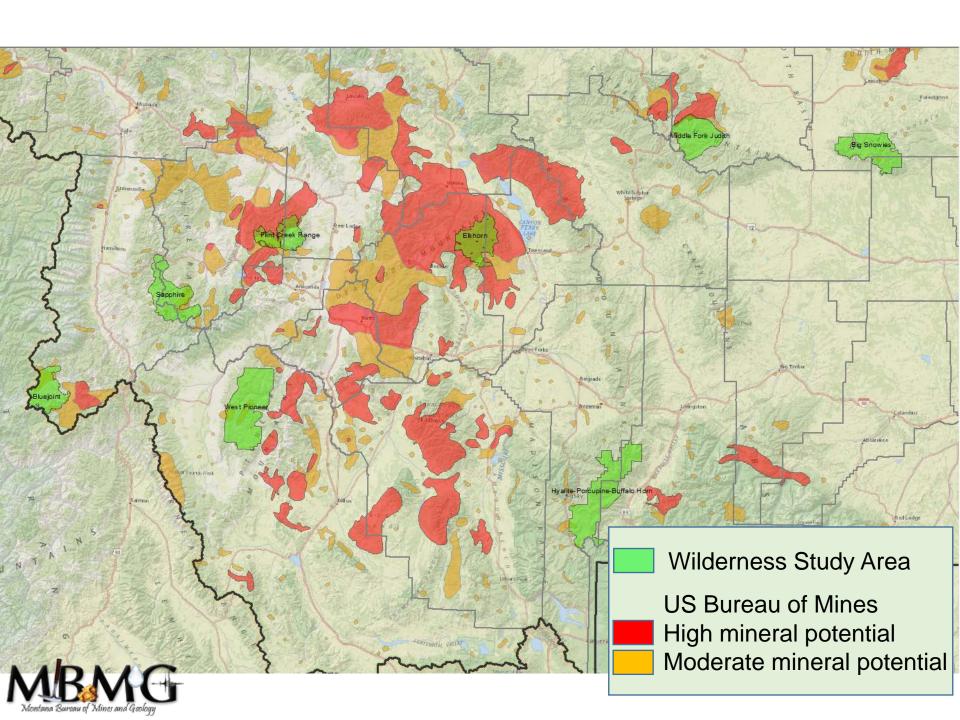
Moderate

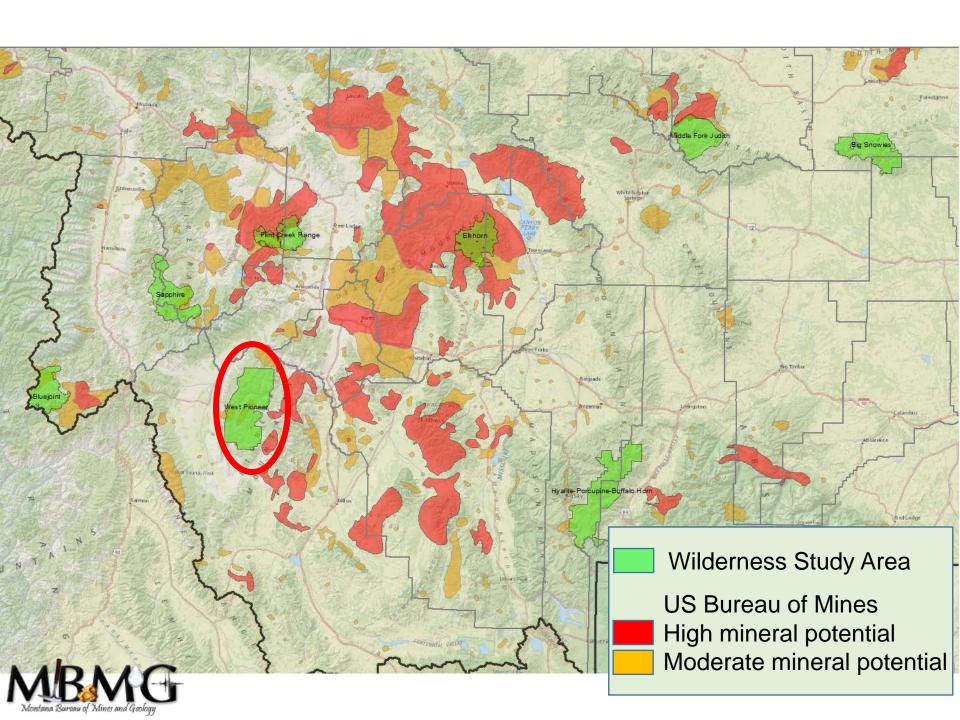
MBMG Abandoned Inactive Mines

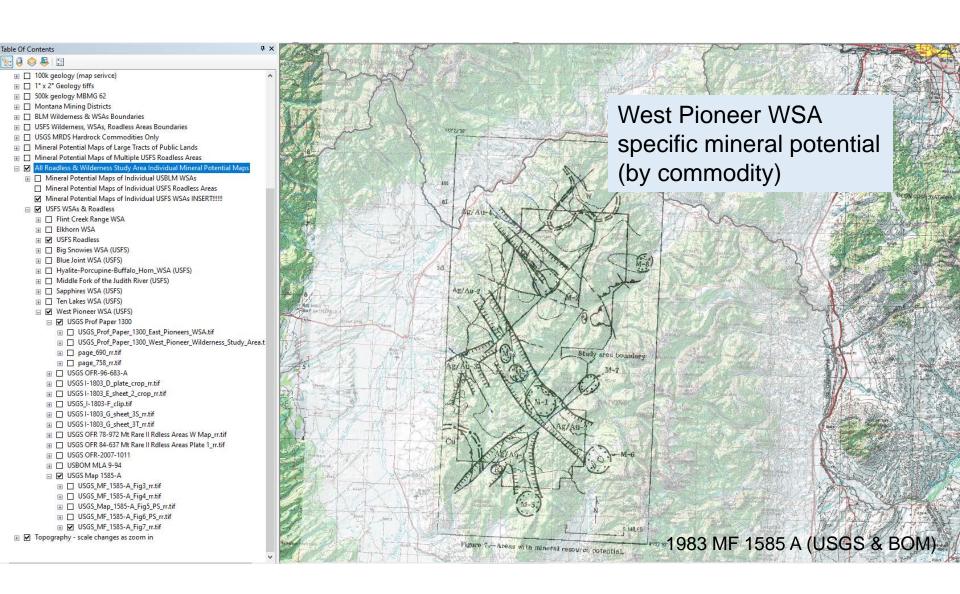




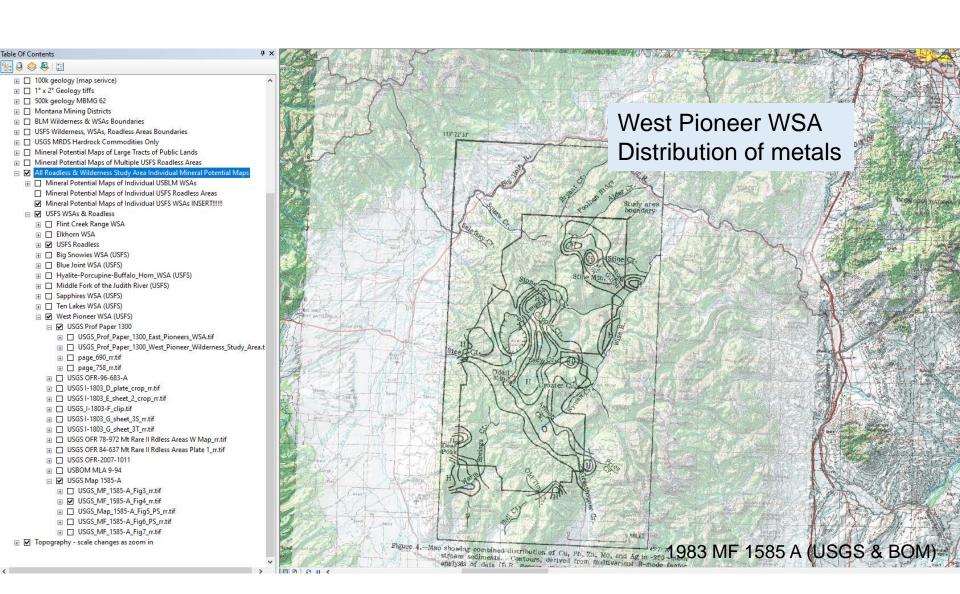




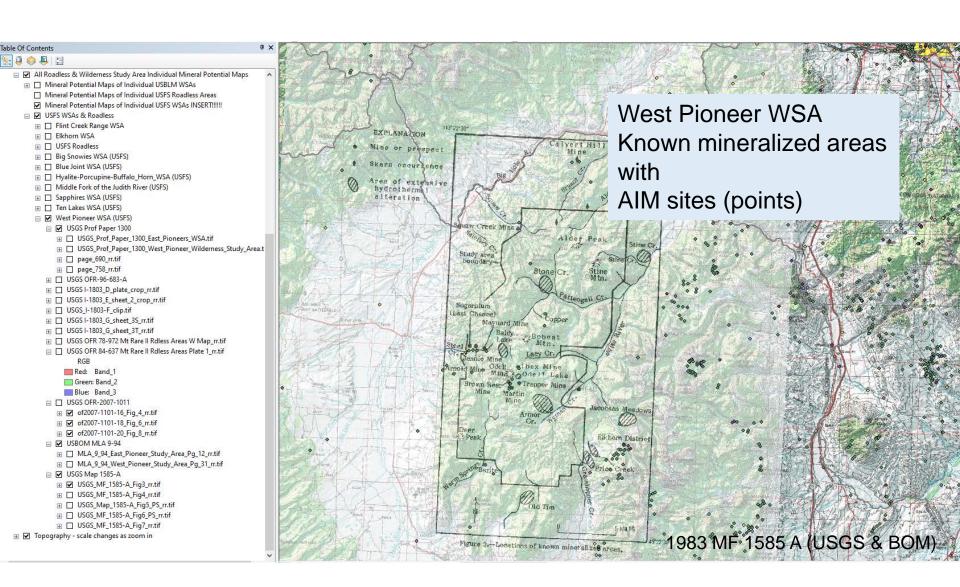




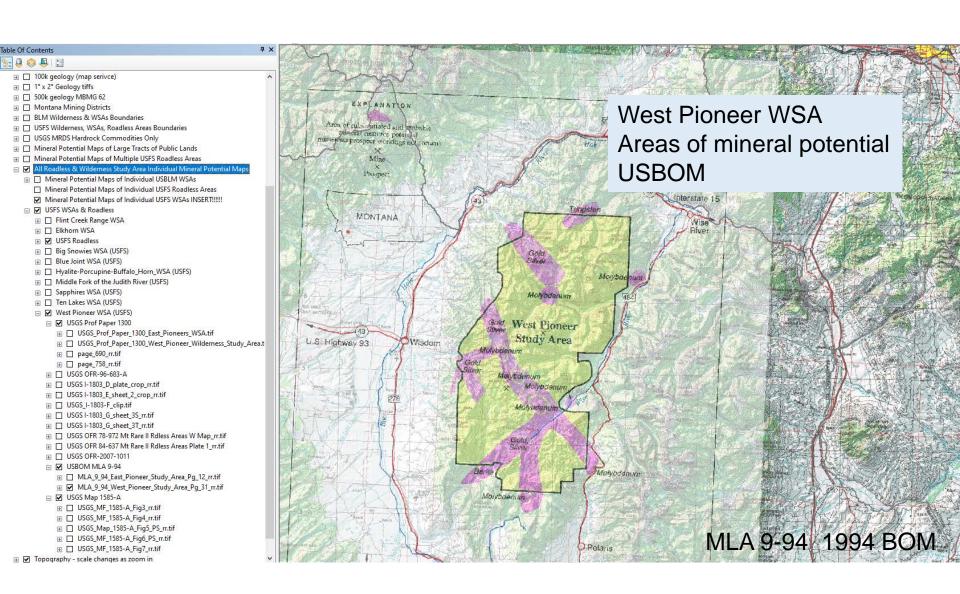




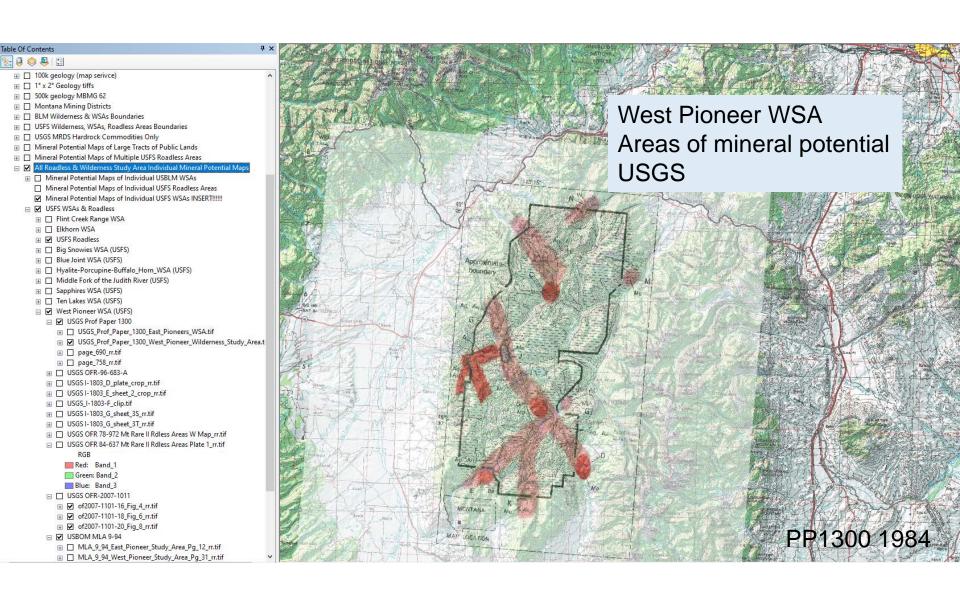




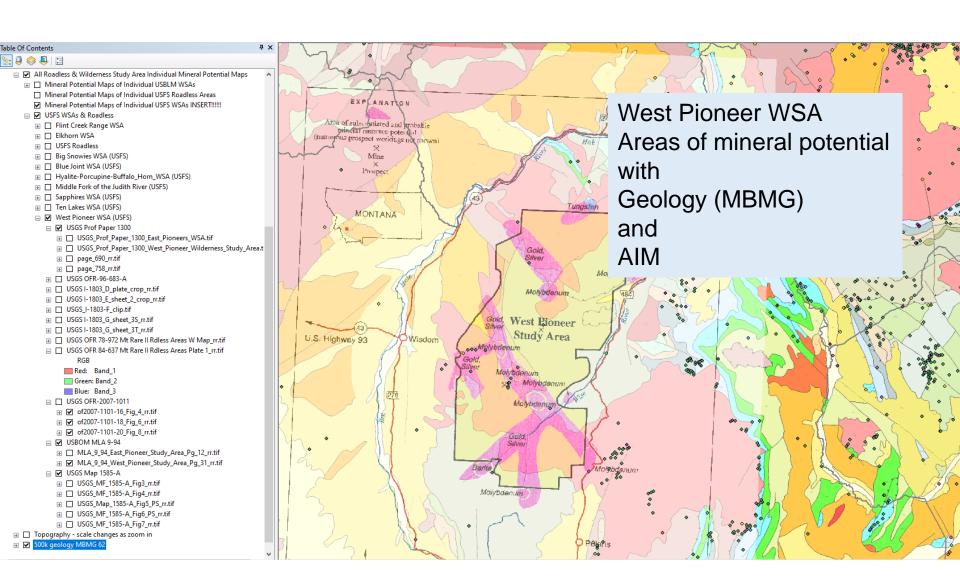






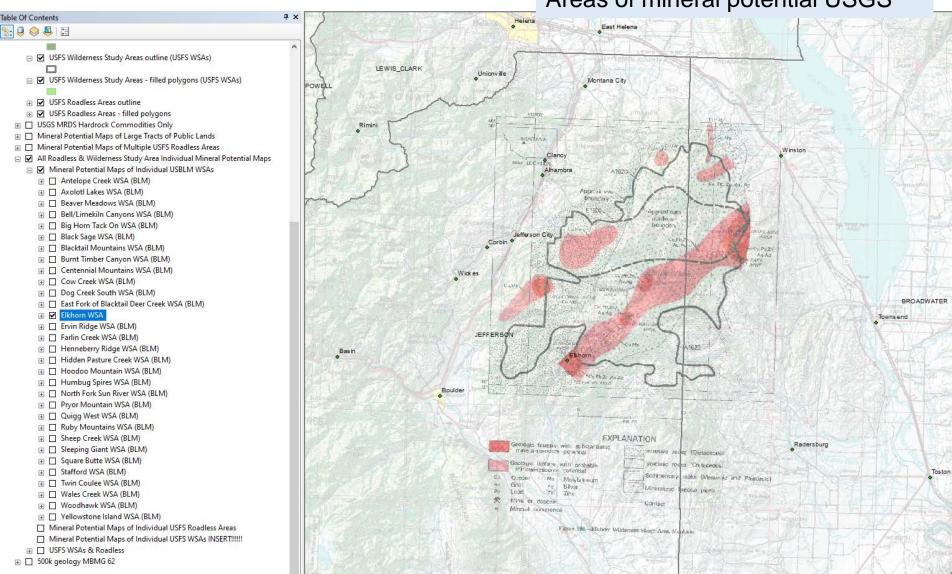






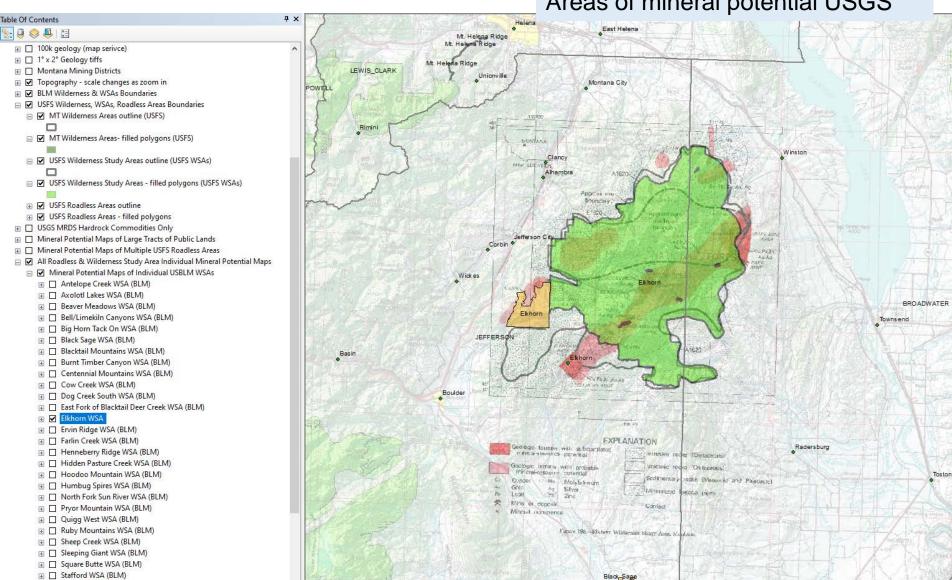


Elkhorn WSA Areas of mineral potential USGS

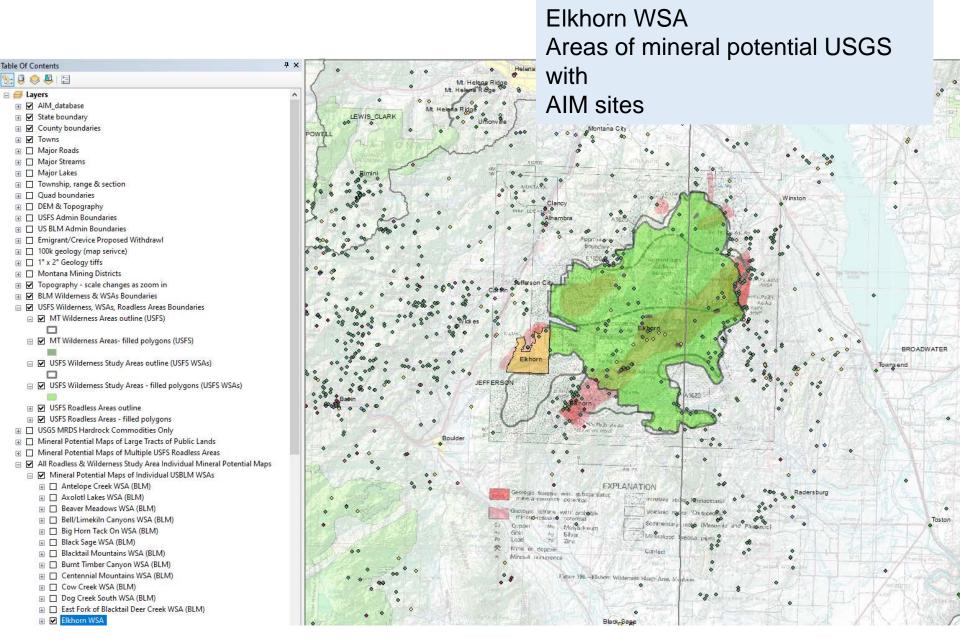




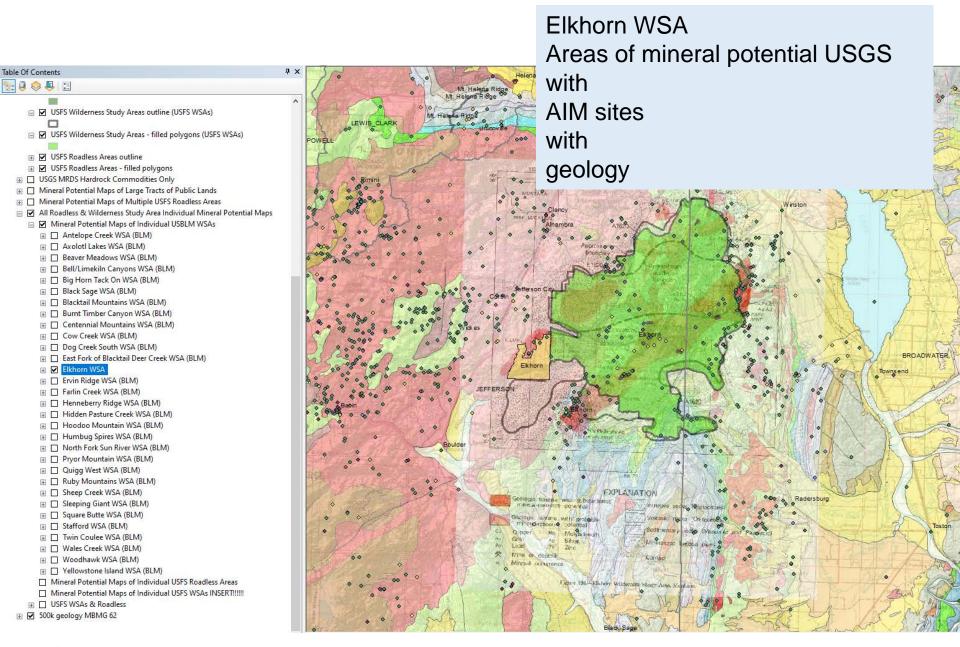
Elkhorn WSA Areas of mineral potential USGS



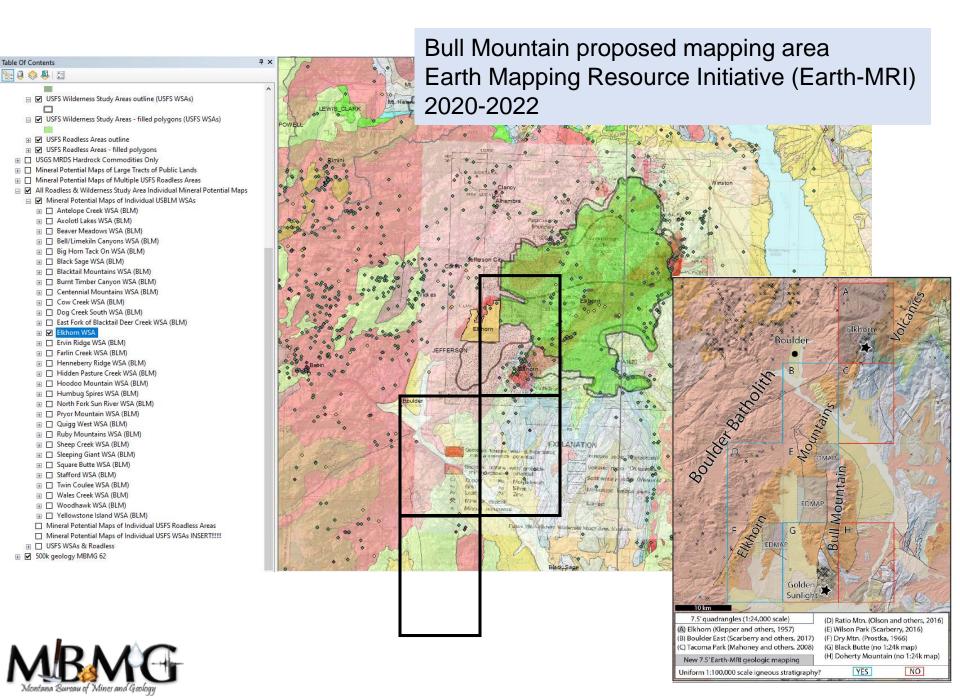












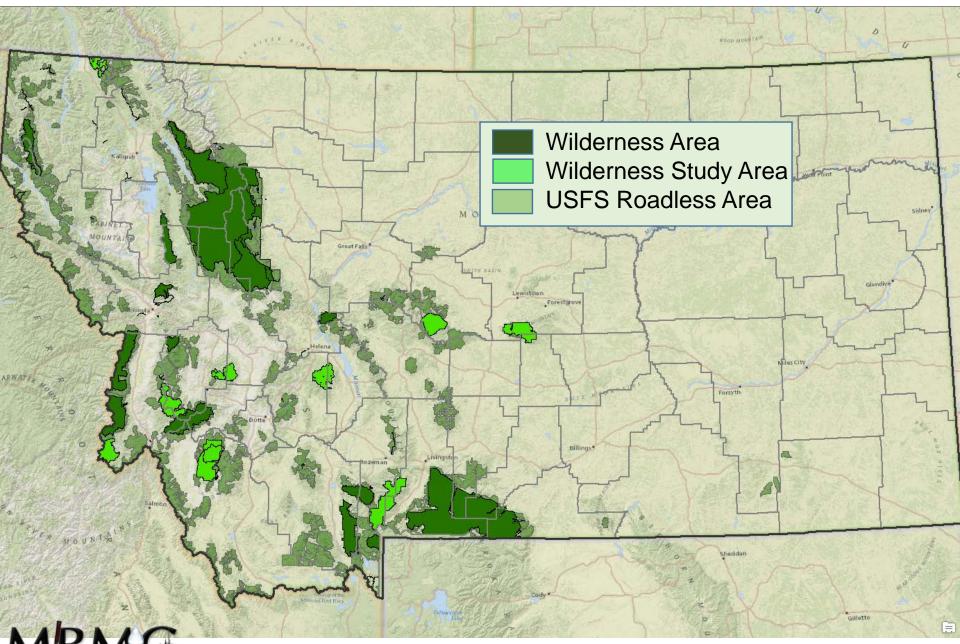


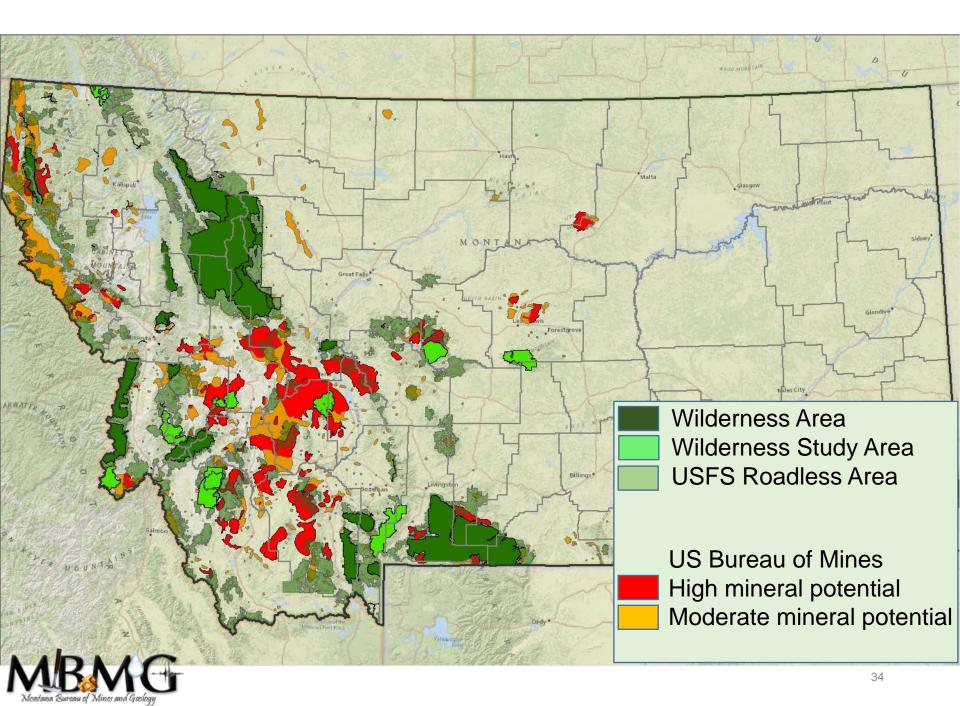
US Forest Service Wilderness Study Areas

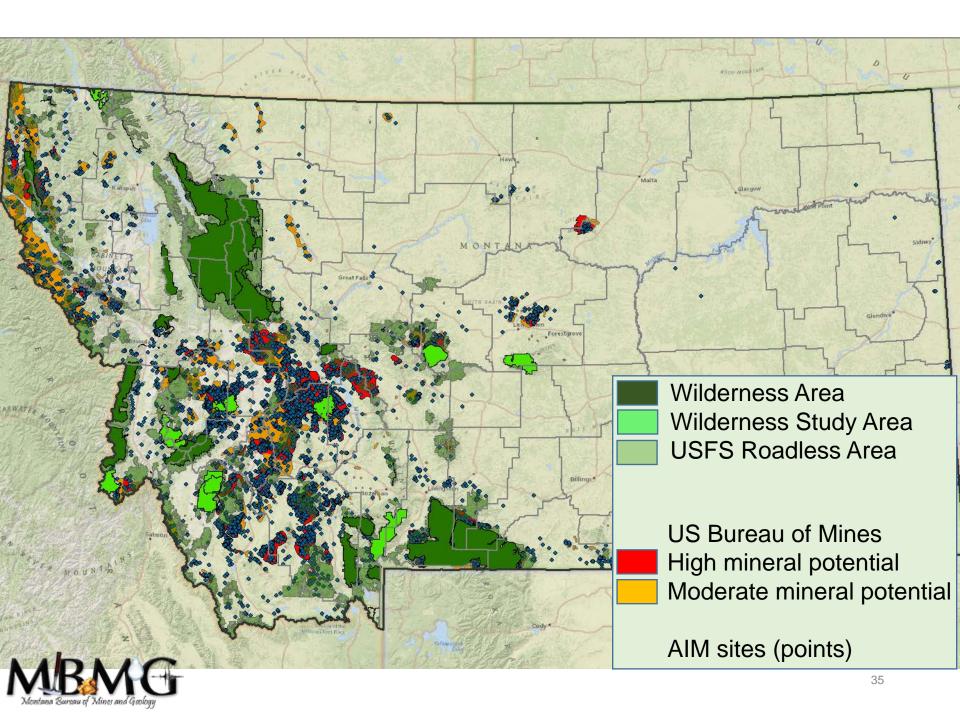
Mineral Potential - statewide (US Bureau of Mines)
Mineral Potential - each WSA (USGS Professional Paper 1300)
Abandoned Inactive Mines - statewide (MBMG)
Geology - statewide (MBMG)

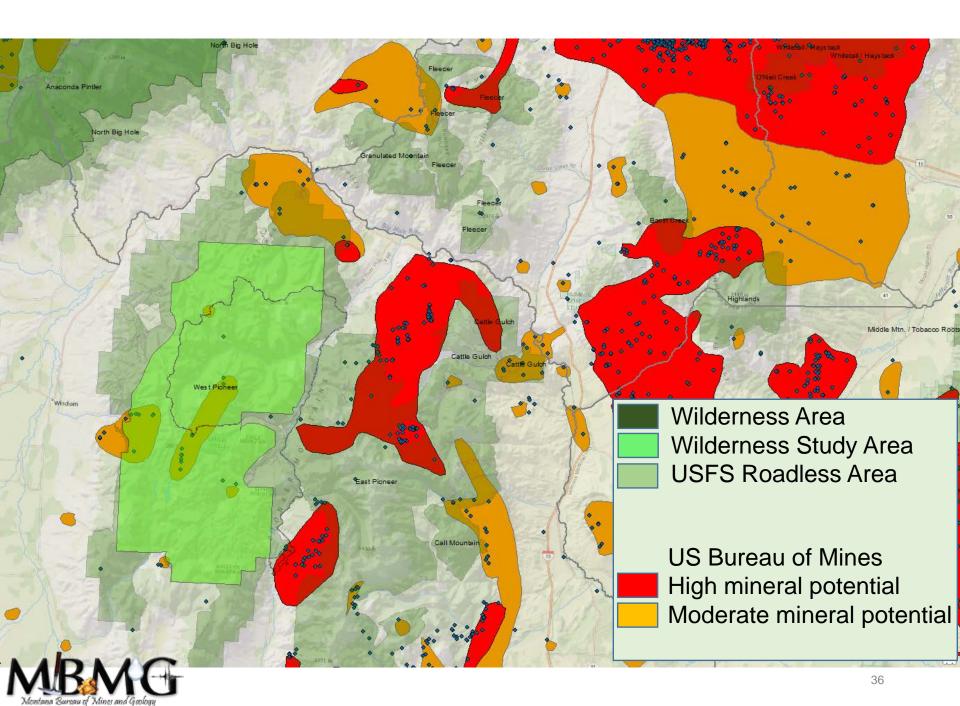


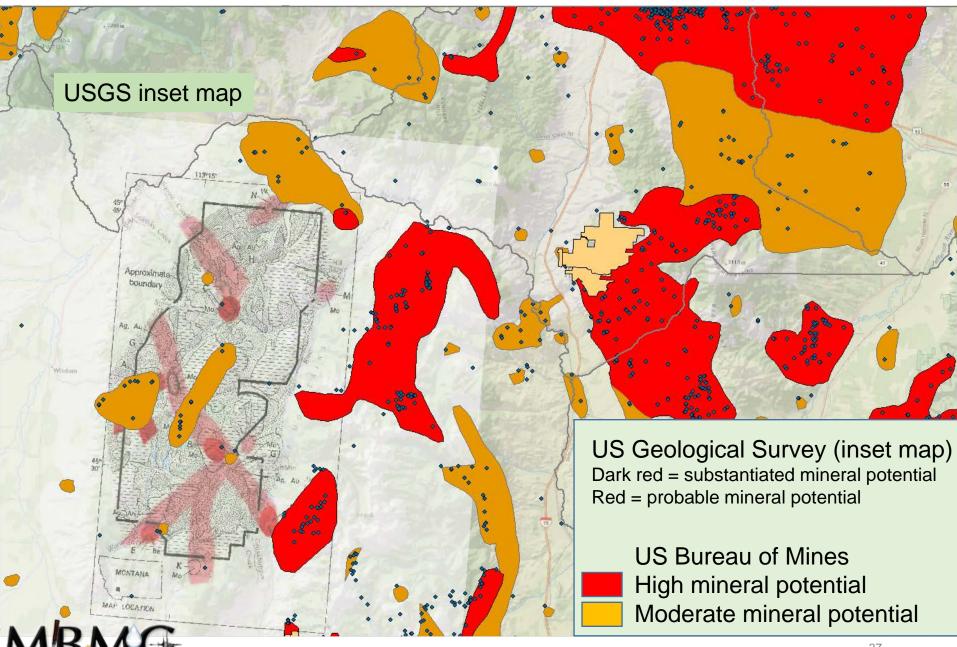


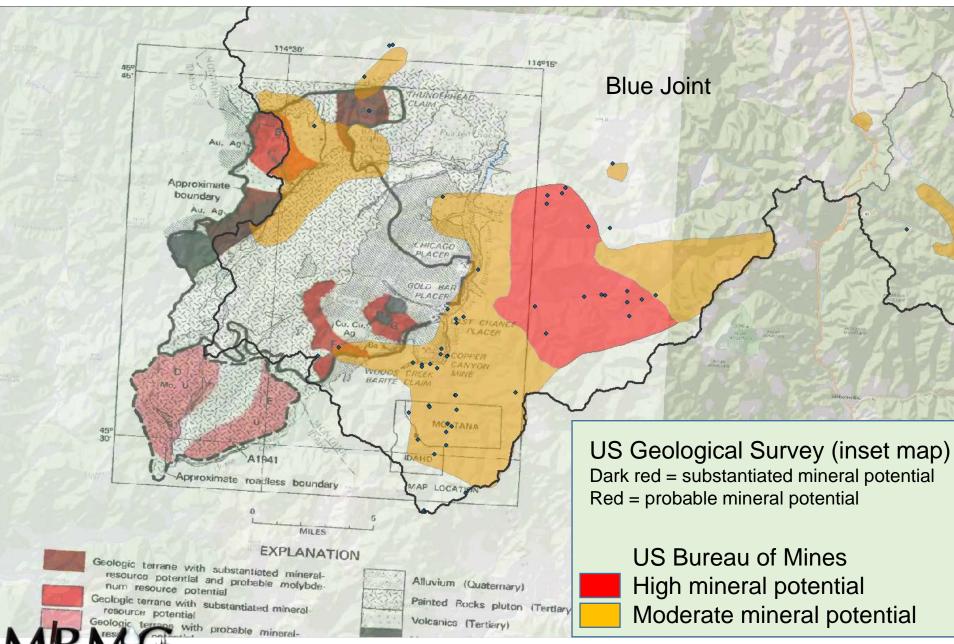


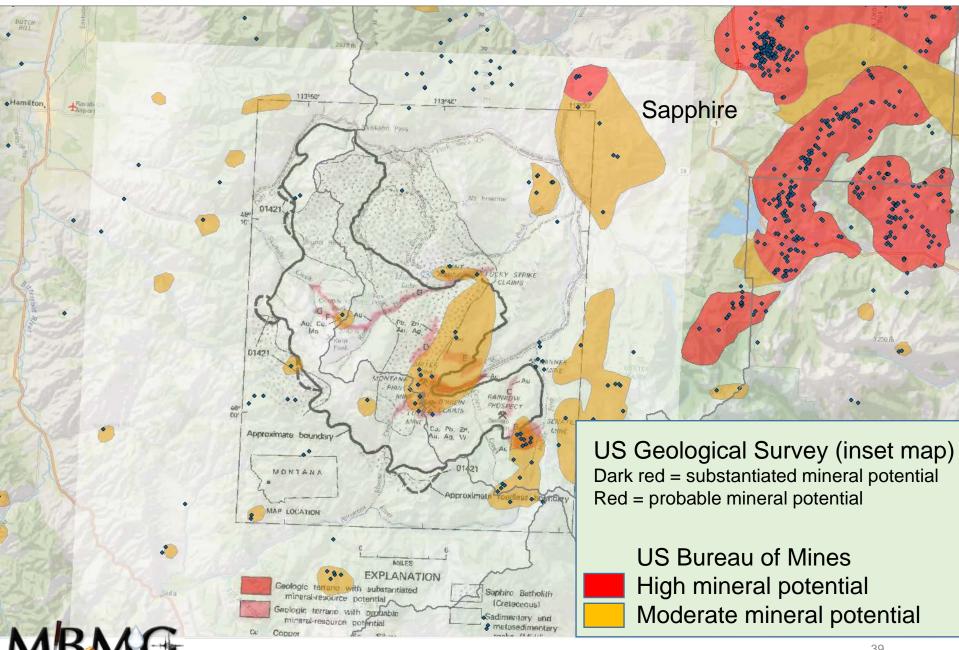


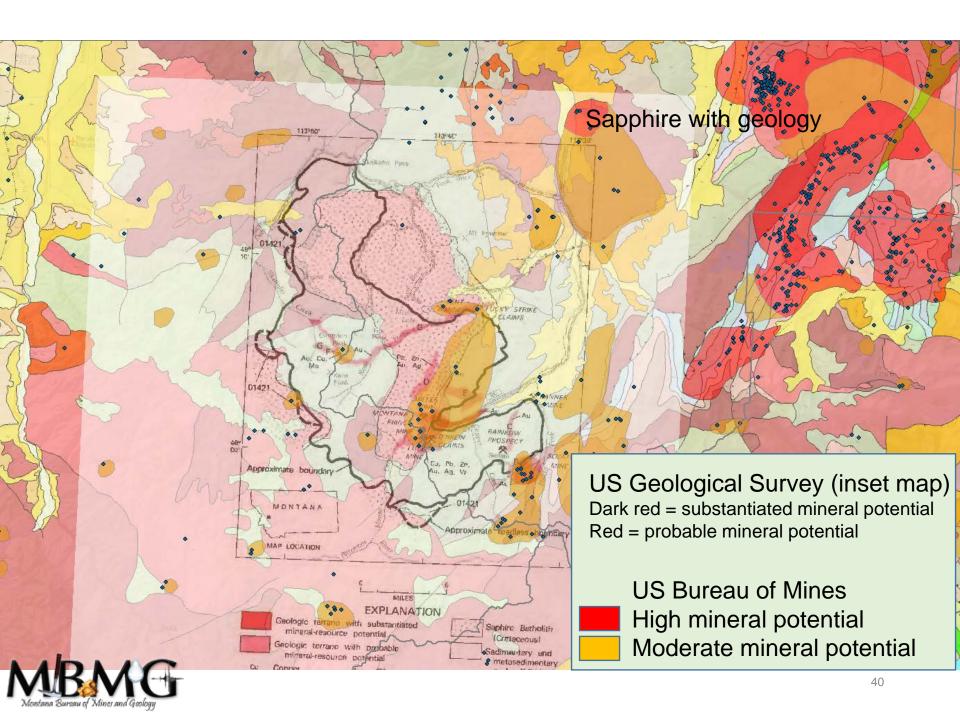


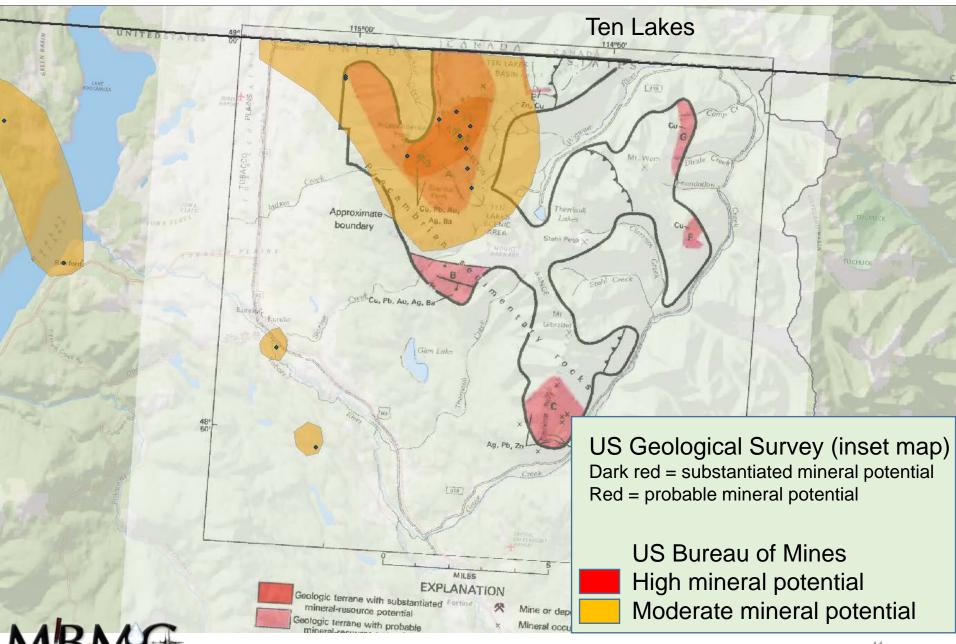


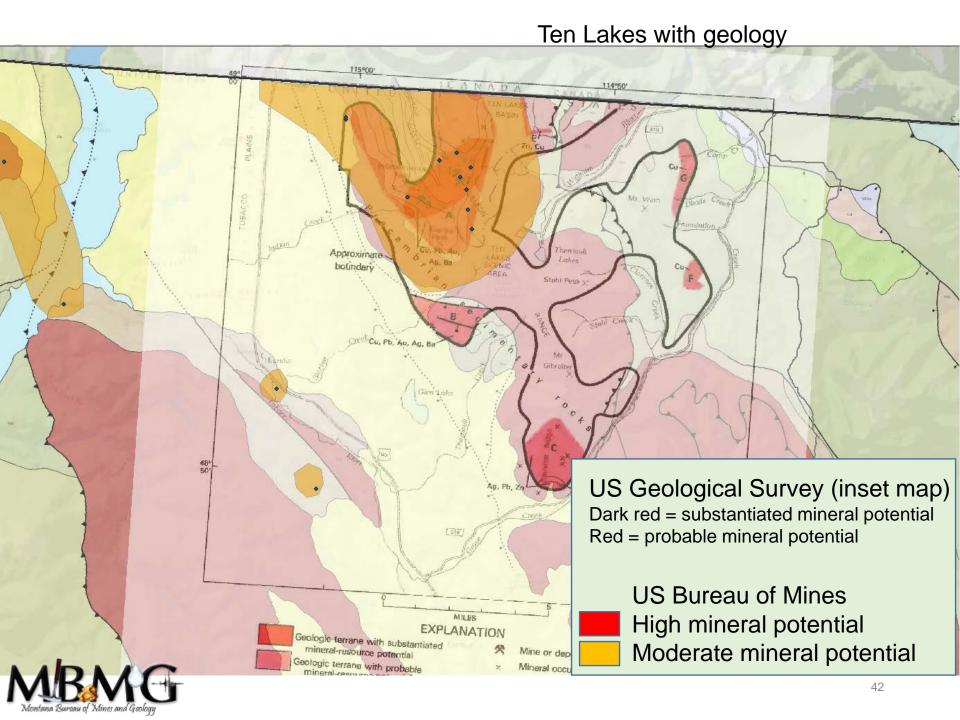












Middle Fork Judith River

