



BC Copper Outlook: Copper Mountain Update and More

Jan 30, 2012 -- The province's newest copper mines beginning to take shape

SOURCE - VantageWire.com: What a difference a year makes, for those following the Copper Mountain [CA:CUM -0.97%](#) story. At this time last year, there was still a month or so to go on construction of the Copper Mountain mine, located in southern British Columbia, and another eight months until it was on production. Today, Copper Mountain has issued its first production forecast on its flagship mine, and despite a late start, there is a positive outlook going forward. Over the course of 2012, the company expects to produce 85-90 million pounds of copper, over the course of which the share price has plenty of room to grow.

As copper prices steadily move back towards their 2011 entry point in the \$4.30/lb range, (currently the metal sits at \$3.86, up from Dec 29th's price of \$3.36), the Copper Mountain mine's profitability increases. During the first four months of production, the mine produced 22.2 million pounds of copper. But copper isn't the only factor adding value, as this mine has proven its golden touch, having produced 7,800 ounces of gold over the four-month span.

The added bonus of the mine should come from the 25,000 to 30,000 ounces of gold the company expects in 2012. This good news, for Copper Mountain shareholders, should outweigh the delays that pushed production last year on account of late delivery of equipment.

With Copper Mountain underway, the story helps with others in BC that are vying for production of their own. Yellowhead Mining Inc. [CA:YMI +1.05%](#) recently released an update on its operations, giving a nod to the Feasibility Study being conducted on its projected mine on its Harper Creek property, 150kms from Kamloops, BC. Expected to arrive near the end of March 2012, Yellowhead is targeting a 70,000 tpd copper mine, while currently aiming to expand the resource through added drilling, which included 15,148 metres of drilling over the last year.

Next in line for Yellowhead are the results of variability testing originally due by the end of this month, this coming after it recently completed flotation test work on expected mill feed for the first 10 years of mine operation. Next will come the environmental side of the prep work, which was moved forward with an ongoing baseline study program. The company will be ready to submit an Environmental Assessment application by early June.

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