

Cardero Confirms Titanium Deposits N of Duluth

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By: [John Myers](#), Duluth News Tribune

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The company; its U.S. subsidiary, Cardero Iron Ore; and its local affiliates have been conducting exploratory drilling for more than a year in the two St. Louis County locations and have released the results of a study that shows both have potentially minable deposits of titanium and iron ore “having reasonable prospects of economic extraction.”

The company is still years away from any mining and has yet to conduct formal feasibility studies or apply for any permits. But the new report labels the two locations as “prime candidates for producing value-added commodities of enriched titania feedstock and pig iron,” according to an announcement posted on the company’s website last week.

At the “Longnose deposit” near Hoyt Lakes, the report by SRK Consulting shows an “indicated resource” of 58.1 million tons of titanium oxide and 65.3 million tons of iron oxide. The “TiTac deposit” along County Highway 4 southeast of Whiteface Reservoir — about 30 miles north of Duluth — showed an “inferred resource” of 45 million tons of titanium and iron oxide.

Cardero Resource Corp. is based in Vancouver and owns the Carbon Creek coal mine in northern British Columbia and the Sheini Hills iron ore project in Ghana. The prospective Minnesota locations would be the company’s first mines in the U.S. It is also looking at iron ore sites in Peru.

Titanium is widely found but not widely mined and has become increasingly more valuable as it’s used in metals to build submarines and ships, aircraft, spacecraft, automobile parts, prosthetics such as artificial hips, buildings and even sporting equipment. It is light, strong and corrosive-resistant.

“Established titania resource quality is decreasing and Cardero Iron is focused on the next level of opportunity in titanium and iron-bearing ore deposits around the world. ... Cardero Iron has developed its own in-house capabilities to move these projects forward, including a metallurgical laboratory to aid in flow sheet development and design,” the company said in announcing the report. “Cardero Iron is capable of bringing projects such as Longnose and TiTac through the basic engineering stage and supervising the detailed engineering through demonstration or commercial plant start-up.”

The company looked at 1,681 samples from 27 drill holes at the Longnose site and 38 drill holes across the TiTac property. Cardero controls mineral resources at the sites under 20-year leases.

The company’s statement, intended mainly for investors and analysts, said the location of the deposits near existing Iron Range mining infrastructure, railroad lines and the Duluth port make them prime candidates to be developed. It’s likely both sites would be open-pit mines if developed.

Cardero is one of a dozen companies looking at mining copper, nickel, gold and other metals in northern Minnesota in what has become the state’s largest push beyond iron ore mining.