

Pacific Ridge Plans Second Year of Drilling on its Mariposa Gold Project, White Gold District, Yukon

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VANCOUVER, 04/11/12 - [Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.](#) (TSX VENTURE: PEX) reports that exploration crews will be mobilized in late May to continue exploration on its 262-square-kilometre Mariposa Gold Project located in the Yukon's White Gold District. The 2012 work program will include a second year of diamond drilling to define the extent of gold mineralization discovered during 2011 drilling of the Skookum Main zone.

The Mariposa Project is located 15 kilometres southeast of [Kinross's](#) White Gold deposit and 12 kilometres northeast of Kaminak's Coffee discoveries, which are now seeing a third year of drilling. The area flanking the Mariposa Project will also continue to be busy during 2012, with exploration proposed by [Ethos Gold Corp.](#), [Smash Minerals Corp.](#), and [Independence Gold Corp.](#)

Exploration on the property to date has identified a 15-kilometre-long brittle deformation zone, referred to as the Mariposa Fault, within which the presence of gold in bedrock has been confirmed from the 2011 diamond drilling program. In many gold mining camps, such corridors have the potential to host significant gold deposits. Within the Mariposa Fault, which remains largely unexplored, additional targets have emerged from geophysical and geochemical coverage, including the Alberta Creek area, which is eight kilometres east of the Skookum Main Zone. A comprehensive exploration program, to include diamond drilling, is therefore planned in 2012 to continue to systematically evaluate this prospective corridor.

The first year of drilling at Mariposa successfully intersected gold values in 20 drill holes which tested three gold-in-soil and geophysical targets. The best drill result of 2.44 grams per tonne (g/t) gold over 38.9 metres was returned from the Skookum Main zone. The 2012 exploration program will include an initial phase of 2500 metres of diamond drilling, scheduled to begin in early July.

The 2012 exploration program, with a first phase budget of \$2.3 million, will include:

- Drilling, to further define the extent of the drill-intersected gold bearing structures detected within the open-ended three-square-kilometre geochemical anomaly of the Skookum Main zone.
- Trenching in the Skookum Main zone, to further explore geochemical and geophysical trends in preparation for drill-testing hosting of gold mineralization.
- Ground geophysical surveys and trenching, to groom additional drill targets within the two-square-kilometre Skookum West zone, where float samples graded up to 19.9 g/t gold.
- Infill soil geochemical and ground geophysical surveys, as well as prospecting, of the Big Alex gold target. Targets will also be groomed for initial drill testing of this open-ended gold-in-soil anomaly, which contains bedrock gold occurrences of up to 3 g/t gold.
- Soil geochemical and ground geophysical surveys, to prepare the newly discovered Alberta Creek gold target for drill testing. Prospecting and trenching of the current anomalies will be conducted, as well as detailed soil sampling, to expand the existing grid coverage.
- Regional geochemical and geophysical surveys are also proposed within the yet-to-be prospected approximately 150-square-kilometre area of the eastern and northern portions of the Mariposa property.

Plans for ongoing exploration of three additional Pacific Ridge properties in the White Gold District will be announced in the coming weeks. Also to be reported will be plans for the Baker Lake Uranium property and the Fyre Lake copper-gold massive sulphide deposit.

As at March 31, 2012, Pacific Ridge had working capital in the approximate amount of \$3.0 million.

The technical information contained within this News Release has been reviewed and approved by Janice Fingler, P.Geol, Vice President Exploration of [Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.](#), and Qualified Person as defined

by National Instrument 43-101 policy.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

John S. Brock, President and CEO
Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.

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Contact Information

Corporate Information
Pacific Ridge Exploration Ltd.
John S. Brock, President and CEO
(604) 687-4951
www.pacificridgeexploration.com

Investor Inquiries
G2 Consultants Corporation
(604) 742-9990 or NA Toll-Free: (866) 742-9990
info@g2consultants.com

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