

Contango ORE, Inc.
Form 10-Q
February 01, 2017

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended December 31, 2016

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 001-35770

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE 27-3431051
(State or other jurisdiction of (IRS Employer

incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

3700 BUFFALO SPEEDWAY, SUITE 925

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098

(Address of principal executive offices)

(713) 877-1311

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The total number of shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding as of February 1, 2017 was 4,903,766.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PART I – FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
Item 1. Financial Statements	
Consolidated Balance Sheets (unaudited) as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016	3
Consolidated Statements of Operations (unaudited) for the three and six months ended December 31, 2016 and 2015	4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited) for the three and six months ended December 31, 2016 and 2015	5
Consolidated Statement of Shareholders’ Equity (unaudited) for the six months ended December 31, 2016	6
Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)	7
Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations	17
Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk	43
Item 4. Controls and Procedures	43
PART II – OTHER INFORMATION	
Item 1. Legal Proceedings	43
Item 1A. Risk Factors	43
Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds	44
Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures	44
Item 5. Other Information	44
Item 6. Exhibits	45

All references in this Form 10-Q to the “Company”, “CORE”, “we”, “us” or “our” are to Contango ORE, Inc.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS****(Unaudited)****Item 1 - Financial Statements**

	December 31, 2016	June 30, 2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$5,792,453	\$1,254,489
Prepaid expenses and other	120,082	58,165
Total current assets	5,912,535	1,312,654
OTHER ASSETS:		
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC (Note 4)	—	—
Total other assets	—	—
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,912,535	\$1,312,654
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$40,138	\$20,854
Accrued liabilities	145,281	92,884
Total current liabilities	185,419	113,738
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (NOTE 12)		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, 30,000,000 shares authorized; 4,910,951 shares issued and 4,903,766 outstanding at December 31, 2016; 3,958,540 shares issued and outstanding at June 30, 2016	49,110	39,585
Additional paid-in capital	39,672,524	33,434,899
Treasury shares at cost (7,185 shares at December 31, 2016; and 0 at June 30, 2016)	(171,158)	—
Accumulated deficit	(33,823,360)	(32,275,568)
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	5,727,116	1,198,916
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$5,912,535	\$1,312,654

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS****(Unaudited)**

	Three Months ended December 31,		Six months ended December 31,	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
EXPENSES:				
Claim rentals and minimum royalties	\$—	—	\$—	\$14,425
General and administrative expense	592,142	318,158	1,547,792	754,225
Total expenses	592,142	318,158	1,547,792	768,650
OTHER (INCOME)/EXPENSE				
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC (Note 4)	—	—	—	—
NET LOSS	\$(592,142)	\$(318,158)	\$(1,547,792)	\$(768,650)
LOSS PER SHARE				
Basic and diluted	\$(0.13)	\$(0.08)	\$(0.36)	\$(0.20)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING				
Basic and diluted	4,640,034	3,917,727	4,315,444	3,889,103

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS****(Unaudited)**

	Six Months Ended	
	December 31,	
	2016	2015
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net loss	\$(1,547,792)	\$(768,650)
Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities:		
Stock-based compensation	959,650	367,220
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Increase in prepaid expenses	(61,917)	(43,952)
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	71,681	(53,911)
Net cash used in operating activities	(578,378)	(499,293)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash paid for shares withheld from employees for payroll tax withholding	(171,158)	—
Cash from warrant exercises	5,287,500	—
Net cash provided by financing activities	5,116,342	—
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	4,537,964	(499,293)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	1,254,489	1,947,046
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF PERIOD	\$5,792,453	\$1,447,753

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-In Capital	Treasury Stock	Accumulated Deficit	Total Shareholders' Equity
	Shares	Amount				
Balance at June 30, 2016	3,958,540	\$39,585	\$33,434,899	\$—	\$(32,275,568)	\$ 1,198,916
Stock-based compensation	—	—	959,650	—	—	959,650
Restricted shares activity	280,067	2,801	(2,801)	—	—	—
Treasury shares withheld for employee taxes	—	—	—	(171,158)	—	(171,158)
Stock option exercises	52,174	522	(522)	—	—	—
Stock warrant exercises	620,170	6,202	5,281,298	—	—	5,287,500
Net loss for the period	—	—	—	—	(1,547,792)	(1,547,792)
Balance at December 31, 2016	4,910,951	\$49,110	\$39,672,524	\$(171,158)	\$(33,823,360)	\$ 5,727,116

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - (Unaudited)

1. Organization and Business

Contango ORE, Inc. ("CORE" or the "Company") is a Houston-based company that engages in the exploration in Alaska for gold and associated minerals through a joint venture company, Peak Gold, LLC. The Company was formed on September 1, 2010 as a Delaware corporation for the purpose of engaging in the exploration in the State of Alaska for gold ore and associated minerals. The Company currently has two wholly owned subsidiaries, AU CORE, Inc. and CORE Alaska, LLC. AU CORE, Inc. historically owned unpatented mining claims. Those claims were transferred to the Joint Venture Company in January 2015. CORE participates in the Joint Venture Company through its wholly owned subsidiary, CORE Alaska, LLC.

On November 29, 2010, Contango Mining Company ("Contango Mining"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Contango Oil & Gas Company ("Contango"), assigned its properties and certain other assets and liabilities to Contango. Contango contributed the properties and \$3.5 million of cash to the Company, in exchange for approximately 1.6 million shares of the Company's common stock, which were distributed to Contango's shareholders of record. The above transactions occurred among companies under common control and was accounted for as transactions among entities under common control, in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 805, "Business Combinations" whereby the acquired assets and liabilities were recognized in the financial statements at their carrying amounts.

The Company is still in an exploration stage. The Company's fiscal year end is June 30.

The properties contributed by Contango included: (i) a 100% leasehold interest in an estimated 675,000 acres (the "Tetlin Lease") from the Tetlin Village Council, the council formed by the governing body for the Native Village of Tetlin, an Alaska Native Tribe (the "Tetlin Village Council"); (ii) approximately 18,021 acres in unpatented mining claims from the state of Alaska for the exploration of gold ore and associated minerals. If any of the properties are placed into commercial production, the Company would be obligated to pay a 3.0% production royalty to Royal Gold, Inc. ("Royal Gold"). On September 29, 2014, Juneau Exploration L.P. ("JEX") sold its 3.0% production royalty to Royal Gold. See Note 10 - Related Party Transactions.

In September 2012, the Company and JEX entered into an Advisory Agreement in which JEX assisted the Company in acquiring 474 unpatented state of Alaska mining claims consisting of 71,896 acres for the exploration of gold ore and associated minerals in exchange for a 2.0% production royalty on properties acquired after July 1, 2012. If any such properties are placed into commercial production, the Company would be obligated to pay JEX a 2.0%

production royalty under the Advisory Agreement. On September 29, 2014, JEX sold its 2.0% production royalty to Royal Gold and the Company terminated its Advisory Agreement with JEX. See Note 10 - Related Party Transactions.

On September 29, 2014, the Company entered into a Master Agreement (the "Master Agreement") with Royal Gold, pursuant to which the parties agreed, subject to the satisfaction of various closing conditions, to form a joint venture to advance exploration and development of the Tetlin Properties (as defined below), prospective for gold ore and associated minerals (the "Transactions"). The Transactions closed on January 8, 2015 (the "Closing").

In connection with the Closing, the Company contributed its Tetlin Lease and state of Alaska mining claims near Tok, Alaska (the "Tetlin Property"), together with other property, to Peak Gold, LLC, a newly formed limited liability company (the "Joint Venture Company"). The Joint Venture Company is managed according to a Limited Liability Company Agreement between subsidiaries of Royal Gold and the Company. At the Closing, Royal Gold made an initial investment of \$5 million to fund exploration activity. The initial \$5 million did not give Royal Gold an equity stake in the Joint Venture Company. Royal Gold has the option to obtain up to 40% economic interest in the joint venture by investing up to \$30 million (inclusive of the initial \$5 million investment) prior to October 2018. The proceeds of Royal Gold's investment will be used by the Joint Venture Company for additional exploration of the Tetlin Property. Royal Gold serves as the Manager of the Joint Venture Company and initially manages, directs, and controls operations of the Joint Venture Company. As of December 31, 2016, Royal Gold has contributed approximately \$17.0 million to the Joint Venture Company and has earned an economic interest of 20.6%.

The Company has completed seven years of exploration efforts on the Tetlin Properties, which has resulted in identifying two mineral deposits (Peak and North Peak) and several other gold and copper prospects. In 2016, three phases of exploration drilling were completed by the Joint Venture Company on the Tetlin Property. During the quarter ended December 31, 2016, the Joint Venture Company completed Phase III of the 2016 drilling program, which targeted three areas, North Peak, West Peak, and Connector Zones to better define the areas with known mineralization. During the quarter the Joint Venture Company also acquired 224 unpatented state of Alaska mining claims, consisting of 34,400 acres.

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) for interim financial information, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), including instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 8 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete annual consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair statement of the consolidated financial statements have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes included in the Company’s Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. The results of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2016 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Company’s significant accounting policies are described below.

Management Estimates. The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Equivalents. Cash equivalents are considered to be highly liquid securities having an original maturity of 90 days or less at the date of acquisition.

Stock-Based Compensation. The Company applies the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation. Under this method, compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized over the award vesting period. The Company classifies the benefits of tax deductions in excess of the compensation cost recognized for the options (excess tax benefit) as financing cash flows. The fair value of each award is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model.

Income Taxes. The Company follows the liability method of accounting for income taxes under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences of (i) temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and (ii) operating loss and

tax credit carry-forwards for tax purposes. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance when, based upon management's estimates, it is more likely than not that a portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized in a future period. The Company recognized a full valuation allowance as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016 and has not recognized any tax provision or benefit for any of the periods. The Company reviews its tax positions quarterly for tax uncertainties. The Company did not have any uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2016 or June 30, 2016.

Investment in the Joint Venture Company. The Company's consolidated financial statements include the investment in Peak Gold, LLC which is accounted for under the equity method. The Company has designated one of the three members of the Management Committee and on December 31, 2016 held a 79.4% ownership interest in Peak Gold. Royal Gold will initially serve as the Manager of the Joint Venture Company and will manage, direct, and control operations of the Joint Venture Company. The Company recorded its investment at the historical cost of the assets contributed. The cumulative losses of the Joint Venture Company exceed the historical cost of the assets contributed to the Joint Venture Company; therefore the Company's investment in Peak Gold, LLC as of June 30, 2016 is zero. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company's investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the investment in the Joint Venture Company in future periods.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements. In August 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the "FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2016-15: Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230), Classification of Certain Cash Receipts and Cash Payments. The main objective of this update is to reduce the diversity in practice in how certain cash receipts and cash payments are presented and classified in the statement of cash flows under Topic 230, Statement of Cash Flows, and other Topics. This update addresses eight specific cash flow issues with the objective of reducing the existing diversity in practice. The eight cash flow updates relate to the following issues: 1) debt prepayment or debt extinguishment costs; 2) settlement of zero-coupon debt instruments or other debt instruments with coupon interest rates that are insignificant in relation to the effective interest rate of the borrowing; 3) contingent consideration payments made after a business combination; 4) proceeds from the settlement of insurance claims; 5) proceeds from the settlement of corporate-owned life insurance policies, including bank-owned life insurance policies; 6) distributions received from equity method investees; 7) beneficial interest in securitization transactions; and 8) separately identifiable cash flows and application of the predominance principle. The amendments in this update are effective for public business entities for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those fiscal years. The Company will continue to assess the impact this may have on its statement of cash flows.

In March 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the “FASB”) issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-09: *Compensation – Stock Compensation (Topic 718): Improvements to Employee Share-Based Payment Accounting (ASU 2016-09)*. ASU 2016--09 is part of an initiative to reduce complexity in accounting standards. The areas of simplification in ASU 2016--09 involve several aspects of accounting for share-based payment transactions, including the income tax consequences, classification of awards as either equity or liabilities, and classification on the statement of cash flows. For public entities, ASU 2016-09 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, including interim periods within those fiscal years; early application is permitted. The Company adopted this ASU during the quarter ended December 31, 2016. The adoption of the standard did not have a material impact on the financial statements.

In November 2015, the FASB issued ASU No. 2015-17: *Income Taxes (Topic 740): Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*. ASU No. 2015-17 provides guidance on the presentation of deferred income taxes that requires deferred tax assets and liabilities, along with related valuation allowances, to be classified as non-current on the balance sheet. As a result, each tax jurisdiction will now only have one net non-current deferred tax asset or liability. The new guidance does not change the existing requirement that prohibits offsetting deferred tax liabilities from one jurisdiction against deferred tax assets of another jurisdiction. The new guidance is effective for the Company’s fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017 and will only result in a change in presentation of these deferred taxes on our consolidated balance sheets. Early adoption is permitted, and we are currently evaluating the impact of this guidance on our consolidated financial statements.

The Company has evaluated all other recent accounting pronouncements and believes that none of them will have a significant effect on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

4. Investment in Peak Gold, LLC

The Company recorded its investment at the historical book value of the assets contributed to the Joint Venture Company which was approximately \$1.4 million. As of December 31, 2016, Royal Gold has contributed approximately \$17.0 million to the Joint Venture Company, and earned a cumulative economic interest of approximately 20.6%. Of the \$17.0 million, \$3.6 million was contributed during the quarter ended December 31, 2016. Therefore, as of December 31, 2016, the Company holds a 79.4% economic interest in the Joint Venture Company. As of June 30, 2016, the Company held an 89.0% economic interest in the Joint Venture Company. The Royal Gold Initial Contribution did not entitle Royal Gold to a percentage interest in the Joint Venture Company.

The following table is a roll-forward of our investment in the Joint Venture Company from January 8, 2015 (inception) to December 31, 2016:

**Investment
in Peak
Gold, LLC**

Investment balance at June 30, 2014	\$—
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC, at inception January 8, 2015	1,433,886
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(1,433,886)
Investment balance at June 30, 2015	\$—
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Investment balance at June 30, 2016	\$—
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Investment balance at December 31, 2016	\$—

The following table presents the condensed balance sheet for Peak Gold, LLC as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016:

	December 31, 2016	June 30, 2016
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$181,835	\$990,698
Mineral properties	1,433,886	1,433,886
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,615,721	\$2,424,584
LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$618,068	\$1,674,956
TOTAL LIABILITIES	618,068	1,674,956
MEMBERS' EQUITY	997,653	749,628
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY	\$1,615,721	\$2,424,584

The Company's share of the Joint Venture Company's results of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2016 was a loss of \$2.1 million and \$5.0 million, respectively. The Company's share in the results of operations for the three and six months ended December 31, 2015 was a loss of \$1.2 million and \$4.5 million, respectively. The Peak Gold, LLC loss does not include any provisions related to income taxes as Peak Gold, LLC is treated as a partnership for income tax purposes. As of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, the Company's share of the Joint Venture Company's inception-to-date cumulative loss of \$15.9 million and \$10.9 million, exceeded the historical book value of our investment in Peak Gold, LLC, of \$1.4 million. Therefore, the investment in Peak Gold, LLC had a balance of zero as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016. The Company is currently not obligated to make additional capital contributions to the Joint Venture Company and therefore only records losses up to the point of the initial investment which was \$1.4 million. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company's investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the Company's investment in the Joint Venture Company in future periods. The suspended losses for the period from inception to December 31, 2016 are \$14.4 million. The following table presents the condensed results of operations for Peak Gold, LLC for the three and six month periods ended December 31, 2016 and 2015:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2016	Three Months Ended December 31, 2015	Six Months Ended December 31, 2016	Six Months Ended December 31, 2015	Inception to Date December 31, 2016
EXPENSES:					
Exploration expense	\$2,203,430	\$919,576	\$5,233,030	\$3,944,230	\$ 14,747,619
General and administrative	395,852	265,147	818,945	554,803	2,638,614
Total expenses	2,599,282	1,184,723	6,051,975	4,499,033	17,386,233
NET LOSS	\$2,599,282	\$1,184,723	\$6,051,975	\$4,499,033	\$17,386,233

5. Costs Incurred

Costs incurred by the Company to acquire and explore our Tetlin Lease and other properties were as follows:

	Three Months Ended December 31, 2016	2015	Six Months Ended December 31, 2015 2015
Exploration costs, claim rentals, and minimum royalties	\$ —	\$ —	\$14,425
Total costs incurred	\$ —	\$ —	\$14,425

The Tetlin Lease had an initial ten year term beginning July 2008 which was extended for an additional ten years to July 15, 2028, and for so long thereafter as the Company initiates and continues conducting mining operations on the Tetlin Lease. The prior year expense relates to the amortization of claim rental payments with August 2015 expirations. The Joint Venture Company is responsible for making all future claim rental and minimum royalty payments.

6. Prepaid Expenses

The Company has prepaid expenses of \$120,082 and \$58,165 as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, respectively. Prepaid expenses primarily relate to prepaid insurance costs.

7. Loss Per Share

A reconciliation of the components of basic and diluted net loss per share of common stock is presented below:

	Three Months ended December 31,			2015		
	2016			2015		
	Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share	Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share
Basic Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$(592,142)	4,640,034	\$(0.13)	\$(318,158)	3,917,727	\$(0.08)
Diluted Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$(592,142)	4,640,034	\$(0.13)	\$(318,158)	3,917,727	\$(0.08)

	Six Months ended December 31,			2015		
	2016			2015		
	Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share	Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share
Basic Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$(1,547,792)	4,315,444	\$(0.36)	\$(768,650)	3,889,103	\$(0.20)
Diluted Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$(1,547,792)	4,315,444	\$(0.36)	\$(768,650)	3,889,103	\$(0.20)

Options and warrants to purchase 887,999 and 1,635,999 shares of common stock were outstanding as of December 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, respectively. These options and warrants were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for each of the three and six month periods ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 because they are anti-dilutive as a result of the Company's net loss for all periods presented.

8. Shareholders' Equity

The Company's authorized capital stock consists of 30,000,000 shares of common stock and 15,000,000 shares of preferred stock. As of December 31, 2016, we had 4,903,766 shares of common stock outstanding, including 208,997 shares of unvested restricted stock. The Company also has options and warrants to purchase 887,999 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2016. No shares of preferred stock have been issued. The remaining restricted stock outstanding will vest between January 2016 and January 2019.

In September 2016, the Company distributed a Private Placement Memorandum to its warrant holders to give them the opportunity to exercise their warrants at a reduced exercise price and receive shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share of the Company by paying the reduced exercise price in cash and surrendering the original warrants. The offering applied to warrant holders with an exercise price of \$10.00 per share originally issued in March 2013. The offering gave the warrant holders the opportunity to exercise the warrants for \$9.00 per share. The offer expired on November 15, 2016. In conjunction with the offering a total of 587,500 warrants were exercised resulting in total cash to the Company of \$5.3 million. Of the total warrants exercised, 83,334 were exercised by entities controlled by Mr. Brad Juneau, the Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer. Proceeds from the exercise of the warrants will be used for working capital purposes and for funding future obligations to the Joint Venture Company.

Rights Plan

On December 19, 2012, the Company adopted a Rights Plan which was amended on March 21, 2013, September 29, 2014, December 18, 2014, and on November 11, 2015. Under the terms of the amended Rights Plan, each right (a "Right") will entitle the holder to purchase 1/100 of a share of Series A Junior Preferred Stock of the Company (the "Preferred Stock") at an exercise price of \$80 per share. The Rights will be exercisable and will trade separately from the shares of common stock only if a person or group, other than the Estate of Mr. Kenneth R. Peak and its affiliates, acquires beneficial ownership of 23% or more of the Company's common stock.

Under the terms of the Rights Plan, Rights have been distributed as a dividend at the rate of one Right for each share of common stock that was held as of the close of business on December 20, 2012. Stockholders will not receive certificates for the Rights, but the Rights will become part of each share of common stock. An additional Right will be issued along with each share of common stock that is issued or sold by the Company after December 20, 2012. The Rights are scheduled to expire on December 19, 2018.

9. Formation of Joint Venture Company

On January 8, 2015, the Company and Royal Gold, through their wholly-owned subsidiaries, consummated the Transactions contemplated under the Master Agreement, including the formation of a joint venture to advance exploration and development of the Company's Tetlin Properties, for gold ore and associated minerals prospects.

In connection with the Closing of the Transactions, the Company formed the Joint Venture Company. The Company contributed to the Joint Venture Company its Tetlin properties near Tok, Alaska, together with other property (the "Contributed Assets") with a historical book value of \$1.4 million and an agreed fair value of \$45.7 million (the "Contributed Assets Value"). At the Closing, the Company and Royal Gold, through their wholly-owned subsidiaries, entered into a Limited Liability Company Agreement for the Joint Venture Company (the "Joint Venture Company LLC Agreement").

Royal Gold serves as manager of the Joint Venture Company ("the Manager") and will initially manage, direct, and control the operations of the Joint Venture Company.

As a condition to the Closing, the Company and the Tetlin Village Council entered into a Stability Agreement dated October 2, 2014, pursuant to which the Company and the Tetlin Village Council, among other things, acknowledged the continued validity of the Tetlin Lease and all its terms notwithstanding any future change in the status of the Tetlin Village Council or the property subject to the Tetlin Lease.

At Closing, Royal Gold, as an initial contribution to the Joint Venture Company, contributed \$5 million (the "Royal Gold Initial Contribution"). The Royal Gold Initial Contribution did not entitle Royal Gold to a percentage interest in the Joint Venture Company. Therefore, at Closing, Royal Gold's percentage interest in the Joint Venture Company equaled 0% and the Company's percentage interest in the Joint Venture Company equaled 100%. In addition, as part of the Closing, Royal Gold paid the Company \$750,000 which was utilized to partially reimburse the Company for costs and expenses incurred in the Transactions and is included as an expense reimbursement on our consolidated statements of operations.

The Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement provides Royal Gold with the right, but not the obligation, to earn a percentage interest in the Joint Venture Company (up to a maximum of 40%) by making additional contributions of capital to the Joint Venture Company of up to \$30 million (inclusive of the Royal Gold Initial Contribution of \$5 million) during the period beginning on the Closing and ending on October 31, 2018. If Royal Gold funds its full \$30 million investment by October 31, 2018, it will receive a percentage interest of 40% in the Joint Venture Company, and the Company will retain a percentage interest of 60% in the Joint Venture Company. From inception through December 31, 2016, Royal Gold has contributed approximately \$17.0 million (inclusive of the Royal Gold Initial Contribution of \$5 million) to the Joint Venture Company and earned a percentage interest of 20.6%.

The proceeds of Royal Gold's contributions to the Joint Venture Company (including the Royal Gold Initial Contribution) have been used by the Joint Venture Company to fund further exploration activities on the Tetlin Properties included in the Contributed Assets.

Both the Company and Royal Gold will have the right to transfer each of their respective percentage interests in the Joint Venture Company to a third party, subject to certain terms and conditions set forth in the Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement. If either member intends to transfer all or part of its percentage interest to a bona fide third party purchaser, the other member will have the right to require the transferring member to include in the intended transfer the other member's proportionate share of its percentage interests at the same purchase price and terms and conditions. Once Royal Gold has earned a 40% interest in the Joint Venture Company, it will have the additional right to require the Company to sell up to 20% of the Company's interest in the Joint Venture Company in a sale of Royal Gold's entire 40% interest to a bona fide third party purchaser. If Royal Gold exercises this right, the Company will be obligated to sell the relevant portion of its percentage interest to a bona fide third party purchaser on the same terms and conditions as the interest being sold by Royal Gold.

After October 31, 2018, or such earlier time as Royal Gold has earned a 40% interest in the Joint Venture Company, the members will contribute funds to approved programs and budgets in proportion to their respective percentage interests in the Joint Venture Company. If a member elects not to contribute to an approved program and budget or elects to contribute less than its proportionate interest, its percentage interest will be recalculated by dividing (i) the sum of (a) the value of its initial contribution plus (b) the total of all of its capital contributions plus (c) the amount of the capital contribution it elects to fund, by (ii) the sum of (a), (b) and (c) above for both members multiplied by 100.

The Joint Venture Company is a variable interest entity as defined by FASB ASU No. 2015-02, *Consolidation (Topic 810): Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis*. The Company is not the primary beneficiary since it does not currently have the power to direct the activities of the Joint Venture Company. The Company's ownership interest in the Joint Venture Company is therefore accounted under the equity method.

10. Related Party Transactions

Mr. Brad Juneau, the Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is also the sole manager of JEX, a private company involved in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. JEX was responsible for securing and negotiating the Tetlin Lease and assisting in obtaining other properties and initially engaged Avalon Development Corporation ("Avalon") to conduct mineral exploration activities on the Tetlin Lease. In agreeing to transfer its interests in such properties to Contango Mining, a predecessor of the Company, JEX retained a 3.0% overriding royalty interest in the properties transferred.

In September 2012, the Company and JEX entered into an Advisory Agreement in which JEX provided assistance in acquiring additional properties in Alaska in exchange for an overriding royalty of 2.0% on properties acquired after July 1, 2012.

On September 29, 2014, pursuant to a Royalty Purchase Agreement between JEX and Royal Gold (the "Royalty Purchase Agreement"), JEX sold its entire overriding royalty interest in the Tetlin Property to Royal Gold. On the same date, the Company terminated its Advisory Agreement with JEX.

In September 2016, the Company and JEX entered into a Management Services Agreement effective October 1, 2016. Under the Management Services Agreement, JEX will manage the business and affairs of the Company and its interest in the Joint Venture Company, subject to the direction of the Board, including corporate finance, accounting, budget, SEC reporting, risk management, operations and stockholder relation functions of the Company for an initial term of one year for a monthly fee of \$32,000 which includes an allocation of approximately \$6,900 for office space and equipment. No part of the fee will be allocated for compensation of Brad Juneau who will be compensated separately as determined by the independent Directors of the Company. JEX will also be reimbursed for its reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of third parties incurred for the Company. In addition, executives of JEX may be granted restricted stock, stock options or other forms of compensation by the independent Directors of the Company. The Company has adopted this management and compensation program because employees of JEX have historically spent significant time and effort in managing and administering the affairs of the Company. While the Company remains a small exploratory stage entity whose shares are publicly traded, the successful drilling program of the Joint Venture Company has required a significant additional allocation of time and effort to the business and affairs of the Company by the three part time executives, two of whom are officers of the Company. The amount of time and expertise required to effectively manage and administer the business and affairs of the Company will continue to be monitored by the Board for necessary adjustments or modifications depending upon the amount of time required to be spent on the business and affairs of the Company by the executives and the progress of the Joint Venture Company in its exploratory programs in Alaska.

11. Stock-Based Compensation

On September 15, 2010, the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board") adopted the Contango ORE, Inc. Equity Compensation Plan (the "2010 Plan"). Under the 2010 Plan, the Board may issue up to 1,000,000 shares of common stock and options to officers, directors, employees or consultants of the Company. Awards made under the 2010 Plan are subject to such restrictions, terms and conditions, including forfeitures, if any, as may be determined by the Board. As of December 31, 2016, there were 208,997 shares of unvested restricted common stock outstanding and options to purchase 307,000 shares of common stock outstanding issued under the 2010 Plan. Stock-based compensation expense for the three and six months ended December 31, 2016 was \$331,306 and \$959,650, respectively. Stock-based compensation expense for the three and six months ended December 31, 2015 was \$146,597 and \$367,220, respectively. The amount of compensation expense recognized does not reflect cash compensation actually received by the individuals during the current period, but rather represents the amount of expense recognized by the Company in accordance with GAAP. All restricted stock grants are expensed over the applicable vesting period based on the fair value at the date the stock is granted. The grant date fair value may differ from the fair value on the date the individual's restricted stock actually vests.

Restricted Stock. In November 2010, the Company granted 70,429 restricted shares of common stock to its executives and directors and an additional 23,477 restricted shares to a former technical consultant. All of the restricted stock from this grant was fully vested as of December 31, 2016.

In December 2013, the Company's directors, executives, and a former technical consultant were granted an aggregate of 95,000 shares of restricted stock. The restricted stock was set to vest over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. As of December 31, 2016, all of the restricted stock granted in December 2013 was vested.

In November 2014, the Company granted 27,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. The restricted stock was originally set to vest over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. In September 2016, the restricted stock agreements were modified. The final one-third of the grant will now vest in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 9,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In January 2015, the Company granted an aggregate of 30,000 restricted shares of common stock to two of its non-executive directors, 10,000 shares vested immediately and the remaining two-thirds will vest equally over two years. In addition, the Company granted 10,000 restricted shares of common stock to a former technical consultant which vested immediately. The Compensation Committee also elected to immediately vest all of the stock options and restricted stock previously issued to the former technical consultant. As of December 31, 2016, there were 10,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In September 2015, the Company granted 85,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. The restricted stock was originally set to vest over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. In September 2016, the restricted stock agreements for two executives were modified such that the final one-third of their restricted stock grant will vest in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 28,332 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In December 2015, the Company granted 40,000 restricted shares of common stock to two of its non-executive directors. The restricted stock vests over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. As of December 31, 2016, there were 13,332 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In August 2016, the Company granted 100,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. A portion of the restricted stock granted vests over two years, beginning one-third on the date of grant. The remainder of the restricted stock granted vests in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 73,333 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In November 2016, the Company granted 75,000 restricted shares of common stock to its non-executive directors. The restricted stock granted vests in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 75,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

As of December 31, 2016, the total compensation cost related to unvested awards not yet recognized was \$3,045,462. The remaining costs will be recognized over the remaining vesting period of the awards.

Stock Options. The option awards listed in the table below have been granted to directors, executives and consultants of the Company:

Option Awards

Period	Options	Weighted	Vesting Period ⁽⁷⁾	Expiration
Granted	Granted	Average		Date
		Exercise Price		
September 2011 (1)	50,000	\$13.13	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	September 2016
July 2012 ⁽²⁾	100,000	\$10.25	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	July 2017
December 2012 (3)	250,000	\$10.20	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	December 2017
June 2013 ⁽⁴⁾	37,500	\$10.00	Vested Immediately	June 2018
July 2013 ⁽⁵⁾	5,000	\$10.00	Vested Immediately	July 2018
September 2013 (6)	37,500	\$10.01	Vested Immediately	September 2018
September 2013 (6)	15,000	\$10.01	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	September 2018

(1) The Company granted 40,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 10,000 stock options to a former technical consultant, for services performed during fiscal year 2011.

(2) The Company granted 75,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 25,000 stock options to a former technical consultant for services performed during fiscal year 2012. Of the total options granted as a part of this grant, 25,000 were later forfeited.

(3) The Company granted 175,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 75,000 stock options to a former technical consultant for services performed during fiscal year 2013. Of the total options granted as a part of this grant, 50,000 were later forfeited.

(4) The Company granted 37,500 stock options to its executives for services performed during fiscal year 2013.

(5) The Company granted 5,000 stock options to an employee of Avalon for services performed during fiscal year 2013.

(6) The Company granted 52,500 stock options to its executives for services performed during the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

(7) If at any time there occurs a change of control, as defined in the 2010 Plan, any options that are unvested at that time will immediately vest. The Company's Compensation Committee has determined that the Transactions do not constitute a change of control under the 2010 Plan.

During the first and second quarter of fiscal year 2017, the Company's current and former executives, directors, and consultants cashless exercised 80,000 and 18,000 stock options, respectively, resulting in the issuance of 42,817 and 9,357 shares of common stock to the exercising parties and no proceeds to the Company. The Company applies the fair value method to account for stock option expense. Under this method, cash flows from the exercise of stock options resulting from tax benefits in excess of recognized cumulative compensation cost (excess tax benefits) are classified as financing cash flows. See Note 3 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. All employee stock option grants are expensed over the stock option's vesting period based on the fair value at the date the options are granted. The fair value of each option is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model. As of December 31, 2016, the stock options had a weighted-average remaining life of approximately 1 year. The total compensation cost related to these options had been fully recognized as of December 31, 2016 as all of the options are fully vested.

A summary of the status of stock options granted under the 2010 Plan as of December 31, 2016 and changes during the six months then ended, is presented in the table below:

	Six Months Ended December 31, 2016	
	Shares Under Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding, June 30, 2016	405,000	\$ 10.24
Granted	—	—
Exercised	(98,000)	\$ 10.98
Forfeited	—	—
Outstanding, December 31, 2016	307,000	\$ 10.00
Aggregate intrinsic value	\$2,793,250	
Exercisable, end of period	307,000	\$ 10.00
Aggregate intrinsic value	\$2,793,250	
Available for grant, end of period	39,094	

12. Commitments and Contingencies

Tetlin Lease. The Tetlin Lease had an initial ten year term beginning July 2008 which was extended for an additional ten years to July 15, 2028, and for so long thereafter as the Joint Venture Company initiates and continues to conduct mining operations on the Tetlin Lease.

Pursuant to the terms of the Tetlin Lease, the Joint Venture Company is required to spend \$350,000 per year until July 15, 2018 in exploration costs. However, the Company's exploration expenditures through the 2011 exploration

program have satisfied this requirement because exploration funds spent in any year in excess of \$350,000 are credited toward future years' exploration cost requirements. Additionally, should the Joint Venture Company derive revenues from the properties covered under the Tetlin Lease, the Joint Venture Company is required to pay the Tetlin Tribal Council a production royalty ranging from 2.0% to 5.0%, depending on the type of metal produced and the year of production. As of June 30, 2012, the Company had paid the Tetlin Village Council \$225,000 in exchange for reducing the production royalty payable to them by 0.75%. These payments lowered the production royalty to a range of 1.25% to 4.25%. On or before July 15, 2020, the Tetlin Tribal Council has the option to increase their production royalty by (i) 0.25% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$150,000, (ii) 0.50% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$300,000, or (iii) 0.75% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$450,000. Until such time as production royalties begin, the Joint Venture Company must pay the Tetlin Tribal Council an advance minimum royalty of \$50,000 per year. On July 15, 2012, the advance minimum royalty increased to \$75,000 per year, and subsequent years are escalated by an inflation adjustment.

Gold Exploration. The Joint Venture Company's Triple Z, TOK/Tetlin, Eagle, Bush, West Fork, and Noah claims are all located on state of Alaska lands. The annual claim rentals on these projects vary based on the age of the claims, and are due and payable in full by November 30 of each year. Annual claims rentals for the 2015-2016 assessment year totaled \$125,307. The Joint Venture Company has met the annual labor requirements for the state of Alaska acreage for the next four years, which is the maximum time allowable by Alaska law.

Royal Gold Royalties. Pursuant to the Royalty Purchase Agreement, the Joint Venture Company will pay Royal Gold an overriding royalty of 3.0% should the Joint Venture Company derive revenues from the Tetlin Lease and certain other properties and an overriding royalty of 2.0% should the Joint Venture Company derive revenues from any additional properties.

Available Information

General information about the Company can be found on the Company's website at www.contangoore.com. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we file or furnish them to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

Item 2. *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes and other information included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and in our Form 10-K, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, previously filed with the SEC.

•Environmental risks

•Strength and financial resources of competitors

•Worldwide economic conditions

•Expanded rigorous monitoring and testing requirements

•Ability to obtain insurance coverage on commercially reasonable terms

•Competition generally and the increasing competitive nature of our industry

18

You should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements in this report, as they speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, we undertake no obligation to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

See the information under the heading “Risk Factors” in this Form 10-Q for some of the important factors that could affect our financial performance or could cause actual results to differ materially from estimates contained in forward-looking statements.

Overview

The Company is a Houston-based company, whose primary business is the participation in a joint venture to explore in the State of Alaska for gold ore and associated minerals. On January 8, 2015, the Company and Royal Gold, Inc. (“Royal Gold”), through their wholly-owned subsidiaries, consummated the transactions (the “Transactions”) contemplated under the Master Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2014 (the “Master Agreement”), including the formation of a joint venture, Peak Gold, LLC (the “Joint Venture Company”), to advance exploration of the Company's Tetlin Property, which is prospective for gold and associated minerals. As of December 31, 2016, the Joint Venture Company had leased or had control over an estimated 808,900 acres for the exploration of gold ore and associated minerals.

Background

Contango Mining Company (“Contango Mining”), a wholly owned subsidiary of Contango Oil & Gas Company (“Contango”), was formed for the purpose of mineral exploration in the State of Alaska. Contango Mining initially acquired a 50% interest in properties from Juneau Exploration, L.P., (“JEX”) in exchange for \$1 million and a 1.0% overriding royalty interest in the properties under a Joint Exploration Agreement (the “Joint Exploration Agreement”). On September 15, 2010, Contango Mining acquired the remaining 50% interest in the properties by increasing the overriding royalty interest in the properties granted to JEX to 3.0% pursuant to an Amended and Restated Conveyance of Overriding Royalty Interest (the “Amended ORRI Agreement”), and JEX and Contango Mining terminated the Joint Exploration Agreement. JEX assisted the Company in acquiring additional properties in Alaska pursuant to an Advisory Agreement dated September 6, 2012, and the Company granted to JEX a 2% overriding royalty interest in the additional properties acquired. On September 29, 2014, pursuant to a Royalty Purchase Agreement between JEX and Royal Gold (the “Royalty Purchase Agreement”), JEX sold its entire overriding royalty interest in the properties to Royal Gold. On the same date, the Company terminated the Advisory Agreement with JEX.

The Company was formed on September 1, 2010 as a Delaware corporation and on November 29, 2010, Contango Mining assigned all its properties and certain other assets and liabilities to Contango. Contango contributed the properties and \$3.5 million of cash to the Company, pursuant to the terms of a Contribution Agreement (the

“Contribution Agreement”), in exchange for approximately 1.6 million shares of the Company’s common stock. The transactions occurred between companies under common control. Contango then distributed all of the Company’s common stock to Contango’s stockholders of record as of October 15, 2010, promptly after the effective date of the Company’s Registration Statement Form 10 on the basis of one share of common stock for each ten (10) shares of Contango’s common stock then outstanding.

In connection with the closing of the Transactions with Royal Gold (the “Closing”), the Company formed Peak Gold, LLC and contributed to the Joint Venture Company its Tetlin Property near Tok, Alaska, together with other personal property (the “Contributed Assets”) with a historical cost of \$1.4 million and an agreed value of \$45.7 million (the “Contributed Assets Value”). At the Closing, the Company and Royal Gold, through their wholly-owned subsidiaries, entered into a Limited Liability Company Agreement for the Joint Venture Company (the “Joint Venture Company LLC Agreement”).

Upon Closing, Royal Gold initially invested \$5 million to fund exploration activity. The initial \$5 million did not give Royal Gold an equity stake in the Joint Venture Company. Royal Gold has the option to earn up to a percentage interest of 40% in the Joint Venture Company by investing up to \$30 million (inclusive of the initial \$5 million investment) prior to October 2018. As of December 31, 2016, Royal Gold has contributed approximately \$17.0 million (including the initial \$5 million investment) to the Joint Venture Company and earned a percentage interest of 20.6%. The proceeds of Royal Gold’s investment have been and will be used by the Joint Venture Company for additional exploration of the Tetlin Property.

Properties

Since 2009, the Company's primary focus has been the exploration of a mineral lease with the Native Village of Tetlin whose governmental entity is the Tetlin Tribal Council (“Tetlin Tribal Council”) for the exploration of minerals near Tok, Alaska on a currently estimated 675,000 acres (the “Tetlin Lease”) and almost all of the Company's resources have been directed to that end. All significant work presently conducted by the Company has been directed at exploration of the Tetlin Lease and increasing understanding of the characteristics of, and economics of, any mineralization. There are no known quantifiable mineral reserves on the Tetlin Lease or any of the Company's other properties as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) Industry Guide 7.

The Tetlin Lease originally had a ten year term beginning July 2008 which was extended for an additional ten years to July 15, 2028. If the properties under the Tetlin Lease are placed into commercial production, the Tetlin Lease will be held throughout production and the Company would be obligated to pay a production royalty to the Tetlin, which varies from 2.0% to 5.0%, depending on the type of metal produced and the year of production. In June 2011, the Company paid the Tetlin \$75,000 in exchange for reducing the production royalty payable to them by 0.25%. In July 2011, the Company paid the Tetlin Tribal Council an additional \$150,000 in exchange for further reducing the production royalty by 0.50%. These payments lowered the production royalty to a range of 1.25% to 4.25%, depending on the type of metal produced and the year of production. On or before July 15, 2020, the Tetlin has the option to increase its production royalty by (i) 0.25% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$150,000, or (ii) 0.50% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$300,000, or (iii) 0.75% by payment to the Joint Venture Company of \$450,000.

The Joint Venture Company also holds certain State of Alaska unpatented mining claims for the exploration of gold ore and associated minerals. The Company believes that the Joint Venture Company holds good title to its properties, in accordance with standards generally accepted in the mineral industry. As is customary in the mineral industry, the Company conducts only a preliminary title examination at the time it acquires a property. The Joint Venture Company conducted a title examination prior to the assignment of the Tetlin Lease to the Joint Venture Company and performed certain curative title work. Before the Joint Venture Company begins any mine development work, however, the Joint Venture Company is expected to again conduct a full title review and perform curative work on any defects that it deems significant. A significant amount of additional work is likely required in the exploration of the properties before any determination as to the economic feasibility of a mining venture can be made.

The following table summarizes the Tetlin Lease and unpatented mining claims (the "Tetlin Property") held by the Joint Venture Company as of December 31, 2016:

Property	Location	Commodities	Claims	Estimated Acres	Type
Tetlin-Tok	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	131	10,900	State Mining Claims
Eagle	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	428	66,000	State Mining Claims
Bush	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	48	7,700	State Mining Claims
West Fork	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	48	7,700	State Mining Claims
Triple Z	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	45	7,200	State Mining Claims
Noah	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	224	34,400	State Mining Claims
Tetlin-Village	Eastern Interior	Gold, Copper	-	675,000	Lease
	TOTALS:		924	808,900	

Strategy

Partnering with strategic industry participants to expand future exploration work. In connection with an evaluation of the Company's strategic options conducted by the Board of Directors and its financial advisor, the Company determined to continue its exploration activities on the Tetlin Property through a joint venture with an experienced

industry participant. As a result, the Company formed the Joint Venture Company pursuant to a Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement with Royal Gold. Under the Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement, Royal Gold is appointed as the manager of the Joint Venture Company (the "Manager"), initially, with overall management responsibility for operations of the Joint Venture Company through October 31, 2018, and, thereafter, provided Royal Gold earns at least a forty percent (40%) percentage interest by October 31, 2018. Royal Gold may resign as Manager and can be removed as Manager for a material breach of the Joint Venture Company LLC Agreement, a material failure to perform its obligations as the Manager, a failure to conduct the Joint Venture Company operations in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, and other limited circumstances. The Manager will manage, and direct the operation of the Joint Venture Company, and will discharge its duties, in accordance with approved programs and budgets. The Manager will implement the decisions of the Management Committee of the Joint Venture Company (the "Management Committee") and will carry out the day-to-day operations of the Joint Venture Company. Except as expressly delegated to the Manager, the Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement provides that the Management Committee has exclusive authority to determine all management matters related to the Company. Initially, the Management Committee consists of one appointee designated by the Company and two appointees designated by Royal Gold. Each designate on the Management Committee is entitled to one vote. Except for the list of specific actions set forth in the Joint Venture Company's LLC Agreement, the affirmative vote by a majority of designates is required for action.

Structuring Incentives to Drive Behavior. The Company believes that equity ownership aligns the interests of the Company's executives and directors with those of its stockholders. The Company's directors and executives have not received cash compensation for their work for the Company. As of December 31, 2016, the Company's directors and executives beneficially own approximately 16.2% of the Company's common stock. An additional 16.8% of the Company's common stock is beneficially owned by the Estate of Mr. Kenneth R. Peak, the Company's former Chairman, who passed away on April 19, 2013.

Restricted Stock. In November 2010, the Company granted 70,429 restricted shares of common stock to its executives and directors and an additional 23,477 restricted shares to a former technical consultant. All of the restricted stock from this grant was fully vested as of December 31, 2016.

In December 2013, the Company's directors, executives, and a former technical consultant were granted an aggregate of 95,000 shares of restricted stock. The restricted stock vests over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. As of December 31, 2016, all of the restricted stock granted in December 2013 was vested.

In November 2014, the Company granted 27,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. The restricted stock was originally set to vest over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. In September 2016, the restricted stock agreements were modified. The final one-third of the grant will now vest in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 9,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In January 2015, the Company granted an aggregate of 30,000 restricted shares of common stock to two of its non-executive directors, 10,000 shares vested immediately and the remaining two-thirds will vest equally over two years. In addition, the Company granted 10,000 restricted shares of common stock to a former technical consultant which vested immediately. The Compensation Committee also elected to immediately vest all of the stock options and restricted stock previously issued to the former technical consultant. As of December 31, 2016, there were 10,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In September 2015, the Company granted 85,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. The restricted stock was originally set to vest over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. In September 2016, the restricted stock agreements for two executives were modified such that the final one-third of their restricted stock grant will vest in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 28,332 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In December 2015, the Company granted 40,000 restricted shares of common stock to two of its non-executive directors. The restricted stock vests over two years, beginning with one-third vesting on the date of grant. As of December 31, 2016, there were 13,332 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In August 2016, the Company granted 100,000 restricted shares of common stock to its executives. A portion of the restricted stock granted vests over two years, beginning one-third on the date of grant. The remainder of the restricted stock granted vests in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 73,333 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

In November 2016, the Company granted 75,000 restricted shares of common stock to its non-executive directors. The restricted stock granted vests in January 2019. As of December 31, 2016, there were 75,000 shares of such restricted stock that remained unvested.

Stock Options. As of the date of this report, the option awards listed in the table below have been granted to directors, officers, employees and consultants of the Company:

Option Awards

Period Granted	Options Granted	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Vesting Period ⁽⁷⁾	Expiration Date
September 2011 ⁽¹⁾	50,000	\$13.13	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	September 2016
July 2012 ⁽²⁾	100,000	\$10.25	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	July 2017
December 2012 ⁽³⁾	250,000	\$10.20	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	December 2017
June 2013 ⁽⁴⁾	37,500	\$10.00	Vested Immediately	June 2018
July 2013 ⁽⁵⁾	5,000	\$10.00	Vested Immediately	July 2018
September 2013 ⁽⁶⁾	37,500	\$10.01	Vested Immediately	September 2018
September 2013 ⁽⁶⁾	15,000	\$10.01	Vests over two years, beginning with one-third on the grant date.	September 2018

(1) The Company granted 40,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 10,000 stock options to its technical consultant, the owner of Avalon, for services performed during fiscal year 2011.

(2) The Company granted 75,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 25,000 stock options to its technical consultant for services performed during fiscal year 2012. Of the total options granted as a part of this grant, 25,000 were later forfeited.

(3) The Company granted 175,000 stock options to its directors and executives and an additional 75,000 stock options to its technical consultant for services performed during fiscal year 2013. Of the total options granted as a part of this grant, 50,000 were later forfeited.

(4) The Company granted 37,500 stock options to its executives for services performed during fiscal year 2013.

(5) The Company granted 5,000 stock options to an employee of Avalon for services performed during fiscal year 2013.

(6) The Company granted 52,500 stock options to its executives for services performed during the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

(7) If at any time there occurs a change of control, as defined in the 2010 Plan, any options that are unvested at that time will immediately vest. The Company's Compensation Committee has determined that the Transactions do not constitute a change in control under the 2010 Plan.

During the first and second quarter of fiscal year 2017, the Company's current and former executives, directors, and consultants cashless exercised 80,000 and 18,000 stock options, respectively, resulting in the issuance of 42,817 and 9,357 shares of common stock to the exercising parties and no proceeds to the Company.

Exploration and Mining Property

Exploration and mining rights in Alaska may be acquired in the following manner: public lands, private fee lands, unpatented Federal or State of Alaska mining claims, patented mining claims, and tribal lands. The primary sources for acquisition of these lands are the United States government, through the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, the Alaskan state government, tribal governments, and individuals or entities who currently hold title to or lease government and private lands.

Tribal lands are those lands that are under control by sovereign Native American tribes, such as land constituting the Tetlin Lease or Alaska Native corporations established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANSCA). Areas that show promise for exploration and mining can be leased or joint ventured with the tribe controlling the land, including land constituting the Tetlin Lease.

The State of Alaska government owns public lands. Mineral resource exploration, development and production are administered primarily by the State Department of Natural Resources. Ownership of the subsurface mineral estate, including alluvial and lode mineral rights, can be acquired by staking a 40 acre or 160 acre mining claim, which right is granted under Alaska Statute Sec. 38.05.185 to 38.05.275, as amended (the "Alaska Mining Law"). The State government continues to own the surface estate, subject to certain rights of ingress and egress owned by the claimant, even though the subsurface can be controlled by a claimant with a right to extract through claim staking. A mining claim is subject to annual assessment work requirements, the payment of annual rental fees and royalties due to the State of Alaska after commencement of commercial production. Both private fee-land and unpatented mining claims and related rights, including rights to use the surface, are subject to permitting requirements of Federal, State, Tribal and local governments.

Gold Exploration

The Joint Venture Company controls an estimated 809,000 acres consisting of the Tetlin Lease and State of Alaska mining claims for the exploration of gold and associated minerals. To date, our gold exploration has concentrated on the Tetlin Lease, with only a limited amount of work performed on the TOK, Eagle, Bush, West Fo, Triple Z, and Noah claims.

The Joint Venture Company initiated a summer of 2015 exploration program on the Tetlin Lease. The work program anticipated spending \$5 million with a possible expansion of the work program in early fall if drilling results warranted further work. The drilling program included exploration targets that were helicopter-supported at the Tors, Saddle, North Saddle and Saddle Skarn targets and road-supported work at the Peak Zone area. Most of the initial work program (Phase I) was completed by early August with assay results received by early September. On August 31, 2015, the Joint Venture Company approved a budget of up to approximately \$4 million for additional exploration work to be completed before the drilling season ended in October 2015 and incurred aggregate cost of approximately

\$6.8 million for the calendar 2015 exploration program.

The Joint Venture Company initiated a 2016 Phase I exploration program consisting of drilling the North Peak target area which began in February 2016 on the Tetlin Lease with an approved budget of \$4.4 million. An additional budget was approved for spending up to an additional \$6.8 million during the remainder of calendar 2016. The Joint Venture Company initiated a 2016 Phase II exploration drilling program in May, which was completed in September. A Phase III exploration drilling program was initiated in October and completed in November. The project has incurred an aggregate cost in calendar 2016 of approximately \$10.6 million.

From inception to date, the Joint Venture Company has incurred \$17.4 million in exploration program expenditures. As of December 31, 2016, Royal Gold has funded a total of \$17.0 million (including the initial investment of \$5 million) and earned a 20.6% interest in the Joint Venture Company.

The exploration effort on the Tetlin Lease has resulted in identifying two mineral deposits (Peak and North Peak) and several other gold and copper prospects following drilling programs starting in 2011. Surface, bedrock, and stream sediment data on the Tetlin Lease as well as on the Eagle and Tok state of Alaska claims adjacent to the Tetlin Lease have been gathered during the summer exploration programs. There was no exploration program in 2014. None of the exploration targets are known to host quantifiable commercial mineral reserves and none are near or adjacent to other known significant gold or copper deposits. There has been no recorded past placer or lode mining on Tetlin project, and the Company and the Joint Venture Company are the only entities known to have conducted drilling operations on the Tetlin project.

Chief Danny Prospect Area

The Chief Danny Prospect Area currently is the most advanced exploration target on the Tetlin Lease and is comprised of several distinct mineralized areas: the Main Peak Zone, Discovery Zone, West Peak Zone, North Peak Zone, Connector Zone and the Saddle Zone. The Chief Danny prospect was discovered during rock, stream sediment and pan concentrate sampling in 2009 and since then has been explored using top of bedrock soil auger sampling, trenching, ground induced polarization (IP) geophysics, airborne magnetic and resistivity surveys and core drilling. Results from this work indicate the presence of a zoned metal-bearing system consisting of a gold-copper-iron enriched core covering six square miles at Chief Danny South (includes Main Peak, Discovery, West Peak, North Peak/Blue Moon) and a fault-offset arsenic-gold enriched zone to the north covering three square miles at the Saddle Zone. The Company has conducted extensive drilling on the Main Peak, North Peak, and Connector Zones. The Company has also conducted some environmental base line studies on the areas surrounding the Chief Danny prospect, as well as airborne magnetic and resistivity programs. From 2009 through 2016, the Company conducted field-related exploration work at the Chief Danny Prospect, including collecting the following samples:

Year	Program	Core Samples	Rock Samples	Soil Samples	Pan Con Samples	Stream Silt Samples	Core (feet)	IP/Geophysics (kilometers)	Trenching (feet)
2009	Chief Danny	—	958	33	94	11	—	—	2,330
2010	Chief Danny	—	613	760	668	795	—	14	—
2011	Chief Danny	1,267	20	688	—	—	8,057	3,957	—
2012	Chief Danny	5,223	82	1,029	—	—	36,006	—	—
2013	Chief Danny	8,970	14	1,406	85	278	47,081	2,414	—
2014	Chief Danny	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2015	Chief Danny	8,352	133	—	—	—	46,128	—	—
2016	Chief Danny	10,450	21	694	—	—	67,336	24	—
	Total	34,262	1,841	4,610	847	1,084	204,607	6,409	2,330

2016 Exploration Program - Phase III. During the quarter ending December 31, 2016, exploration drilling was completed by the Joint Venture Company on the Tetlin Property totaling 3,883 meters (12,739 feet) in 37 holes. The Joint Venture Company spent an estimated \$2.6 million, during the quarter, on program activities, including drilling, geochemical analyses, landholding fees and other related expenses. Drilling was all completed in the North Peak area with the objective of infilling the mineralized area to support a resource estimation.

The map below depicts the location of the core holes drilled during the 2016 Phase III program:

2016 PHASE III CORE HOLES DRILLED

Significant Drill Intercepts from the 2016 Phase III Program. Sample intervals are calculated using 0.5 grams per tonne (gpt) lower cut off for gold with no internal waste less than cutoff grade that is greater than 3 meters in thickness. Intercepts shown are drill intercept lengths. True width of mineralization is unknown. The grade cutoff for gold (Au) is 0.5 gpt; for silver (Ag) is 10 gpt; and for copper (Cu) is 0.1%. The following table summarizes the significant drilling results obtained for the complete Phase III of the 2016 Program:

<u>DrillHole</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>From (meters)</u>	<u>To (meters)</u>	<u>Interval (meters)</u>	<u>Au gpt</u>	<u>Au opt</u>	<u>Ag gpt</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
TET16274	North Peak	10.65	18.67	8.02	5.56	0.162	73.5	0.297
Including	North Peak	17.37	18.67	1.30	23.90	0.697	82.5	0.146
TET16274	North Peak	32.62	39.09	6.47	0.99	0.029	42.9	0.241
TET16274	North Peak	46.40	46.78	0.38	4.56	0.133	65.4	0.475
TET16275	North Peak	33.07	36.88	3.81	0.90	0.026	19.1	0.321
TET16275	North Peak	70.76	71.84	1.08	2.04	0.060	9.4	0.226
TET16276	North Peak	30.30	34.80	4.50	1.21	0.035	13.3	0.048
TET16276	North Peak	38.99	55.00	16.01	3.23	0.094	51.1	0.046
Including	North Peak	45.57	46.10	0.53	12.35	0.360	39.5	0.066
and	North Peak	52.58	55.00	2.42	11.75	0.343	237.0	0.020
TET16276	North Peak	71.68	78.24	6.56	1.67	0.049	47.5	0.150
TET16276	North Peak	82.90	86.36	3.46	1.53	0.045	50.1	0.166
TET16276	North Peak	90.68	94.66	3.98	0.70	0.020	8.2	0.141
TET16276	North Peak	99.30	104.88	5.58	1.19	0.035	4.1	0.119
TET16277	North Peak	7.45	9.75	2.30	1.66	0.048	37.2	0.160
TET16277	North Peak	16.90	18.14	1.24	1.84	0.054	55.0	0.163
TET16277	North Peak	41.15	42.95	1.80	1.49	0.043	45.4	0.018
TET16277	North Peak	65.02	67.13	2.11	1.02	0.030	21.1	0.124
TET16277	North Peak	83.27	95.79	12.52	2.56	0.075	128.1	0.091
Including	North Peak	93.88	95.79	1.91	9.51	0.277	479.0	0.200
TET16277	North Peak	121.47	123.70	2.23	1.91	0.056	11.8	0.129
TET16277	North Peak	129.97	134.00	4.03	1.45	0.042	17.7	0.042
TET16278	North Peak	31.81	45.86	14.05	10.58	0.309	16.5	0.137
Including	North Peak	31.81	32.99	1.18	26.00	0.758	10.7	0.292
and	North Peak	38.73	39.88	1.15	30.60	0.893	42.6	0.239
and	North Peak	42.38	43.11	0.73	31.50	0.919	29.8	0.175
and	North Peak	44.42	45.86	1.44	30.00	0.875	38.4	0.163
TET16278	North Peak	55.81	59.03	3.22	1.56	0.046	11.3	0.076
TET16278	North Peak	73.02	83.97	10.95	3.08	0.090	26.5	0.025

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

TET16278 North Peak	104.62	105.77	1.15	1.46	0.042	66.5	0.982
TET16278 North Peak	119.33	120.33	1.00	1.90	0.055	57.7	0.880
TET16278 North Peak	142.97	148.53	5.56	2.78	0.081	19.1	0.060
TET16278 North Peak	156.32	157.87	1.55	2.14	0.062	43.7	0.136
TET16279 North Peak	129.88	134.47	4.59	1.75	0.051	5.6	0.022
TET16279 North Peak	160.22	163.75	3.53	1.52	0.044	2.9	0.014
TET16279 North Peak	169.94	173.50	3.56	5.06	0.148	17.6	0.027
Including North Peak	172.88	173.50	0.62	17.60	0.513	93.8	0.138
TET16279 North Peak	176.61	178.79	2.18	5.40	0.158	28.3	0.025
TET16280 North Peak	141.16	143.23	2.07	1.07	0.031	10.8	0.017
TET16280 North Peak	165.74	167.70	1.96	1.15	0.034	94.0	0.220
TET16280 North Peak	198.15	200.08	1.93	1.96	0.057	5.9	0.032
TET16280 North Peak	205.20	205.70	0.50	5.95	0.174	3.1	0.004
TET16280 North Peak	210.98	212.89	1.91	0.91	0.027	3.6	0.010
TET16281 North Peak	14.33	22.86	8.53	22.01	0.642	63.0	0.060
Including North Peak	17.37	19.51	2.14	43.90	1.280	96.5	0.055
and North Peak	22.37	22.86	0.49	57.40	1.674	227.0	0.017
TET16285 North Peak	7.32	21.63	14.31	11.59	0.338	6.2	0.096
Including North Peak	11.58	16.15	4.57	26.63	0.777	8.2	0.116
TET16286 North Peak	37.80	56.58	18.78	5.02	0.146	6.2	0.044
Including North Peak	48.07	52.75	4.68	14.44	0.421	12.1	0.083
TET16287 North Peak	75.60	81.72	6.12	7.35	0.214	1.9	0.069
Including North Peak	81.17	81.72	0.55	20.00	0.583	4.0	0.211
TET16288 North Peak	96.32	105.77	9.45	1.11	0.032	27.3	0.029
Including North Peak	101.29	102.72	1.43	3.28	0.096	3.9	0.050
TET16289 North Peak	10.52	36.00	25.48	18.73	0.546	8.3	0.071
TET16289 North Peak	39.12	55.70	16.58	13.52	0.394	7.4	0.044
TET16291 North Peak	0.60	4.63	4.03	6.39	0.186	10.3	0.028
TET16291 North Peak	11.28	33.21	21.93	4.69	0.137	10.9	0.064
Including North Peak	22.85	25.33	2.48	18.03	0.526	31.7	0.245
and North Peak	26.52	26.92	0.40	28.40	0.828	28.9	0.178
TET16291 North Peak	42.30	44.98	2.68	2.05	0.060	3.5	0.016
Including North Peak	44.33	44.98	0.65	7.00	0.204	8.8	0.044
TET16291 North Peak	50.90	53.27	2.37	5.48	0.160	11.7	0.056
TET16292 North Peak	5.79	21.18	15.39	1.58	0.046	22.3	0.108
Including North Peak	8.53	10.97	2.44	5.55	0.162	55.3	0.215
TET16292 North Peak	24.63	28.80	4.17	0.83	0.024	22.9	0.034
TET16293 North Peak	7.11	11.89	4.78	1.26	0.037	50.5	0.133
Including North Peak	11.48	11.89	0.41	5.15	0.150	66.6	0.073
TET16294 North Peak	9.10	16.71	7.61	6.56	0.191	86.2	0.233
Including North Peak	12.03	12.60	0.57	17.05	0.497	141.0	0.051
TET16295 North Peak	5.66	20.65	14.99	11.67	0.340	11.5	0.111
Including North Peak	7.94	10.35	2.41	32.40	0.945	14.1	0.317
TET16296 North Peak	6.13	9.80	3.67	1.78	0.052	40.7	0.267
TET16296 North Peak	24.13	26.28	2.15	0.87	0.025	45.3	0.059
TET16297 North Peak	6.91	30.09	23.18	3.72	0.109	10.9	0.196
Including North Peak	16.06	17.78	1.72	9.51	0.277	10.3	0.139
and North Peak	24.85	26.91	2.06	12.80	0.373	21.9	0.419
TET16297 North Peak	39.91	41.44	1.53	11.50	0.335	505.0	0.131
TET16298 North Peak	6.75	14.30	7.55	4.37	0.127	17.0	0.106
Including North Peak	8.91	10.79	1.88	13.60	0.397	20.2	0.218

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

TET16298 North Peak	24.82	31.57	6.75	15.53	0.453	33.2	0.383
Including North Peak	31.27	31.57	0.30	108.00	3.150	33.8	0.282
TET16298 North Peak	34.90	37.94	3.04	1.40	0.041	35.8	0.295
TET16298 North Peak	44.18	59.02	14.84	3.08	0.090	25.6	0.302
Including North Peak	52.00	53.19	1.19	8.78	0.256	12.6	0.267
TET16299 North Peak	24.77	39.32	14.55	5.46	0.159	66.0	0.348
Including North Peak	31.39	33.68	2.29	17.05	0.497	93.2	0.476
and North Peak	39.05	39.32	0.27	60.00	1.750	428.0	0.964
TET16299 North Peak	47.85	50.90	3.05	9.83	0.287	156.0	0.062
TET16299 North Peak	53.95	54.71	0.76	9.49	0.277	120.0	0.093
TET16299 North Peak	59.74	65.46	5.72	2.14	0.062	59.1	0.159
Including North Peak	64.95	65.46	0.51	13.95	0.407	301.0	0.741
TET16299 North Peak	81.38	84.43	3.05	7.82	0.228	53.0	0.095
TET16300 North Peak	0.00	1.52	1.52	1.08	0.032	10.4	0.073
TET16300 North Peak	16.63	21.41	4.78	0.90	0.026	16.8	0.289
TET16300 North Peak	24.73	39.78	15.05	5.15	0.150	62.7	0.299
Including North Peak	36.27	38.79	2.52	22.10	0.645	175.0	0.060
TET16300 North Peak	44.81	47.70	2.89	2.90	0.085	64.5	0.030
TET16300 North Peak	51.00	67.00	16.00	3.43	0.100	64.8	0.141
Including North Peak	51.51	53.96	2.45	10.57	0.308	61.1	0.032
and North Peak	57.91	58.52	0.61	10.20	0.298	180.0	0.070
TET16300 North Peak	70.10	71.78	1.68	2.19	0.064	41.3	0.366
TET16301 North Peak	147.29	151.66	4.37	1.37	0.040	7.6	0.084
TET16302 North Peak	7.14	9.14	2.00	10.98	0.320	7.2	0.041
TET16302 North Peak	14.31	37.05	22.74	26.61	0.776	5.2	0.035
Including North Peak	19.31	21.95	2.64	103.50	3.019	12.5	0.069
and North Peak	27.09	29.20	2.11	58.70	1.712	9.2	0.075
TET16302 North Peak	44.36	48.44	4.08	7.78	0.227	3.4	0.065
Including North Peak	45.67	46.36	0.69	22.90	0.668	6.3	0.070
TET16302 North Peak	52.54	57.60	5.06	1.05	0.031	6.2	0.049
Including North Peak	52.54	53.64	1.10	3.40	0.099	19.7	0.143
TET16303 North Peak	59.45	60.96	1.51	1.64	0.048	28.5	0.041
TET16303 North Peak	91.95	97.70	5.75	1.03	0.030	0.2	0.009
Including North Peak	91.95	92.27	0.32	3.92	0.114	0.9	0.012
TET16304 North Peak	16.31	37.51	21.20	11.86	0.346	3.9	0.044
Including North Peak	24.26	26.12	1.86	35.40	1.033	8.1	0.123
and North Peak	28.31	30.94	2.63	27.62	0.806	5.8	0.050
TET16304 North Peak	46.97	69.52	22.55	5.49	0.160	12.5	0.051
Including North Peak	48.01	48.62	0.61	21.50	0.627	3.2	0.105
and North Peak	64.31	65.42	1.11	19.05	0.556	3.8	0.078
and North Peak	67.42	67.72	0.30	22.40	0.653	8.7	0.169
TET16304 North Peak	75.52	77.70	2.18	2.78	0.081	1.5	0.064
TET16304 North Peak	80.93	82.79	1.86	5.88	0.172	4.1	0.343
TET16304 North Peak	87.01	87.30	0.29	28.80	0.840	13.6	0.133
TET16305 North Peak	11.13	13.41	2.28	4.43	0.129	4.3	0.051
TET16305 North Peak	17.70	47.24	29.54	7.17	0.209	1.6	0.032
Including North Peak	18.14	19.66	1.52	24.93	0.727	3.0	0.085
and North Peak	21.34	22.86	1.52	36.76	1.072	5.9	0.061
and North Peak	30.18	30.48	0.30	21.80	0.636	4.0	0.075
TET16306 North Peak	58.83	60.50	1.67	1.31	0.038	39.8	0.035
TET16306 North Peak	65.65	68.19	2.54	3.13	0.091	94.8	0.143

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

Including North Peak 67.67	68.19	0.52	9.15	0.267	174.0	0.087
TET16306North Peak 93.94	94.63	0.69	6.79	0.198	18.9	0.090
TET16306North Peak 113.00	122.53	9.53	3.79	0.111	117.1	0.147
Including North Peak 121.96	122.53	0.57	17.80	0.519	92.2	0.099
TET16307North Peak 58.03	68.88	10.85	3.29	0.096	41.2	0.187
Including North Peak 60.07	61.12	1.05	9.32	0.272	79.6	0.442
and North Peak 64.58	65.32	0.74	9.00	0.263	82.3	0.091
TET16307North Peak 139.64	141.31	1.67	1.23	0.036	60.6	0.237
TET16308North Peak 41.68	51.36	9.68	1.79	0.052	20.3	0.055
TET16310North Peak 38.56	43.40	4.84	1.88	0.055	0.4	0.013
Including North Peak 38.56	39.10	0.54	13.80	0.403	3.7	0.055

2016 Exploration Program - Phase II. During the quarter ending September 30, 2016, exploration drilling was completed by the Joint Venture Company on the Tetlin Property totaling 6,498 meters (22,795 feet) in 30 holes, a continuation of the 2016 Phase II program, started in the prior quarter. The Phase II program, which was initiated in the quarter ended June 30, 2016, has completed 12,601 meters (41,342 ft) of exploration drilling in 63 holes. The Joint Venture Company spent an estimated \$3.9 million, during the quarter, on program activities, including drilling, geochemical analyses, landholding fees and other related expenses. Drilling targeted three areas, North Peak, West Peak, and Connector Zones to better define the areas with known mineralization. During the full program, high grade-gold mineralization was drilled in the area that joins North Peak to the Connector Zone mineralization identified in the 2016 Phase I program. Several holes drilled revealed significant grade-thickness intervals of gold such as drill hole 16235 which intercepted 38.88 meters grading 51.62 gpt gold starting at 14.50 meters, drill hole 16237 which intercepted 14.19 meters grading 45.33 gpt gold starting at 9.75 meters, drill hole 16271 which intercepted 17.12 meters grading 51.89 gpt gold starting at 24.08 meters, and drill hole 16256 which intercepted 13.20 meters grading 48.59 gpt gold starting at 7.92 meters.

The map below depicts the location of 63 core holes drilled during the 2016 Phase II program:

2016 PHASE II CORE HOLES DRILLED

Significant Drill Intercepts from the 2016 Phase II Program. Sample intervals are calculated using 0.5 grams per tonne (gpt) lower cut off for gold with no internal waste less than cutoff grade that is greater than 3 meters in thickness. Intercepts shown are drill intercept lengths. True width of mineralization is unknown. The grade cutoff for gold (Au) is 0.5 gpt; for silver (Ag) is 10 gpt; and for copper (Cu) is 0.1%. The following table summarizes the significant drilling results obtained for the complete Phase II of the 2016 Program:

<u>DrillHole</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>From (meters)</u>	<u>To (meters)</u>	<u>Interval (meters)</u>	<u>Au gpt</u>	<u>Au opt</u>	<u>Ag gpt</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
TET16211	Connector	16.11	26.42	10.31	3.500	0.102	34.4	0.299
Including	Connector	20.57	21.00	0.43	13.650	0.398	45.6	0.199
TET16211	Connector	29.87	42.82	12.95	3.090	0.090	58.9	0.295
Including	Connector	41.61	42.82	1.21	14.350	0.419	251.0	0.681
TET16211	Connector	50.04	54.25	4.21	2.700	0.079	18.0	0.147
TET16211	Connector	114.76	121.05	6.29	1.440	0.042	66.3	0.09
TET16212	North Peak	52.88	55.85	2.97	0.900	0.026	2.5	0.151
TET16212	North Peak	142.22	144.57	2.35	1.560	0.046	—	0.028
TET16213	North Peak	115.98	127.84	11.86	0.610	0.018	1.0	0.042
TET16214	North Peak	54.67	56.49	1.82	1.400	0.041	5.6	0.025

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

<u>DrillHole</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>From (meters)</u>	<u>To (meters)</u>	<u>Interval (meters)</u>	<u>Au gpt</u>	<u>Au opt</u>	<u>Ag gpt</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
TET16214	North Peak	140.47	143.77	3.30	1.270	0.037	20.5	0.730
Including	North Peak	140.47	141.10	0.63	4.890	0.143	83.1	2.970
TET16215	North Peak	50.58	66.20	15.62	2.400	0.070	42.0	0.520
TET16215	North Peak	86.10	89.68	3.58	0.930	0.027	7.5	0.012
TET16216	North Peak	17.28	32.99	15.71	1.840	0.054	19.4	0.107
Including	North Peak	17.28	18.17	0.89	9.720	0.284	74.5	0.317
TET16216	North Peak	55.85	69.79	13.94	0.900	0.026	48.8	0.384
TET16216	North Peak	110.33	112.00	1.67	0.940	0.027	22.3	0.044
TET16217	West Peak	50.02	52.64	2.62	0.780	0.023	—	0.007
TET16217	West Peak	88.30	89.40	1.10	1.470	0.043	2.9	0.093
TET16218	West Peak	49.53	55.42	5.89	1.980	0.058	—	0.005
TET16218	West Peak	60.76	63.82	3.06	1.760	0.051	—	0.009
TET16218	West Peak	77.11	85.80	8.69	2.250	0.066	0.7	0.008
TET16218	West Peak	191.47	206.48	15.01	7.100	0.207	8.9	0.325
Including	West Peak	194.18	194.91	0.73	73.500	2.144	37.0	1.550
TET16218	West Peak	215.60	216.96	1.36	1.280	0.037	0.6	0.018
TET16219	West Peak	37.65	47.55	9.90	1.370	0.040	0.2	0.019
TET16219	West Peak	195.24	199.32	4.08	0.640	0.019	9.0	0.025
TET16219	West Peak	207.11	210.16	3.05	0.910	0.027	0.8	0.025
TET16220	North Peak	23.27	56.23	32.96	4.870	0.142	2.4	0.045
Including	North Peak	27.70	29.41	1.71	12.300	0.359	7.3	0.124
and	North Peak	32.96	33.99	1.03	15.150	0.442	4.5	0.138
and	North Peak	33.99	34.98	0.99	14.950	0.436	5.7	0.108
and	North Peak	42.72	44.37	1.65	12.900	0.376	5.3	0.040
and	North Peak	51.89	53.24	1.35	11.900	0.347	5.9	0.110
TET16220	North Peak	64.16	66.14	1.98	6.810	0.199	6.0	0.111
TET16220	North Peak	71.72	73.75	2.03	1.340	0.039	2.3	0.064
TET16221	North Peak	21.61	39.53	17.92	8.230	0.240	3.0	0.035
Including	North Peak	30.82	32.90	2.08	18.300	0.534	3.1	0.067
and	North Peak	37.50	39.53	2.03	17.150	0.500	5.0	0.063
TET16221	North Peak	74.07	92.63	18.56	2.910	0.085	3.3	0.023
Including	North Peak	74.07	77.27	3.20	9.730	0.284	2.8	0.019
TET16221	North Peak	97.82	99.86	2.04	3.060	0.089	11.7	0.127
TET16221	North Peak	105.71	117.65	11.94	2.740	0.080	10.3	0.035
TET16221	North Peak	125.10	129.54	4.44	4.430	0.129	3.3	0.051
TET16223	North Peak	56.44	57.63	1.19	2.670	.078	20.4	0.070
TET16223	North Peak	74.36	85.80	11.44	1.070	0.031	30.6	0.184
TET16223	North Peak	93.42	95.48	2.06	3.390	0.099	42.0	0.476
TET16223	North Peak	103.10	109.08	5.98	2.920	0.085	4.3	0.093
TET16224	North Peak	109.07	115.61	6.54	2.500	0.073	8.8	0.168
TET16225	North Peak	55.60	64.90	9.30	11.770	0.343	51.1	0.041
Including	North Peak	63.09	64.90	1.81	36.200	1.056	171.0	0.093
TET16225	North Peak	87.64	105.14	17.50	2.950	0.086	33.7	0.187
Including	North Peak	102.41	105.14	2.73	8.630	0.252	19.7	0.103
TET16226	North Peak	11.58	13.46	1.88	0.960	0.028	88.4	0.016
TET16226	North Peak	18.75	26.09	7.34	16.970	0.495	6.7	0.040
Including	North Peak	18.75	20.20	1.45	71.300	2.080	18.2	0.045

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

TET16226 North Peak 35.51	36.88	1.37	1.430	0.042	8.3	0.028
TET16226 North Peak 54.08	57.81	3.73	1.430	0.042	5.8	0.035
TET16227 North Peak 21.56	32.31	10.75	18.620	0.543	10.2	0.083
Including North Peak 24.00	25.20	1.20	81.900	2.389	19.3	0.116
and North Peak 25.20	26.14	0.94	43.400	1.266	15.0	0.140
TET16227 North Peak 88.11	90.22	2.11	1.320	0.039	0.6	0.002

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

<u>DrillHole</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>From (meters)</u>	<u>To (meters)</u>	<u>Interval (meters)</u>	<u>Au gpt</u>	<u>Au opt</u>	<u>Ag gpt</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
TET16228	North Peak	25.42	40.23	14.81	4.640	0.135	21.7	0.257
Including	North Peak	33.81	35.95	2.14	17.900	0.522	41.9	0.602
TET16228	North Peak	43.89	51.47	7.58	3.540	0.103	12.3	0.255
TET16228	North Peak	56.86	59.74	2.88	3.140	0.092	1.3	0.022
TET16228	North Peak	62.94	75.23	12.29	1.090	0.032	26.6	0.234
TET16230	North Peak	42.95	50.22	7.27	4.170	0.122	24.0	0.303
TET16231	North Peak	18.61	23.52	4.91	0.990	0.029	5.3	0.062
TET16231	North Peak	53.89	57.32	3.43	0.730	0.021	7.0	0.053
TET16231	North Peak	68.17	70.83	2.66	7.730	0.225	26.1	0.118
TET16231	North Peak	75.61	81.16	5.55	3.090	0.090	21.1	0.235
TET16231	North Peak	88.19	90.34	2.15	1.110	0.032	4.3	0.031
TET16231	North Peak	101.08	102.64	1.56	3.810	0.111	5.5	0.054
TET16231	North Peak	128.15	132.89	4.74	2.000	0.058	9.3	0.139
Including	North Peak	131.41	131.97	0.56	6.930	0.202	6.7	0.125
TET16232	North Peak	43.28	50.90	7.62	1.180	0.034	55.4	0.054
TET16232	North Peak	117.35	121.62	4.27	0.710	0.021	64.0	0.355
TET16232	North Peak	138.53	152.21	13.68	5.520	0.161	12.4	0.067
Including	North Peak	139.47	139.75	0.28	32.400	0.945	52.7	0.117
and	North Peak	142.29	143.89	1.60	18.400	0.537	12.8	0.260
and	North Peak	146.94	147.36	0.42	28.100	0.820	93.8	0.095
TET16233	North Peak	23.11	24.14	1.03	7.890	0.230	13.3	0.032
TET16233	North Peak	38.23	42.98	4.75	2.060	0.060	16.4	0.070
TET16233	North Peak	56.10	70.69	14.59	5.760	0.168	35.2	0.389
TET16234	North Peak	16.00	17.75	1.75	8.280	0.242	27.2	0.016
TET16234	North Peak	23.90	35.63	11.73	8.760	0.256	14.8	0.034
TET16234	North Peak	58.67	65.60	6.93	5.530	0.161	15.8	0.015
TET16235	North Peak	14.50	53.38	38.88	51.620	1.506	216.0	0.020
Including	North Peak	17.68	20.73	3.05	320.000	9.333	589.0	0.025
and	North Peak	23.93	24.47	0.54	371.000	10.821	3,210.00	0.006
and	North Peak	24.47	25.76	1.29	109.000	3.179	265.0	0.016
and	North Peak	28.85	29.34	0.49	116.000	3.383	151.0	0.003
and	North Peak	52.98	53.38	0.40	125.000	3.646	143.0	0.014
TET16235	North Peak	59.50	65.92	6.42	8.730	0.255	43.4	0.053
TET16235	North Peak	70.05	73.00	2.95	4.970	0.145	13.1	0.019
TET16236	North Peak	4.67	7.23	2.56	0.830	0.024	2.1	0.007
TET16236	North Peak	60.45	63.09	2.64	2.930	0.085	51.4	0.012
TET16237	North Peak	9.75	23.94	14.19	45.330	1.322	9.3	0.078
Including	North Peak	11.58	13.56	1.98	97.000	2.829	19.6	0.248
and	North Peak	13.56	14.80	1.24	166.000	4.842	14.3	0.019
TET16237	North Peak	28.81	33.23	4.42	2.170	0.063	4.7	0.014
TET16237	North Peak	41.15	42.95	1.80	6.720	0.196	1.9	0.021
TET16237	North Peak	50.90	53.82	2.92	1.550	0.045	—	0.003
TET16237	North Peak	57.38	61.18	3.80	1.660	0.048	0.9	0.014
TET16238	North Peak	68.42	74.68	6.26	4.980	0.145	34.3	0.099
TET16238	North Peak	77.90	93.57	15.67	3.170	0.092	3.1	0.023
Including	North Peak	79.92	81.35	1.43	18.200	0.531	3.1	0.034
TET16239	North Peak	35.66	38.45	2.79	1.230	0.036	5.1	0.005

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

TET16239 North Peak 50.79	54.72	3.93	7.760	0.226	23.3	0.023
Including North Peak 50.79	51.27	0.48	26.800	0.782	104.0	0.129
TET16239 North Peak 109.41	116.13	6.72	1.420	0.041	9.6	0.071
TET16240 North Peak 119.33	132.85	13.52	1.590	0.046	1.7	0.020
TET16241 North Peak 56.43	56.79	0.36	11.450	0.334	172.0	0.066
TET16242 North Peak 19.38	25.45	6.07	2.720	0.079	70.5	0.236
TET16242 North Peak 31.04	34.41	3.37	5.720	0.167	64.4	0.541

Edgar Filing: Contango ORE, Inc. - Form 10-Q

<u>DrillHole</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>From (meters)</u>	<u>To (meters)</u>	<u>Interval (meters)</u>	<u>Au gpt</u>	<u>Au opt</u>	<u>Ag gpt</u>	<u>Cu %</u>
TET16242	North Peak	37.58	63.93	26.35	5.550	0.162	39.3	0.134
Including	North Peak	50.44	53.15	2.71	18.300	0.534	75.5	0.097
and	North Peak	58.18	63.09	4.91	12.050	0.351	38.8	0.149
TET16242	North Peak	151.88	152.58	0.70	3.860	0.113	56.7	0.070
TET16242	North Peak	156.00	157.25	1.25	3.170	0.092	66.5	0.376
TET16243	North Peak	10.93	12.30	1.37	14.950	0.436	28.8	0.105
TET16243	North Peak	15.85	21.55	5.70	4.300	0.125	47.6	0.247
TET16243	North Peak	25.82	34.29	8.47	3.990	0.116	49.6	0.391
TET16243	North Peak	39.68	57.19	17.51	4.970	0.145	61.2	0.116
TET16243	North Peak	99.42	104.70	5.28	2.600	0.076	18.7	0.210
TET16244	North Peak	35.08	51.00	15.92	11.740	0.342	51.1	0.183
TET16244	North Peak	62.14	67.55	5.41	2.050	0.060	34.6	0.152
TET16244	North Peak	76.60	87.06	10.46	2.580	0.075	4.9	0.035
TET16245	North Peak	43.11	46.02	2.91	0.630	0.018	2.5	0.022
TET16245	North Peak	50.36	52.65	2.29	1.210	0.035	12.0	0.047
TET16245	North Peak	63.55	71.74	8.19	2.160	0.063	30.0	0.161
TET16245	North Peak	83.27	86.11	2.84	2.600	0.076	26.5	0.030
TET16246	North Peak	90.80	92.49	1.69	2.180	0.064	26.1	0.113
TET16246	North Peak	126.39	128.51	2.12	0.900	0.026	2.2	0.010
TET16247	North Peak	14.31	16.56	2.25	1.560	0.046	88.5	0.064
TET16247	North Peak	61.30	66.74	5.44	3.970	0.116	12.6	0.104
TET16247	North Peak	71.78	74.18	2.40	0.670	0.020	18.1	0.094
TET16247	North Peak	77.39	83.97	6.58	1.220	0.036	23.2	0.127
TET16247	North Peak	107.49	108.58	1.09	3.180	0.093	38.1	0.080
TET16247	North Peak	137.78	145.02	7.24	1.970	0.057		