## **The Formation of Iron Ore at the Keystone Skarn, Puerto Rico**

by

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#### **Abstract**

<span id="page-1-0"></span>Iron (Fe) is essential to modern life, primarily for its use in steel. Understanding the processes that transport and deposit Fe within the crust is crucial to finding and evaluating Fe deposits for economic potential. The complex tectonic and magmatic history of Puerto Rico as an extinct and unaccreted island arc was conducive to the formation of many ore deposits, but they are understudied. In this investigation, field observations, petrography, and geochemical analysis of Fe ore from the Keystone skarn provide records of fluid movement and metal transport in an unaccreted Fe skarn. Keystone is hosted in volcaniclastic rocks and dominantly made up of magnetite in the form of two subparallel ridges. The ore bodies potentially extend to another hilltop ~0.52km away. A zone of alteration runs perpendicular to the ridges. The trace element (Ti, Al, V, Ca, Mn) concentrations in the magnetite are consistent with global skarns and indicate a hydrothermal origin rather than crystallization from magma. The  $\delta^{56}$ Fe (-0.12‰ to 0.21‰) and  $\delta^{18}O$  (0.10‰ to 2.00‰) values of Keystone magnetite are consistent with global accreted and unaccreted Fe skarns. The Fe and O isotopic signatures indicate multiple fluid sources but point to initial magmatic-hydrothermal fluids and small proportions of meteoric influx in later stages. Oscillatory zonation within the magnetite indicates changing formation conditions related to additional fluid input, evolving source pluton, or reactions between the fluid and host rock. Truncations of the oscillatory zoning indicate episodic dissolution and reprecipitation processes. Mineralogical and textural evidence imply that both redox dependent and independent reactions altered the magnetite to martite. Overall, a genetic model of the Keystone skarn is proposed as three main stages: 1) intrusion of an Fe-rich pluton, 2) magmatichydrothermal fluid release and metal deposition, 3) introduction of late Si-Al-Ca-rich fluids and meteoric water. This new characterization of Keystone and detailed analysis of its ore will

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inform the people of Puerto Rico in mineral resource assessment and exploration. This contribution is also applicable to global exploration for Fe skarns during a key time for securing Fe as a commodity.

#### **Acknowledgments**

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#### **1. Introduction**

<span id="page-9-0"></span>The volcanic island arc terrane of Puerto Rico, located at the easternmost end of the Greater Antilles, hosts a variety of ore deposits as a result of its geologic history. Fortuitously, during the Late Cretaceous and Early Paleogene, Puerto Rico was intruded by numerous plutons, which facilitated the concentration of many metals including iron (Fe) (Bawiec, 1998). Iron ore deposits have been reported in Puerto Rico since at least the early 1900s (e.g., Berkey, 1915; Fettke, 1924) and at least three Fe deposits have been identified: Keystone, Island Queen, and Tibes, with Keystone being the largest one known on the island (Bawiec, 1998 and references therein).

Iron ore is predominantly used in steel and is a resource heavily utilized in modern life. On average, an American who was born in 2022 will require 18,317 pounds of Fe ore during their lifetime (Minerals Education Coalition, 2022). Iron ore is mined in about 50 countries and its worldwide consumption rate is expected to increase, due in part to the anticipated shift toward renewable energy resources (U.S. Geological Survey, 2022a; Wang et al., 2023). Therefore, mapping and characterizing Fe deposits are critical to securing ample Fe ore to sustain societal growth and development.

Despite being rich in mineral deposits and accessible historical documentation of them, Puerto Rico's resources are vastly understudied due to a series of laws that permits only minimal mining to occur (Gelabert, 2011). Before the current mining ban, Keystone and Island Queen were mined briefly from 1951-1953 by the West Indies Mining Company, producing 220,475 tons of ore with a monetary value of \$1,270,000 (Vázquez, 1960). Tibes, located in southcentral Puerto Rico, was never mined substantially due to its small size. The classification of Fe deposit assigned to these sites, Fe skarn, is generally formed in island arcs and most of the examples

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studied to date have undergone some metamorphism or alteration associated with continental accretion. Since Puerto Rico is an unaccreted island arc, its Fe deposits present a rare opportunity to apply geochemical methods to minimally altered Fe skarns to understand their formation, the transport of Fe in the crust, and to help secure Fe ore needed in everyday life.

#### **2. Objectives**

<span id="page-10-0"></span>The focus of this study was to produce a detailed characterization of the Keystone Fe ore and determine the genesis of the deposit by establishing relationships between magmatic activity, fluid flow events, and metal transport. This project continued recent investigations into the Fe ore deposits of Puerto Rico, and comparisons of the three Fe skarns can help determine the role of island-scale features and processes in the formation of the deposits. Overall, this research addresses two main scientific questions: (1) What is the composition and source of the Fe ore at Keystone? (2) How did the Keystone deposit form?

#### **3. Background**

#### <span id="page-10-2"></span><span id="page-10-1"></span>*3.1 The Geologic Setting of Puerto Rico*

Located along the easternmost side of the Greater Antilles, Puerto Rico is part of the Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands microplate within the Caribbean plate (Figure 1) (Jolly et al., 1998; Schellekens, 1998). The Caribbean plate has a complex tectonic history that is yet to be fully understood and is readily debated (e.g., Lidiak and Larue, 1998; Schellekens, 1998). Simply, the Farallon plate (proto-Caribbean) started to subduct under the North and South American plates during the breakup of Pangea. By about 80 Ma, an abnormally thick oceanic plateau formed on the Farallon plate due to subduction volcanism (Schellekens, 1998; Boschman et al., 2014). The oceanic plateau was too buoyant to subduct under the North and South American plates, and this caused a subduction reversal. The renewed subduction to the east formed the island arc chain known today as the Antilles. Over time, left lateral transcurrent faulting moved the island arc away from the subduction zone, so that the once westward-facing arc now faced eastward (Lidiak and Larue, 1998; Schellekens, 1998). The exact timing of the subduction reversal, initiation of renewed subduction, and the amount of lateral movement and rotation have been topics of hot debate (Schellekens, 1998 and references therein).



**Figure 1:** Map of the tectonic region surrounding Puerto Rico, which is filled in with orange and is located at the eastern most part of the Greater Antilles, which is outlined in orange (modified from Lidiak and Larue, 1998). The Greater Antilles includes Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands.

The island of Puerto Rico is an extinct island arc divided into three sections or provinces based on fault zones and basement lithology (Figure 2; Bawiec, 1998; Jolly et al., 1998; Schellekens, 1998 and references therein). The provinces are named the Southwestern Igneous Province (SIP), Central Igneous Province (CIP), and Northeastern Igneous Province (NIP). The SIP and CIP are divided by the Southern Puerto Rico Fault Zone (SPRFZ) and the CIP and NIP

are divided by left-lateral faulting along the San Francisco-Cerro Mula Fault Zone, which is part of the Northern Puerto Rico Fault Zone (NPRFZ; Figure 2; Jolly et al., 1998; Schellekens, 1998). By about 85 Ma, the CIP and NIP collided, creating the NPRFZ. Next, starting around 69 Ma, felsic magmatic bodies such as the San Lorenzo Batholith intruded into basement sedimentary and volcanic rocks within the CIP (Figure 2; Jolly et al., 1998; Schellekens, 1998). The intrusions are concurrent with the renewed subduction from the east (Schellekens, 1998).



**Figure 2:** Generalized geologic map of Puerto Rico illustrating the location of three known Fe skarn deposits: Keystone, Island Queen, and Tibes (modified from map provided by Dr. Thomas Hudgins). SIP = Southwestern Igneous Province, SPRFZ = Southern Puerto Rico Fault Zone, CIP = Central Igneous Province, NPRFZ = Northern Puerto Rico Fault Zone and NIP = Northeastern Igneous Province. Inset highlights the generalized modern tectonic setting of Puerto Rico, highlighted in orange within the Greater Antilles. VI = Virgin Islands.

### <span id="page-12-0"></span>*3.2 Skarn Deposits*

The numerous faults and magmatic intrusions associated with the formation of Puerto Rico are why it is home to numerous ore deposits, such as the Keystone, Island Queen, and Tibes Fe skarns. Skarn deposits are mined worldwide for metals such as Fe, Mo, W, Au, Cu, Pb, Zn,

and Sn (e.g., Einaudi et al., 1981; Meinert et al., 1992; Meinert et al., 2005; Robb, 2005). Typically, skarns form near a magmatic intrusion in surrounding carbonates or calcareous volcanic rocks as a product of metamorphism and metasomatism (Figure 3; Einaudi et al., 1981; Meinert et al., 2005; Robb, 2005). A skarn is defined by its mineralogy; therefore, it can form in numerous tectonic settings and host rocks but predictably has calc-silicate minerals including garnet, pyroxene, epidote, and wollastonite (Meinert et al., 2005 and references therein).



**Figure 3:** Simplified genetic model of skarn deposits during three stages of formation. (A) prograde stages 1 and 2, (B) retrograde stage 3 (Robb, 2005).

There are three main stages of skarn formation (Figure 3). First, a magmatic intrusion introduces heat, producing increasingly hot (prograde) conditions and causing isochemical contact metamorphism of the wall rock (Figure 3A). Then, metasomatism of the host rock occurs by the episodic introduction of fluids from the pluton, creating a sequence of reaction fronts and

forming new anhydrous minerals (Figure 4). Initial metal deposition can occur during stage 2 (Figure 3A). Finally, in stage 3, the cooling of the intrusion allows for the introduction of meteoric water (Figure 3B). The retrograde reactions between these fluids and the already metasomatized host rocks cause the formation of hydrous minerals and precipitation of metals (Einaudi et al., 1981; Meinert et al., 2005; Robb, 2005). The oxidation state of the pluton and host rock are important controls on the resulting mineralogy and primary commodity of the skarn deposit (Figure 5; Einaudi et al. 1981; Meinert et al. 2005).



**Figure 4:** Sketch of the sequence of reaction fronts expected to form during stages 1 and 2 of skarn formation. The time series represents three independent slices of time (Time 1, Time 2, Time 3). The different reaction fronts (squiggled vertical lines) progress away from the pluton with multiple episodes of magmatic fluid released into the metamorphosed host rock (marble formed during stage 1) (Meinert et al., 2005).

Mined for their Fe oxide content as magnetite or hematite, Fe skarns are subdivided into two categories, calcic Fe and magnesian Fe skarns. Calcic Fe skarns are associated with intrusions of Fe-rich plutons into volcanic or limestone host rock in oceanic island arcs. Mineralogically, they are rich in garnet and pyroxene and have minor ilvaite, actinolite, and epidote (Meinert et al., 2005). On the other hand, magnesian Fe skarns are hosted in Mg-rich wall rock and form in a variety of tectonic settings. Mineralogically, they are rich in forsterite,

diopside, talc, periclase, and serpentine (Meinert et al., 2005). The Fe skarns of Puerto Rico are expected to be the calcic type.



**Figure 5:** The mineralogy and primary commodity of a skarn deposit are related to the depth of formation and how reducing or oxidizing the host rocks and source pluton were (Meinert et al., 2005).

#### <span id="page-15-0"></span>*3.3 The Keystone Fe Skarn Deposit*

Located along the southeastern side of the CIP near the NPRFZ, the Keystone Fe skarn was reported as early as 1915 (Berkey, 1915; Fettke, 1924) to contain high-grade magnetite ore (Figure 2; Vázquez, 1960 and references therein). The Fe deposits on the eastern side of Puerto Rico near Humacao (Keystone, Island Queen) were described historically as predominantly composed of magnetite and hematite (Colony and Meyerhoff, 1935 and references therein). Fettke (1924) even described a cluster of five magnetite deposits with four of them grouped into a "Main Belt" about 2.4km from Juncos and a fifth deposit located about 1.6km northeast of the Main Belt. This fifth deposit (and possibly the fourth) is likely Island Queen, and the largest

deposit ("No. 1") was dubbed the Juncos Deposit, which is likely Keystone. The Juncos Deposit was estimated to be ~0.6km long, with outcrops of ore magnetite, martite, and hematite that vary in width (Fettke, 1924). Throughout the historic literature, Keystone was mentioned under several additional names including La Mina, La Esperanza, and Juncos Mine (Bawiec, 1998; Vázquez, 1960 and references therein).

Keystone outcrops near the northern edge of the San Lorenzo Batholith, which intruded into a thin tuffaceous limestone (Figure 2). The documented ore bodies form two main lenses around 6-15m wide (Vázquez, 1960; Bawiec, 1998). The lower lens is garnetiferous, therefore the upper lens was most likely the main source of ore mined by the West Indies Mining Company (Vázquez, 1960). Mineralogically, the ore has been reported to consist primarily of magnetite intergrown with martite, specular hematite, andradite garnet, and epidote with lesser amounts of quartz, malachite, azurite, calcite chrysocolla, chalcopyrite, and other minerals (Vázquez, 1960; Bawiec, 1998). The garnet at Keystone was described to be birefringent as early as Fettke (1924). The exact age of the deposit is unknown but is believed to be a part of the "older complex", which formed during the Cretaceous and early Tertiary (Vázquez, 1960 and references therein).

#### **4. New Field Observations of the Keystone Skarn**

<span id="page-16-0"></span>Researchers from Auburn University (AU) and the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez (UPRM) visited the Keystone skarn in July 2022. Keystone is located about 2.6km east of the town of Juncos in eastern Puerto Rico and is reachable near a hilltop cell tower ("Cell Tower Hill", Figure 6) and nearby public land ("East Hill", Figure 6). The magnetite ore bodies form two subparallel ridges atop a broader topographical ridge with a strike of S57°E. This measurement is consistent with the previously published estimate of S53°E (Fettke, 1924). The

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northern ridge is ~4.6m wide (Figure 7A) and the southern ridge ranges from 7.6-15m wide (Figure 7B). Due to past mining activity and modern vegetation in the area, it is difficult to discern which ridge was considered by Vázquez (1960) to be the upper lens or the lower lens. However, based on field observations, the southern ridge appears to have been mined more extensively or instead of the northern ridge. The ore on both ridges is highly weathered and the grade of the northern ridge varies across the lateral extent. The eastern side of the northern ridge is laminated with pockets of quartz (Figure 8), hematite, and copper oxides. The western extent of the northern ridge is dominated by thin veins of hematite and garnet cross-cutting weathered iron oxide at about 40° and 140°. The southern ridge has a higher grade and is dominated by massive magnetite. Due to heavy vegetation in the area, only ~0.11km in length of the north and south ridges were exposed enough to be mapped and examined (Figure 6).

Ore was also discovered ~0.52km following strike from the eastern extent of the northern ridge; thus, it is possible that the ore bodies extend to around ~0.63km in length (Figure 6). In between the two ridges are zones of alteration differentiated by their variable clay mineralogy (Figure 9). Pink alteration is ~7.6m wide, yellow/green alteration is ~3m wide and red oxidation/volcaniclastics are ~3m wide. The host rock is a mafic, volcaniclastic that is weakly magnetitic. Unmapped igneous intrusions were discovered within the host rock on the East Hill (Figures 6, 10).

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**Figure 6:** Locations and spatial distribution of all 25 collected samples and their associated mineralogy (ore, alteration, host rock, and igneous) (U.S. Geological Survey 2013, Juncos Quadrangle).



**Figure 7:** Field photos of the ore ridges on Cell Tower Hill. (A) The western extent of the northern ridge on the Cell Tower Hill. (B) The eastern extent of the southern ridge by the cell tower.



**Figure 8:** Field photo of a quartz pocket in sample KS-17 taken from a section of the northern ridge that borders the alteration zone seen in Figure 9A.



**Figure 9:** (A) Field photo of variable clay mineralogy between north and south ridge. Sample KS-17 (Figure 8) was extracted from the ore outcrop in the right-most side of this photo. (B) Field photo of pink alteration and where sample KS-22 was extracted.



**Figure 10**: Field photo of previously unmapped and undated local igneous intrusion (Figure 6) by the East Hill, hosted in weakly magnetic volcaniclastics with cross-cutting felsic dikes.

#### **5. Methods**

#### <span id="page-20-1"></span><span id="page-20-0"></span>*5.1 Sample Collection*

Twenty-five samples were collected of the ore, weathered product, alteration, host rock, and local igneous intrusions (Table 1). There were 15 additional samples available from collaborators at UPRM and earlier work by Barefoot, 2021. Four samples from the earlier field work were available as thin sections although the GPS coordinates are not available for three of them (Table 1, "spatially unconstrained samples"). A portable core drill was used to collect three of the 40 total samples, allowing for minimally weathered samples to be obtained (Figure 11). Samples were targeted with the goal of building a spatially constrained sample set representative of the range of ore compositions and weathering extent across the entirety of the Keystone skarn.

**Table 1**: Characteristics and locations of all samples collected or analyzed in this study. The first 25 samples were collected in 2022 ("spatially constrained samples"). Samples collected from Keystone in 2020 are missing coordinates and are listed at the end ("spatially unconstrained samples"). \*KS-08 was extracted by hammer in 2022 from the same location as the core sample extracted in 2020 (20KS-08 at the bottom).

<b>Sample</b>	<b>Sample Description</b>	Area	<b>Coordinates</b>		
Spatially constrained samples:					
KS-08*	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23110°N	65.89754°W	
$KS-15$	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23084°N	65.89687°W	
<b>KS-16</b>	Alteration	Cell Tower Hill	18.23095°N	65.89714°W	
<b>KS-17</b>	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23107°N	65.89725°W	
<b>KS-18</b>	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23095°N	65.89788°W	
<b>KS-19</b>	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23089°N	65.89761°W	
<b>KS-20</b>	Weathered Ore (Drill Core)	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23088°N	65.89765°W	
$KS-21$	Alteration	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23117°N	65.89759°W	
<b>KS-22</b>	Alteration	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23105°N	65.89750°W	
<b>KS-23</b>	Alteration	Cell Tower Hill	18.23114°N	65.89757°W	
<b>KS-24</b>	Alteration	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23090°N	65.89735°W	
<b>KS-25</b>	Weathered Product of Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23090°N	65.89735°W	
<b>KS-26</b>	Ore (Drill Core)	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23110°N	65.89754°W	
<b>KS-27</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23196°N	65.89841°W	
<b>KS-28</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23167°N	65.89861°W	
<b>KS-29</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23017°N	65.89385°W	
<b>KS-30</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23268°N	65.89709°W	
<b>KS-31</b>	Igneous Intrusion	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23288°N	65.89390°W	
<b>KS-32</b>	<b>Altered Host Rock</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23288°N	65.89390°W	
<b>KS-33</b>	Igneous Intrusion (veins)	East Hill	18.22544°N	65.88889°W	
<b>KS-34</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	East Hill	18.22544°N	65.88889°W	
<b>KS-35</b>	<b>Host Rock</b>	East Hill	18.22544°N	65.88889°W	
<b>KS-36</b>	Igneous Intrusion	East Hill	18.22544°N	65.88889°W	
<b>KS-37</b>	Weathered Product of	East Hill	18.22544°N	65.88889°W	
	Igneous Intrusion				
<b>KS-38</b>	Ore	East Hill	18.22875°N	65.89248°W	
Spatially unconstrained samples and earlier drill core:					
20KS-02	Ore	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>			
20KS-03	<b>Ore</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>			
20KS-05	<b>Ore</b>	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>			
20KS-08	Ore (Drill Core)	<b>Cell Tower Hill</b>	18.23110°N	65.89754°W	



**Figure 11**: (A) Field photo of the portable core drill in use. (B) Rock core acquired of sample KS-26 and corresponding hole in the outcrop.

## *5.2 Petrography*

Hand samples of ore, alteration, and host rock were examined, and thin sections were made of the ore from the Keystone skarn. Thin sections were analyzed and photographed using a Nikon Eclipse Ci POL petrographic microscope paired with a DS-Ri2 camera and NIS-Elements BR imaging software in the Department of Geosciences at AU. Transmitted light (planepolarized light, PPL; cross-polarized light, XPL) and reflected light (RL) microscopy techniques were used; transmitted light allows for the identification of transparent minerals while reflected light permits the identification of opaque minerals such as oxides (magnetite, hematite) and sulfides. Relative abundance and textures of individual minerals, relationships between grains,

crystal size, and the presence of fluid inclusions were described. False color was applied to some RL images using the ImageJ software, to discern subtle changes withing magnetite. Powdered X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) was also performed as a secondary check on mineral identification (Appendix A, Supplemental Figure A1).

### <span id="page-23-0"></span>*5.3 Major and Trace Element Geochemistry*

#### <span id="page-23-1"></span>*5.3.1 Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry*

Twelve ore dominated thin sections, four from 2020 field work by colleagues at UPRM, and eight spatially constrained samples from 2022 field work, were analyzed for their trace element compositions at AU using Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). The laser ablation system is a 193 nm Excimer laser (NWR193 by Elemental Scientific Lasers) attached to an Agilent 7900 ICP-MS. The LA-ICP-MS was the primary instrument used to quantify the abundance of trace elements due to its low detection limit and ability to simultaneously measure the entire suite of elements. Iron content measured by Electron Microprobe Analyzer (EMPA) at AU was used as an internal standard to process the LA-ICP-MS data. The analytical methods used for LA-ICP-MS and EMPA followed the procedures of Dare et al. (2014) and Barefoot (2021). Elements of interest were chosen based on expected substitutions in Fe oxide ore minerals (i.e., magnetite) and their ability to identify deposit type, metal source, compositional changes during mineral precipitation, and mineral heterogeneity such as fluid or other inclusions (Dupuis and Beaudoin, 2011; Dare et al., 2014; Nadoll et al., 2014; Nadoll et al., 2015). The concentrations of <sup>23</sup>Na, <sup>24</sup>Mg, <sup>25</sup>Mg, <sup>27</sup>Al, <sup>29</sup>Si, <sup>43</sup>Ca, <sup>44</sup>Ca, <sup>47</sup>Ti, <sup>49</sup>Ti, <sup>51</sup>V, <sup>52</sup>Cr, <sup>53</sup>Cr, <sup>55</sup>Mn, <sup>56</sup>Fe, <sup>57</sup>Fe, <sup>59</sup>Co, <sup>60</sup>Ni, <sup>63</sup>Cu, <sup>66</sup>Zn, <sup>71</sup>Ga, and <sup>118</sup>Sn were measured during LA-ICP-MS analyses.

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In preparation for the analyses, whole thin sections were photographed using a cameraequipped Leica S9i stereoscope and stitched together using Adobe Photoshop. Areas of interest for spot and line analyses of trace elements were identified on these thin section maps using a petrographic microscope. Spot and line dimensions were chosen based on the width of the grain (<10 microns), amount of inclusions, and extent of alteration. Spots/lines were placed predominantly on minimally contaminated ore when possible. Lines were primarily placed across grains to evaluate whether the trace element composition of the mineral changed. The placement of the spots/lines were photographed at a scale of 10-100 microns utilizing the laser system's ActiveView 2 software and roughly labeled on the thin section maps to aid in later EMPA set up. The amount of alteration of the magnetite within each analysis area was noted (e.g., magnetite altered to hematite).

Synthetic glass standards NIST 610 and 612 from the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST; National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2012a, 2012b) and the Columbia Basalt glass standard BCR-2GA from the United States Geological Survey (USGS; U.S. Geological Survey, 2022b) were used as reference materials and analyzed at the beginning, middle, and end of each session. Preliminary analyses of one sample and NIST 612 were performed to refine the LA-ICP-MS conditions (Table 2). All spots and lines were pre-ablated before the batch was run to remove any impurities on the surface of the thin sections. The iolite v.4 software (Elemental Scientific Lasers) was used to process LA-ICP-MS data from counts detected per second into concentrations (Woodhead et al., 2007; Paton et al., 2011). The limits of detection were determined following Howell et al. (2013); NIST 610 was set as the primary standard and NIST 612 was used as the secondary standard (Nadoll et al., 2014). Calcium mass 44 and <sup>57</sup>Fe were used as internal standards for reference materials and ore samples, respectively

(Dare et al., 2014). The  ${}^{57}Fe$  concentrations used for internal standard values in final data processing were obtained by EMPA. Dwell time was 20-30 seconds to minimize contamination from thin section glass and/or other minerals. Samples collected in 2020 (20KS-02, 20KS-03, 20KS-05, 20KS-08) and 2022 had a dwell time of 30 seconds and 20 seconds, respectively. Concentrations of trace elements in magnetite were measured 3-11 times within each thin section and values were averaged. Spots in grains that were heavily altered or had high standard deviations were not included within the averages in order to compare Keystone magnetite to published data for magnetite.

	<b>Type of</b> analysis	<b>Spot Size</b> (microns)	<b>Frequency</b> (Hz)	<b>Dwell Time</b> (sec)	<b>Energy</b> (J/cm <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Standard</b>	Spot	30	16	$20 - 30$	2.69
	Line	30	16		2.69
<b>Sample</b>	Spot	30	16	$20 - 30$	2.69
	Line	30	16		2.69
<b>Pre-ablation</b>	Spot	50	2		0.09
	Line	50	ി		0.09

**Table 2**: LA-ICP-MS conditions used for analysis.

#### <span id="page-25-0"></span>*5.3.2 Electron Microprobe Analysis*

The AU EMPA is a JEOL JXA-8600 with secondary electron (SE) and backscattered electron (BSE) detectors and four wavelength dispersive spectrometers (WDS). All analyzed thin sections were carbon coated in house prior to analysis. WDS spot and line analyses and elemental maps were used to quantify changes in elemental concentrations across ore mineral grains, with a focus on Fe. The locations of EMPA analyses were chosen based on their proximity to magnetite grains that were ablated during LA-ICP-MS. Ablation locations were previously located using a petrographic microscope, photographed, and mapped on printed thin section images for EMPA analyses. Two to three WDS spots were taken near ablation spots/lines

and averaged to determine sample Fe concentration for final LA-ICP-MS data processing. Elemental maps were acquired to identify Fe, Si, Al, Ti or Ca variations within samples. BSE imaging was utilized to identify phases, textures, and zonation. Zonation was quantified via WDS spots and lines. For all EMPA analyses, the magnetite standard NMNH 114887 from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History was analyzed at the beginning and end of each session (Appendix B, Table B1; Jarosewich et al., 1980a, 1980b). These magnetite analyses were based on standards in Table 3 and ZAF matrix corrections. Spot analyses and line transverses were performed via WDS under beam conditions of 15kV and 20nA. BSE images and WDS maps were acquired under beam conditions of 15kV and 50.5nA with 600-400 pixels per line with a 20 second dwell time. False color was applied to elemental maps using the ImageJ software, to discern subtle changes in concentrations.

<b>Element</b>	Formula	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Crystal</b>	<b>WDS Spectrometer</b>
Mg	MgO	Olivine	<b>TAP</b>	
Al	$Al_2O_3$	Anorthite	<b>TAP</b>	2
Si	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Wollastonite	<b>TAP</b>	2
Ca	CaO	Wollastonite	<b>PET</b>	3
Ti	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ilmenite	<b>PET</b>	3
Cr	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Chromite	<b>LIF</b>	4
Fe	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Magnetite	<b>LIF</b>	4
Mn	MnO	Garnet	LIF	4
Na	Na <sub>2</sub> O	Albite	<b>TAP</b>	
	VO <sub>2</sub>	Vanadium Wire	<b>PET</b>	3

**Table 3:** EMPA setup for each element of interest including the mineral formula assumed during data processing, standard, crystal, and WDS spectrometer number.

### <span id="page-27-0"></span>*5.4 Isotope Geochemistry*

## <span id="page-27-1"></span>*5.4.1 Stable Fe Isotope Analysis*

The stable Fe isotope composition of eight Keystone magnetite samples were measured on a Nu Plasma 1700 Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Mass Spectrometer (MC-ICP-MS) in the Pacific Centre for Isotopic and Geochemical Research (PCIGR) at the University of British Columbia (UBC). All analyses were performed in dry plasma mode using a DSN-100. In preparation for the analyses at the UBC, magnetite-rich ore samples were picked and crushed into a fine powder. Using a Lecia S9i Stereoscope and up to 55x magnification, impurities (e.g., quartz grains) and larger pieces were removed from the powder and the extent of oxidation was estimated and recorded (Table 4). Around 2mg of powdered magnetite ore and 8ml of *aqua regia* (1HNO3:3HCl) were combined in capped 15ml Savillex vials and heated at 120°C until samples completely dissolved. Samples were uncapped, dried down, and resealed with Parafilm around the cap for safe transportation to UBC.

Sample Name	Estimated extent of oxidation		
$KS-08$	Mild to moderate		
$KS-15$	Moderate		
$KS-17$	Not to mild		
$KS-18$	Mild		
<b>KS-19</b>	Not to mild		
$KS-25$	Heavily		
$KS-26$	<b>Not</b>		
$KS-38$	Mild		

**Table 4:** Estimated extent of oxidation of each magnetite powder sample.

In the clean laboratories at PCIGR, which include class 100 fume hoods within a class 1000 clean room, samples were prepared to be analyzed by the MC-ICP-MS. First, samples were redissolved into approximately 10ml of 7N HCl overnight at 120°C in capped Savillex vials. They were then uncapped and dried down before being redissolved into 1ml 7N HCl for column chromatography. Following the procedure of Bilenker at al. (2018), clean BioRad AG MP-1M resin (100-200 mesh) was loaded into clean 5ml BioRad columns. The resin was conditioned with 10ml HCl before the dissolved samples were loaded. Then, 25ml of HCl was passed through the columns to remove matrix elements. Clean Savillex vials were placed under each column and Fe was eluted from the resin with a solution of  $1N$  HF + 0.5N HCl. The samples were dried down at 120°C and redissolved and dried down in 500 $\mu$ l of 2% HNO<sub>3</sub> two times, then dissolved in 10ml of 2% HNO<sup>3</sup> for MC-ICP-MS analysis.

Next, the stable Fe isotope compositions were measured by using the Nu Plasma 1700 MC-ICP-MS. The Nu 1700 measures Fe isotope abundances at such high resolution that <sup>54</sup>Fe, <sup>56</sup>Fe, and <sup>57</sup>Fe are fully separated from their isobaric interferences ( $^{40}Ar^{14}N$ ,  $^{40}Ar^{16}O$ ,  $^{40}Ar^{16}O^{1}H$ ). Chromium with a mass of 54 was subtracted from the <sup>54</sup>Fe signal by monitoring <sup>52</sup>Cr, through a correction performed by the MC-ICP-MS software. Standard-sample bracketing was used such that IRMM-14, a synthetic Fe standard produced by the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements, was analyzed before and after every sample and reference material. The USGS reference material BCR-2 (Columbia River Basalt) was processed and analyzed alongside the samples to check for accuracy throughout the run sessions. Iron concentrations were matched between the reference material, samples, and standard within 10% by diluting with 2% HNO3; the goal <sup>56</sup>Fe signal was approximately 10V. Each sample was analyzed at least three times and the results are reported relative to IRMM-14 following Equation 1:

$$
\delta^{56}\text{Fe} \,(\text{\%o}) = \left[ (5^6\text{Fe})^{54}\text{Fe} \right]_{\text{sample}} / (5^6\text{Fe})^{54}\text{Fe} \right] \text{IRMM-14} - 1\,\text{J}^*1000 \tag{Eq. 1}
$$

Mass dependent fractionation was monitored throughout the session (Appendix A, Supplemental Figure A2).

#### <span id="page-29-0"></span>*5.4.2 Stable O Isotope Analysis*

From the same magnetite-rich ore powder that was used for Fe isotope analyses, around 2.5mg of sample and duplicates were sent to the lab of Dr. Ilya Bindeman at the University of Oregon, home to a MAT 253 gas Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer (IRMS). The IRMS is connected to a custom laser fluorination line that is ideal for vaporizing oxide minerals and isolating the  $O_2$  gas produced for isotopic measurement (Bilenker et al., 2016). The samples were pretreated overnight to eliminate alteration products such as goethite and clays. The Gore Mountain garnet was analyzed alongside the magnetite samples to monitor for accuracy throughout the analytical session. Oxygen isotope ratios are reported relative to Standard Mean Ocean Water (SMOW) following Equation 2:

$$
\delta^{18}O\left(\% \text{O}\right) = \left[(^{18}O/^{16}O)\text{sample}/(^{18}O/^{16}O)\text{SMOW}\right] \cdot 1\right] \cdot 1000\tag{Eq. 2}
$$

#### **6. Results**

#### <span id="page-29-2"></span><span id="page-29-1"></span>*6.1 Petrography of the Keystone Fe Ore*

The Keystone Fe ore makes up 65-25% of each sample and is dominantly magnetite with a range of euhedral to anhedral grains that are massive to tabular containing variable amounts of martite (hematite pseudomorph after magnetite; Figure 12), vesicles (<200 $\mu$ m), fractures, and zonation (Table 5, Figures 12, 13). Smaller sections of hematite, and minute amounts of goethite  $\left( \langle 2\% \rangle$ ; Figure 13A, C) and maghemite  $\left( \langle 1\% \rangle$ ; Figure 13D) were identified within or near magnetite. Martite forms along the edges and center of magnetite grains and tends to be associated with areas of high porosity and fractures. Areas of complete martitization, often in the

center of magnetite grains, display a sponge-like texture (Figures 12B, E, 13C). Martite tends to form a cross-hatched pattern (Figure 13C, D) that can follow zonation within the magnetite grain. Along with martite, maghemite also displays the same hatched pattern and only appears beside martite (Figure 13D). Goethite occurs in fractures and vesicles within magnetite and forms in areas with high proportions of martite (Figure 13A, C). Specular hematite is hosted within quartz encompassed by magnetite (Figure 13B).

				<b>Relative</b>	
	Texture &	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Estimated %</b>	<b>Proportion of</b>	<b>Zonation</b>
<b>Sample</b>	Habit(s)	% Martite	<b>Vugs/Vesicles</b>	<b>Fractures</b>	Observed?
$KS-08$	Massive, anhedral	5	30	<b>Highly fractured</b>	Yes
$KS-15$	Massive, eubhedral- subhedral	50	25	Minimally fractured	N <sub>o</sub>
$KS-17$	Massive, subhedral	5	10	Moderately fractured	N <sub>o</sub>
$KS-18$	Tabular/needle- like	20	15	Minimally Fractured	N <sub>o</sub>
$KS-19$	Massive, euhedral- subhedral	15	20	Minimally fractured	Yes
$KS-25$	Massive, anhedral	20	30	Highly Fractured	N <sub>o</sub>
$KS-26$	Massive, subhedral	10	20	Moderately Fractured	Yes
$KS-38$	Tabular, euhedral	20	20	Moderately Fractured	Yes

**Table 5:** Petrographic observations of Keystone ore including habit, amount of martite, amount of vugs/vesicles, portion of fractures, and geochemical zonation.



**Figure 12:** Reflected light (RL) observations of magnetite and Fe oxides. (A) RL image of massive magnetite with minor martite (white). (B) RL image of sponge-like martite (white) within massive magnetite. (C) RL image of highly vesicular and fractured magnetite with minor martite (white). (D) RL image of tabular magnetite with martite (white) and vesicles. (E) RL image of euhedral magnetite with extreme martite (white) forming along the edges and center of the grains. (F) RL image of small euhedral magnetites beside larger tabular magnetite, both with martite (white).



**Figure 13:** (A) RL image of fractured magnetite filled with hematite (white), goethite (grey), and silicates (black). (B) RL image of specular hematite (white) in quartz (dark grey) sourrounded by magnetite. (C) RL image of spongelike martite (white) and goethite (grey) centered in euhedral magnetite grains. (D) RL image of breacciated magnetite being replaced by maghemite (light grey/blueish tint) and martite (white) and goethite in fractures.

## <span id="page-32-0"></span>*6.2 Geochemical Zonation of the Keystone Magnetite*

Much of the Keystone magnetite ore is geochemically homogenous (Figure 14), but oscillatory and simple zonation were observed within four of the eight thin sections analyzed (Table 5). The changes between zones can be vaguely differentiated using reflected light

microscopy (Figures 15A, 16A, C, E) and clearly distinguished using false coloration produced by ImageJ on RL images (Figures 16B, D, F) or BSE imaging (Figure 15B). The zonation correlates to changes in trace amounts of Fe, Si, and Al such that higher Fe is associated with lower Si and Al and vice versa. These changes in geochemistry are based on EMPA elemental maps (Figures 15C, 17) and WDS spot and line analyses across the zonation (Figure 17, Table 6). Both magnetite and hematite were identified in RL but the differences in their Fe content were not detected in the WDS maps (e.g., Figure 14C).



**Figure 14:** (A) BSE, Fe, and Si maps of fractured magnetite and garnet. (B) BSE, Fe, and Si maps corresponding to Figure 13A, with fractured magnetite with minor amounts of martite. Goethite and silicates fill the fractures. (C) BSE, Fe, and Si maps of specular hematite in quartz surrounded by magnetite (Figure 13B). The color scale bar in each WDS map (Fe and Si) represents the color assigned to counts for the characteristic x-rays, with 0 (black) representing the lowest concentration and 255 (white) the highest concentration. Warmer colors represent relatively higher counts compared to cooler colors.



**Figure 15**: (A) RL image of oscillatory zoning along the edge of a euhedral magnetite grain from KS-19. (B) BSE image of oscillatory zoning. White box represents area of image in panel A. (C) WDS maps of Fe, Si and Al of oscillatory zoning from of the area outlined in black in panel B. Higher Fe is associated with lower Si and Al, and vice versa. The color scale bar in each WDS map (Fe, Si, and Al) represents the color assigned to counts for the characteristic x-rays with the cooler colors representing the lower concentrations and warmer colors representing higher concentrations.

Some truncations were also observed in RL within oscillatory zonation (Figures 16A, C).

Truncations are non-uniform structures such as curvatures that change in thickness and cut off one another. These textural features most likely correlate with changes in trace element concentrations (Figure 15). This is consistent with interpretations in the literature of truncations found commonly in Fe-bearing ore deposits like skarns (Hu et al., 2015; Dare et al., 2015) and

iron oxide-apatite deposits (Dare et al., 2015). However, defects in the magnetite structure cannot be ruled out as a cause of the truncations.



**Figure 16:** please see next page for caption.
**Figure 16** (previous page): Reflected light and false color images of ore magnetite from KS-26. (A, C) RL images of oscillatory zonation exhibiting truncations. (B) False color enhancement of panel A made with ImageJ to highlight textural features. (D) False color enhancement of panel C made with ImageJ to highlight textural features. (E) RL image of zonation and martite aligned with the magnetite crystal habit. (F) False color enhancement of panel E made with ImageJ to highlight textural features. The color scale bar in each RL false color image (B, D, F) represents the color assigned to the RL image in grey scale; warm colors represent low reflectivity and cool colors represent high reflectivity.



**Figure 17:** BSE image (A) and corresponding Fe, Si, and Al WDS maps (B, C, D, respectively) of zoned massive magnetite from KS-19. Higher Fe is associated with lower Si and Al, and vice versa. The location of two WDS spots are indicated by the red numbers 1 and 2 in the BSE image, and one line traverse is indicated by the arrow within the BSE image. Table 6 contains the Fe, Si, and Al concentrations measured during those analyses. The color scale bar in each WDS map (Fe, Si, and Al) represents the color assigned to counts for the characteristic x-rays with the cooler colors representing the lower concentrations and warmer colors representing higher concentrations.

**Table 6**: Iron, Si, and Al concentrations from a WDS line traverse and two WDS spots on KS-19. The line started in the light grey magnetite and ended in the dark grey, as noted by the red line in Figure 17A. The two WDS spots, indicated as "1" and "2" in Figure 17A, were located in the light grey and dark grey magnetite, respectively.

<b>Type of WDS Analysis</b>	<b>Greyscale on BSE</b>	$Fe (wt\%)$	$Si(wt\%)$	$AI(wt\%)$
Line Start	Light grey	70.69	0.14	0.24
	Light grey	71.12	0.16	0.34
	Light grey	70.28	0.23	0.47
	Dark grey	67.6	1.32	0.98
Line End	Dark grey	68.42	0.83	0.74
Spot 1	Light grey	70.76	0.12	0.22
Spot 2	Dark grey	67.78	0.89	0.71

## *6.3 Observations of Non-Ore Minerals*

Garnet, quartz, and chlorite were observed across the seven spatially constrained thin sections of Fe ore (Figure 18). Epidote was observed in one sample from the East Hill (KS-38). Malachite and pyrite were also identified in the field and in thin sections from spatially unconstrained samples. Samples collected from the Cell Tower Hill were mineralogically zoned radiating outwards from the ore (Figure 18A). Highly fractured, birefringent garnet is typically adjacent to the ore, which can be brecciated with Fe-hydroxide and or chlorite between fractures (Figure 18E). Quartz-hosted spherical chlorite outlines the garnet-quartz boundary in samples KS-19, KS-18, and KS-26. Epidote and minimal quartz were observed in KS-38 (collected at the East Hill) with no garnet or chlorite. Between Fe ore grain boundaries, altered non-ore minerals and vesicles occur (Figures 12, 14). The garnet present in Keystone ore samples is birefringent and zoned in XPL (Figure 18A, B), consistent with the observations of optical anomalies and twinning by Fettke (1924) and work at the Tibes Fe skarn in southern Puerto Rico (Giovannetti-Nazario, 2022).



**Figure 18**: (A) PPL image of representative mineralogical zonation seen in all samples except KS-38. Zonation consists of magnetite (Mgt; opaque) followed by fractured garnet (Grt), and spherical chlorite (Chl; green) in quartz (Qtz). (B) XPL image centered on spherical chlorite in quartz surrounded by zoned garnets enclosed by magnetite (opaque) (C) XPL image of spherical chlorite in quartz. (D) XPL image of epidote (Ep). (E) PPL image of chlorite (green) and Fe-hydroxide along fractured garnet (clear).

### *6.4 Iron Content and Trace Element Composition of Keystone Magnetite Ore*

The Fe content of eight spatially constrained ore samples measured by EMPA range from 63.81 to 71.70wt% (summarized in Table 7 with a full dataset in Appendix B, Table B2). Differences in Fe concentration within magnetite and the other Fe oxides were not significant (Figure 14). The average trace element composition of these eight samples (Table 8) plus four spatially unconstrained ore samples were determined by LA-ICP-MS and makeup <2wt% within magnetite. KS-08, KS-17 and KS-25 contain the highest concentrations of Si, Al, and Ca. KS-25 contains the highest Al, Si, and Mn content. The full LA-ICP-MS trace element dataset is reported in Appendix C, Table C4. The ThO/Th ratios measured during the three sessions of LA-ICP-MS ranged from 0.102% to 0.233%.

**Table 7:** Iron concentrations (wt%) for Keystone magnetite determined by EMPA based on seven or more analyses, see Appendix B, Table B2 for details.

$Fe (wt\%)$	<b>KS-08</b>	$KS-15$	<b>KS-17</b>	$KS-18$	<b>KS-19</b>	$KS-25$	$KS-26$	<b>KS-38</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	63.87	67.16	68.29	68.31	68.9	63.81	66.96	67.22
<b>Maximum</b>	67.29	71.70	70.8	71.72	70.97	67.17	70.86	70.72
Average	65.28	69.93	69.63	70.75	70.09	65.50	69.33	69.48

	<b>KS-08</b>	$KS-15$	<b>KS-17</b>	<b>KS-18</b>	<b>KS-19</b>	$KS-25$	$KS-26$	<b>KS-38</b>
$^{23}Na$	792	325	1018	187	114	1207	115	424
$^{24}$ Mg	2099	843	2782	347	607	2928	248	505
$^{27}$ Al	6945	2161	7148	762	2688	8854	2358	2759
29Si	8045	5283	9879	4939	2210	11088	1920	6960
44Ca	3108	1243	3527	822	463	3518	490	1538
$47$ Ti	1052	337	419	73	1326	732	874	290
51V	145	153	124	232	208	130	144	276
52Cr	48	28	9	163	420	93	13	30
$55$ Mn	1259	838	1369	756	1215	2069	926	854
59Co	73	57	109	251	71	96	53	72
$60$ Ni	18	21	5	23	13	10	10	42
${}^{63}Cu$	63	549	121	1126	$\langle$ LOD	16	112	66
66Zn	304	226	328	122	262	314	138	120
$71$ Ga	10	$\overline{4}$	10	3	3	13	3	$\overline{2}$
$118$ Sn	5	9	$\mathbf{1}$	$\mathbf{1}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\boldsymbol{0}$	$\mathbf{1}$	9

**Table 8:** Average trace element concentrations (ppm) in Keystone magnetite determined via LA-ICP-MS based on eight or more analyses. Chromium, Cu, and Sn analyses were often below the limit of detection (<LOD). See Appendix C, Table C4 for details.

### *6.5 Stable Fe and O Isotope Composition of Magnetite ore from the Keystone Skarn*

The  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values of eight Keystone samples of magnetite ore (with two duplicates) range from -0.12‰  $\pm$ 0.03 to 0.21‰  $\pm$ 0.04, with an average  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value for Keystone ore of 0.02‰ (n=10; Table 9). The BCR-2 reference material measured during the analytical session had a  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value of 0.09‰  $\pm$ 0.03 (n=4) relative to IRMM-14, which is within error of the accepted  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value (0.09  $\pm$  0.011‰, Craddock and Dauphas, 2011). The undiluted blank value was 0.069V, negligible compared to the sample solutions that were diluted to a 10V signal.

The  $\delta^{18}$ O values of the same eight Keystone magnetite ore samples (with seven duplicates) range from 0.10‰  $\pm 0.07$  to 2.00‰  $\pm 0.07$  with an average  $\delta^{18}O$  value of 1.56‰

(n=15) (Table 10). The Gore Mountain Garnet in-house standard yielded a  $\delta^{18}O$  value range of 6.22‰  $\pm$ 0.07 to 6.71 ‰  $\pm$ 0.07), which encompasses the expected value of 6.52‰ (Bilenker et al., 2016).

**Table 9:** The Fe isotope composition of Keystone magnetite samples. Where both A and B samples are listed, they correspond to duplicate aliquots of the same sample powder.

<b>Sample</b>	Average $\delta^{56}$ Fe (‰)	±2σ	n
<b>KS-08A</b>	0.08	0.02	4
$KS-15A$	0.21	0.04	3
$KS-17A$	$-0.07$	0.02	$\overline{2}$
$KS-17B$	$-0.08$	0.02	5
<b>KS-18A</b>	0.12	0.07	3
$KS-19A$	$-0.12$	0.03	$\overline{2}$
$KS-25A$	$-0.05$	0.04	3
$KS-26A$	0.10	0.02	$\overline{2}$
$KS-26B$	0.01	0.04	5
<b>KS-38A</b>	0.04	0.05	3

**Table 10:** The O isotope composition of Keystone magnetite samples. Where there are sample names that end in both C and D, they were duplicates. These samples came from the same powder used for Fe isotope analyses (they correspond to the same sample numbers ending in A and B in Table 9).



### **7. Discussion**

# *7.1 Updated Observations of the Keystone Fe Skarn Deposit and Characterization of the Magnetite Ore*

The location, major ore mineralogy, length, and orientation of the Keystone deposit determined by this study support and refine the findings of Vázquez (1960) and of Fettke (1924) for the "Juncos Deposit". The Keystone ore is dominantly magnetite and hematite, which is consistent with the deposits described early on in eastern Puerto Rico by Colony and Meyerhoff (1935) and references therein. The existence of "two lenses" as described by Fettke (1924), Vázquez (1960), and Bawiec (1998) could not be verified in this study, but it is possible that only the upper lens was observed because modern vegetation obscures the second lens. It is worth noting that the existence of a second lens has been doubted by others (Jackson, 1934). The occurrences of two main ridges or lens-like bodies were identified in this study on the Cell Tower Hill (Figures 6, 7) but the distance between them is significantly shorter than between the previously reported lenses (Fettke, 1924; Vázquez, 1960). The magnetite is more massive and higher grade on the southern ridge, making it the probable target of historic mining. It is possible the north and south ridges described here were originally one lens that bifurcated over time, from erosion or possibly due to the center of the ore being tunneled during early exploration efforts in 1906-1907 (Fettke, 1924) or during the open pit mining of the 1950s (Vázquez, 1960). Overall, the ore exposed at the surface is extremely weathered, and determining the grade requires further investigation. However, with the new microscopic observations of this study, the Keystone Fe ore can now be summarized as a mixture of magnetite, martite, specular hematite, goethite, and maghemite with varying amounts of fractures, vesicles and vugs.

### *7.2 Modification and Replacement of Keystone Magnetite*

### *7.2.1 Trace Element and Textural Evidence for Modification of the Keystone Magnetite*

Trace element concentrations within skarn magnetite can be modified by processes such as oxy-exsolution, recrystallization, and dissolution and reprecipitation (Hu et al., 2015). The Keystone magnetite does not exhibit lamellae, which are tell-tale textural signs of oxy-exsolution and generally occurs in a closed system under during cooling and/or under oxidizing conditions (Hu et al., 2015; Liao et al., 2023 and references therein). Keystone magnetite also does not display 120° triple junctions, which result from recrystallization in a high-temperature closed system or fluid-assisted open system (Hu et al., 2015 and references therein). The truncations that are observed within the oscillatory zonation (KS-19, KS-26; Figure 16) are commonly found in skarn magnetite and interpreted as indications of dissolution and reprecipitation processes (DRP; Hu et al., 2015; Dare et al., 2015 and references therein). It is worth noting that lattice defects and varying growth rates of the magnetite cannot be ruled out as the cause of truncations in Keystone magnetite.

During DRP, fluids are out of equilibrium with magnetite, which causes magnetite to dissolve at the mineral-fluid interface and reprecipitate (Putnis, 2009; Hu et al., 2014). The presence of truncated zonation indicates that DRP occurred episodically (Hu et al., 2015; Dare et al, 2015 and references therein). The truncated zones likely display similar trace element variations as the non-truncated zones (Figures 15, 16), indicating that the fluid present during the DRP was similar in composition to the fluid that formed the regular oscillatory zonation. The Keystone  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values also reflect evidence of DRP replacement, as indicated by KS-19, and KS-26 having lower  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values (Table 9). This is consistent with the work of Liao et al. (2023), which found that the magnetite that had undergone DRP was isotopically lighter than the

primary magnetite. Within the massive magnetite there are also sections of microporosity. When microporosity is in sharp contact with non-porous magnetite, it can indicate the occurrence of DRP (Putnis, 2002; Hu et al., 2014; Wen et al., 2017). However, due to the heavily fractured nature of the Keystone samples, it is difficult to determine whether this is observed. Therefore, the process of DRP cannot be ruled out as the cause of the microporosity.

### *7.2.2 Oxidation and Redox-Independent Replacement of Keystone Magnetite*

Magnetite can be replaced by hematite by two mechanisms: either due to solid state oxidation or redox-independent DRP reactions (Yin et al., 2022). The resulting mineral is often called martite, which is compositionally the same as hematite but a pseudomorph of magnetite. The diagnostic features of these processes are volumetric changes and the orientation of hematite to the dodecahedral (110) planes of magnetite. During solid state oxidation of magnetite to hematite,  $Fe^{3+}$  ion diffusion from  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  within magnetite creates an intermediate phase of maghemite before turning into hematite and results in a slight volume increase. On the other hand, during redox-independent DRP reactions of magnetite to hematite,  $Fe^{2+}$  is leached from magnetite and forms an aqueous ferric species from which hematite can then grow (Yin et al., 2022). This causes a volume decrease, which results in porous hematite, especially during pseudomorph replacement (Yin et al., 2022 and references therein). The presence of maghemite (Figure 13D) and the sponge-like texture of martite (Figures 12B, 13C) within Keystone Fe ore indicates that both solid state oxidation and non-redox DRP have occurred, respectively.

In general, Fe<sup>3+</sup> is correlated with higher  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values while Fe<sup>2+</sup> is correlated with lower  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values. Thus, magnetite is predicted to have an isotopically lighter  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value compared to hematite that formed under the same conditions (e.g., Dauphas et al., 2017). This is because heavier Fe isotopes tend to form stronger bonds and the oxidation state (Fe<sup>2+</sup> versus Fe<sup>3+</sup>)

controls the bond strength (Sharp, 2017; Sossi and O'Neill, 2017). Therefore, the  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value of Fe ore comprised of more hematite (or martite) is expected to be higher due to the presence of more Fe<sup>3+</sup> compared to magnetite. Magnetite that has undergone redox-independent DRP to partially replace it with hematite (i.e., martite), will likewise have a higher  $\delta^{56}$ Fe value due to the initial leaching of  $Fe^{2+}$  from the magnetite into the co-existing fluid.

The Keystone  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values display evidence of non-redox DRP replacement, as indicated by KS-15 having both the highest  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values (Table 9) and the highest proportion of martite (50%; Table 5). KS-08 and KS-17 have lower  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values (Table 9) and a lower proportion of martite (5%; Table 5). It is important to note that within a thin section, the distribution of martite is heterogenous, so these estimates should be confirmed through additional petrography throughout the samples.

### *7.3 The Source of Keystone Magnetite*

## *7.3.1 Trace Element Evidence for the Source of Keystone Magnetite*

The variations in trace element concentrations in Keystone magnetite measured via LA-ICP-MS can be used to confirm the deposit type (Figure 19), help identify sources of metals (i.e., magmatic versus hydrothermal; Figures 20, 21), and track fluid changes during mineral precipitation (Dupuis and Beaudoin, 2011; Dare et al., 2014; Nadoll et al., 2014, 2015). Titanium, V, Ca, Al, and Mn concentrations in the Keystone magnetite were plotted on a discrimination diagram following Dupuis and Beaudoin (2011) to compare this skarn to a variety of well-characterized global magnetite-bearing deposits (Figure 19).

The concentrations of trace elements within magnetite can vary in response to numerous factors during formation (e.g., temperature, pressure, fluid, and melt composition; Dare et al., 2014). The behavior of trace elements in magnetite have been the focus of numerous studies

(e.g., Dupuis & Beaudoin, 2011, Dare et al., 2014; Nadoll et al., 2014; Knipping et al., 2015; Nadoll et al., 2015; Duran et al., 2020) and new trends of trace element relationships are still being discovered (e.g., Hu et al., 2022, 2023). In general, magnetite that crystallizes from a magma is depleted in incompatible elements such as Si and Ca and enriched in Ti and Al (Dare et al., 2014; Nadoll et al., 2014). Magmatic-hydrothermal magnetite is enriched in Ni, V, Co, Zn, Mn, and Sn (Dare et al., 2014), whereas hydrothermal magnetite is depleted in immobile elements such as Ti  $\left($  <2 wt%) and Al  $\left($  <1 wt%) (Dare et al., 2014 and references therein; Nadoll et al., 2014).



**Figure 19**: Plot of Ti+V (wt%) vs. Ca+Al+Mn (wt%) measured in Keystone magnetite via LA-ICP-MS. Keystone plots within the skarn field compared to other Fe oxide deposit types (banded iron formation, BIF; iron oxide copper-gold, IOCG; Kiruna/iron oxide-apatite, IOA; porphyry; Fe-Ti-V deposits). Circles represent spatially constrained samples; squares represent spatially unconstrained samples from 2020 field work (after Dupuis and Beaudoin, 2011).

The trace element composition of Keystone magnetite is consistent overall with what is expected from a typical skarn, with both low-temperature (low-T, e.g., meteoric) and hightemperature (high-T, e.g., magmatic or magmatic-hydrothermal) fluid sources. The average trace element composition of Keystone magnetite is enriched in Ca, Si, and Al relative to all other trace elements including Ti and V (Table 8). Although Al is relatively enriched, it still falls within the hydrothermal range reported by Dare et al. (2014). The high concentrations of Si and Ca and the low concentrations of Ti and V (Figure 20) correspond with magnetite forming from hydrothermal sources rather than from direct crystallization from a magma.

Spatially unconstrained samples 20KS-02 and 20KS-03 have significantly lower Ti+V and Ca+Al+Mn, indicating that lower-T, non-magmatic source fluids were dominant in those locations. This is consistent with petrographic observations of specular hematite enclosed by silicates (mainly quartz) as the dominant ore mineralogy of 20KS-02 and 20KS-03. However, although these two samples were certainly collected from the Cell Tower Hill of Keystone, their exact locations are unknown, so it is not possible to put this interpretation into a deposit-scale context and they are treated as outliers.

Overall, Keystone magnetite has a trace element composition in line with a typical skarn deposit. The source fluids evolved during the growth of the magnetite, as indicated by changes in the concentrations of Al, Si, and Fe content within and across grains of a given sample (Table 6, Figure 17). The broader deposit-scale patterns of trace element concentrations are discussed in detail in Discussion section 7.6.



**Figure 20**: Plot of V (ppm) vs. Ti (ppm) in the Keystone magnetite. Keystone plots within and around the hydrothermal region rather than the igneous region (after Knipping et al., 2015 and Hu et al., 2023).



**Figure 21:** Plot of Fe/(Mg+Al+Mn) (ppm) vs. Ti (ppm) in the Keystone magnetite. All Keystone samples plot within the hydrothermal region (after Hu et al., 2023).

## *7.3.2 Stable Fe and O Evidence for the Source of Keystone Magnetite*

Iron and O stable isotope ratios measured in ore magnetite have been used to identify the source of fluid(s) that formed Fe oxide deposits and the processes that transported the Fe (e.g., Simon et al., 2018 and Troll et al., 2019 and references therein). Lower Fe and O isotope ratios

generally correspond to a non-magmatic/low-T source of fluid (i.e., meteoric) whereas relatively isotopically heavy Fe and O ratios correspond to a magmatic/high-T fluid source (i.e., crystallized from a silicate melt or precipitated from a magmatic-hydrothermal fluid; Bilenker et al., 2016 and references therein).

The method of pairing Fe and O isotopes of magnetite is based on the approach of Hedenquist and Lowenstern (1994) with O and H isotopes in minerals, rocks, and crustal fluids. It can be used to identify fluid source (e.g., non-magmatic/low-T origin and magmatic/high-T origin), multiple fluid generations, and alteration. The Fe and O isotope framework that has been applied to magnetite ore (Figure 22) is based on reported Fe-oxide deposits including banded iron formations (BIF), iron oxide-copper-gold deposits (IOCG), iron oxide-apatite deposits (IOA), porphyry deposits, layered mafic intrusions and skarns (e.g., Bilenker et al., 2016 and references therein; Simon et al., 2019 and references therein; Troll et al., 2019 and references therein).



**Figure 22**: Discrimination diagram of δ<sup>56</sup>Fe vs. δ<sup>18</sup>O to determine the fluid source(s) of Keystone magnetite. The C and D at the ends of sample names refer to analytical duplicates of  $\delta^{18}$ O values of magnetite ore, when available. Errors (2 $\sigma$ ) for  $\delta^{56}$ Fe averaged 0.03‰ (Table 9) and 0.07‰ for  $\delta^{18}$ O. Altered, Non-magmatic/Low-Temperature (T), and Magmatic/High-T areas are based on reported  $\delta^{56}$ Fe and  $\delta^{18}$ O values of magnetite from Fe-oxide deposits around the world. The magmatic range is based on reports from Taylor (1968), Bindeman (2008), Heimann et al. (2008), and Bilenker at al. (2016) (after Simon et al., 2018).

The Fe isotope composition of Keystone magnetite falls both within and below the magmatic/high-T range ( $\delta^{56}$ Fe = 0.06‰ to 0.86‰; Bilenker et al., 2016 and references therein), indicating both magmatic/high-T (KS-15, KS-18, KS-26) and non-magmatic formation/low-T (KS-08, KS-17, KS-19, KS-25, KS-38) fluid sources (Figures 22, 23B). Samples on the Cell Tower Hill, located closest to the zone of alteration, have non-magmatic/low-T isotopic compositions except for KS-08. The O isotope compositions of Keystone magnetite are generally within the magmatic/high-T range ( $\delta^{18}O = 1.0\%$  to 4.4‰; Bilenker et al., 2016 and references therein), apart from two samples with lower  $\delta^{18}$ O values (KS-19C, KS-38C), which are consistent with a non-magmatic/low-T origin (Figures 22, 23C). Sample KS-19 was taken by ore with pockets filled with quartz, perhaps explaining why one data point is within the nonmagmatic/low-T range for O isotopes.

In general, the bulk  $\delta^{18}O$  composition of magnetite can be easily altered after deposition by meteoric water at low temperatures while  $\delta^{56}$ Fe is less likely to be altered because meteoric water contains high concentrations of O and low concentrations of Fe (Weis, 2013 and references therein). Since Keystone magnetite samples were pretreated before O isotope analysis, the O isotope data reported here reflect the composition of primary source fluids (see Methods section for details). The Fe and O compositions of Keystone magnetite lie within the magmatic/high-T range and near the non-magmatic/low-T zone, indicating that fluids from more than one source formed and/or altered this deposit.



**Figure 23**: Spatial relationships and average  $\delta^{56}$ Fe and  $\delta^{18}$ O values of the spatially constrained ore samples from 2022 field work. (A) Reference map of the locations of Keystone Fe ore samples analyzed for their trace element geochemistry and Fe and O isotope ratios along the Cell Tower Hill. Inset in the upper right represents KS-38, collected on the East Hill. (B) Average  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values of magnetite ore. Red circles indicate samples within the magmatic/high-T range based on Bilenker at al. (2016) and white circles indicate compositions that are in the nonmagmatic/low-T range. (C) The  $\delta^{18}O$  values of magnetite ore, where C and D refer to analytical duplicates, when available. Red circles indicate samples that are in the magmatic/high-T range based on Taylor (1968) and white circles indicate that one data point is within the non-magmatic/low-T range. Larger circles indicate that the difference between the  $\delta^{18}O$  values measured for each duplicate is greater than 0.5‰.

### *7.4 Keystone Stable Isotope Geochemistry Compared to Global Fe Skarn Data*

Only a handful of studies on Fe skarn deposits report magnetite Fe or O isotope data and only two studies report Fe and O pairs (Dannemora, Sweden, Troll et al., 2019; Tibes, Puerto Rico, Barefoot, 2021). The range in Fe isotope compositions of Keystone magnetite is in line with the data available in the literature for other Fe (and Fe-polymetallic or Cu-S-Fe-Au) skarns (Figure 24; Wang et al., 2011; Troll et al., 2019; Zhu et al., 2020; Barefoot, 2021). Most of the skarn deposits reported in the published global magnetite  $\delta^{56}$ Fe dataset (Xinqiao, Dannemora, Han-Xing) lie within or below the magmatic range that was established by Bilenker et al. (2017) after Heimann et al. (2008). Compared to unpublished Fe isotope data of magnetite from one other Puerto Rican skarn (Tibes, Barefoot, 2021), average Keystone magnetite is isotopically lighter (Figure 24). Tibes magnetite  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values (n=18) are consistent only with a magmatic fluid source, but Keystone magnetite  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values (n=10) indicate fluids sources from both magmatic and meteoric sources.

The range in O isotope compositions of Keystone magnetite is in line with the data available in the literature for other Fe (and Fe-Cu or Fe-polymetallic) skarns (Figure 25; Oyman, 2010; Xie et al., 2017; Troll et al., 2019; Dong et al., 2021). Most of the skarn deposits reported in the published global magnetite  $\delta^{18}O$  dataset (Dannemora, Ayazmant, Akesayi, Zhangmantun) lie within or below the magmatic range that was established by Taylor (1968) from measurements of natural igneous magnetite. Compared to unpublished O isotope data of magnetite from the two other Puerto Rican skarns (Tibes and Island Queen, Barefoot, 2021), Keystone magnetite is isotopically lighter than Tibes but isotopically heavier than Island Queen (Figure 25). Tibes magnetite  $\delta^{18}O$  values (n=15) are consistent only with a magmatic fluid source and all measured Island Queen magnetite (n=4) indicate non-magmatic fluid source(s).



**Figure 24:** δ <sup>56</sup>Fe values of Keystone magnetite (red) compared to five global Fe-associated skarns: Dannemora in Sweden; (<sup>1</sup>Troll et al., 2019), Xinqiao in China (<sup>2</sup>Wang et al., 2011), Han-Xing in China (<sup>3</sup>Zhu et al., 2020) Tibes in Puerto Rico (<sup>4</sup>Barefoot, 2021), and Keystone in Puerto Rico (<sup>5</sup>this study; <sup>4</sup>Barefoot, 2021). All deposits are Fe skarns, but Dannemora and Xinqiao, which are Fe-polymetallic and Cu-S-Fe-Au skarns, respectively. Grey area denotes the range of  $\delta^{56}$ Fe for magmatic magnetite, as modified by <sup>6</sup>Bilenker et al. (2016).



**Figure 25:** δ <sup>18</sup>O values of Keystone magnetite (red) compared to six global Fe-associated skarns: Dannemora in Sweden (<sup>1</sup>Troll et al., 2019), Ayazmant in China (<sup>2</sup>Oyman, 2010), Akesayi in China (<sup>3</sup>Dong et al., 2021), Zhangmatun in China (<sup>4</sup>Xie et al., 2017), Tibes in Puerto Rico (<sup>5</sup>Barefoot, 2021), Keystone in Puerto Rico (<sup>6</sup>this study; <sup>5</sup>Barefoot, 2021), and Island Queen in Puerto Rico (<sup>5</sup>Barefoot, 2021). All deposits are Fe skarns except for Dannemore and Ayazmant which are Fe-polymetallic and Fe-Cu, respectively. The magmatic range (1.0‰ to 4.4‰) established by  $T$ aylor (1968) is indicated by the grey box.

The Keystone skarn is unique compared to the global O isotope dataset in that samples display a range in O isotope compositions that extend from igneous  $\delta^{18}O$  values (magmatic or magmatic-hydrothermal) to non-igneous values (Figure 25). This pattern is observed for Fe isotopes, too (Figure 24). The range may indicate multiple generations of fluids, recording the initial magmatic signatures and then late-stage isotopically lighter signatures. From the published data, only magnetite from the Dannemora Fe-polymetallic skarn sits fully in the non-magmatic field (n=3), except for one geochemical anomaly (Troll et al., 2019). Island Queen magnetite data are also only consistent with non-magmatic fluid sources, but this unpublished dataset is small (n=4) and requires additional field, petrographic, and geochemical investigation to interpret its O isotope signature.

Although the global magnetite Fe and O isotope database is small, one would expect to see a difference in isotopic values between accreted and unaccreted Fe skarns since most Fe skarns form on island arcs that are now accreted onto continents. During the accretion process, skarns undergo metamorphism and associated alteration that would likely change the isotopic composition of their minerals such as magnetite. The Fe and O isotope compositions of magnetite from the unaccreted Fe skarns in Puerto Rico (Keystone, Tibes, Island Queen) extend from igneous values to non-igneous values, detailing the lack of significant isotopic differences between unaccreted and accreted Fe skarns.

# *7.5 Keystone Skarn Geology and Geochemistry Compared to Puerto Rican Fe Skarns: Tibes and Island Queen*

The three Fe skarns in Puerto Rico have both similarities and differences in their geology and geochemistry. First, the Fe and O isotope ratios of Tibes magnetite fall solely within the magmatic range but Keystone and Island Queen magnetite do not. One potential reason for this is that Tibes is associated with a small igneous stock that is accessible within meters of the ore bodies (Barefoot, 2021; Giovannetti-Nazario, 2022) while Keystone and Island Queen are associated with a much larger igneous body, the San Lorenzo batholith, and formed farther from their source intrusion. Therefore, the fluids that formed Keystone and Island Queen would have traveled a greater distance, allowing for more fluid rock interactions. This distance also potentially allowed for more meteoric input than at Tibes, and the size of the source intrusion provided late-stage Si-Ca-Al rich fluids, causing lighter isotopic signatures and more extensive alteration of the magnetite ore. The differences in the respective source intrusions are also a potential reason that Tibes contains higher grade ore than Keystone. The mineralogy of Tibes ore includes a higher percentage of magnetite  $(\geq 80\%;$  Barefoot, 2021) with a lack of martite and minimal hematite, indicating that Tibes did not undergo the same amount of alteration as Keystone.

Another major geological difference between the Tibes and Keystone systems, is that Tibes is hosted in limestone and calc-silicate rocks while Keystone is hosted in volcaniclastics. Thus, the elemental budget for reactions between the fluids and host rocks in each system will be different. This may explain why Tibes and Keystone do not contain many of the same secondary minerals except for garnet and pyrite (Barefoot, 2021). Similarly, though, the garnet found at both localities is optically birefringent with oscillatory zoning (Giovannetti-Nazario, 2022). The garnet zonation may be caused by compositional changes in the hydrothermal fluids (Giovannetti-Nazario, 2022 and references therein), which also likely caused the Si-rich zonation seen in both Tibes and Keystone magnetite.

Overall, continuing extensive research on each Fe skarn deposit of Puerto Rico will help determine how source intrusion size, intrusion distance, and host rock composition affect the characteristics of skarn deposits, their ore grade, and geochemical signatures.

### *7.6 The Formation Model of the Keystone Fe Skarn*

The formation of the Keystone skarn can be divided into three main stages: 1) intrusion of an Fe-rich pluton 2) magmatic-hydrothermal fluid release and metal deposition and 3) introduction of late Si-Al-Ca-rich fluids and meteoric water. These stages are based on the spatial relationships, petrography trace element concentrations, and Fe and O isotope ratios of the spatially constrained Keystone Fe ore samples.

### *7.6.1 Stage 1: Intrusion of Fe-rich Pluton*

Volcaniclastic rocks were intruded by an Fe-rich pluton around 69 Ma during the formation of the Antilles (Jolly et al., 1998; Schellekens, 1998; Meinert et al., 2005). The magmatic source of Keystone ore is assumed to be the San Lorenzo batholith (Figure 2; e.g., Vázquez, 1960; Bawiec, 1998) but additional field work needs to be done to consider previously unmapped intrusions (e.g., 375m southeast of Keystone; Figures 6, 10). When the pluton heated surrounding host rocks, garnet began to form.

## *7.6.2 Stage 2: Magmatic-Hydrothermal Fluid Release and Metal Deposition*

As the pluton cooled, magmatic-hydrothermal Fe-bearing fluids were episodically released (Figure 26). The evidence for this is the primarily magmatic/high-T Fe and O isotope compositions of the Fe ore (Figures 22, 24, 25) and the zoned garnets (Figure 18B; Giovannetti-Nazario, 2022 and references therein). The fluid pathways were likely controlled by the local lithology based on the lenticular shape of the deposit.



**Figure 26:** Schematic illustration of magmatic-hydrothermal fluid flow from the Fe-rich pluton interacting with the volcaniclastic host rocks to form the magnetite ore bodies within the Keystone skarn (after Barefoot, 2021).

The magmatic-hydrothermal fluids first precipitated massive magnetite that was enriched in Si and Al (Figure 27A). As the massive magnetite precipitated, the concentrations of Fe, Si and Al in the fluid fluctuated, producing zonation that mirrors the crystal habit (Figure 27B). The fluctuations could have been caused by additional input of magmatic fluids or changes in the fluid composition from interaction with the host rocks. The physicochemical parameters of the fluid also may have changed, such as T and redox (Dare et al., 2014 and references therein). It is possible that micro to nanoscale inclusions produced the zonation, even though they were not observed in this study (Dare et al., 2014 and references therein).

Next, redox dependent (oxidation) and redox-independent processes (DRP) modified the magnetite (Figure 27C, D). Under oxidizing conditions, possibly induced by fluid-host rock reactions or the redox evolution of the source pluton, martite formed by  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  ion diffusion along some of the zones (Figure 16E, F), fractures, and within grains. The additional input of magmatic fluids or changes in the fluid composition without oxidation caused episodic DRP within the center or along the edges of zoned magnetite, producing the observed truncations (Figure 16B, D). The occurrence of both martite and truncations within the same sample (e.g., KS-26), and

martite within some of the truncations, indicate that both pathways (Figure 27C, D) can occur. The order of these processes is unclear with the evidence available so far.



**Figure 27**: Sketch illustrating the textures that result from modification of Keystone magnetite due to redoxdependent (top, C) and redox-independent (DRP, bottom, D) processes. Dark grey layers are relatively enriched in Si+Al compared to light grey, which is relatively enriched in Fe. (A) Massive magnetite grains enriched in Si+Al. (B) Geochemically zoned magnetite with the same crystal habit (C) Geochemically zoned magnetite under later oxidizing conditions, during which martite formed by ion diffusion along the crystals habit. (D) Redox-independent dissolution-reprecipitation processes (DRP) form truncated zonation within the grain. Both C and D can happen within the same sample and the order of which came first is unclear (after Hu et al., 2015).

There are at least three generations of ore magnetite, distinguished by their habit and size:

massive magnetite (Figure 12A), tabular magnetite (Figure 12D), and smaller individual euhedral magnetite (Figure 12F). The exact relationship between massive and tabular magnetite is unclear because they were not observed within the same sample; the fine-grained euhedral magnetite seems to have formed last. Tabular magnetite likely formed from the same fluids and redox conditions as the massive magnetite because the tabular grains display similar compositional zonation and proportions of martite (Figure 12D).

### *7.6.3 Stage 3: Late Si-Al-Ca-Rich Fluids and Meteoric Water Input*

Lastly, after the Fe ore had been deposited and the system transitioned into a retrograde regime, an oxidized Si-Al-Ca-rich late magmatic-hydrothermal fluids came through the system, forming the clay minerals of the zone of alteration (Figures 9, 28). The ore that interacted with these fluids (KS-08, KS-17, KS-25) has higher Si, Al, and Ca concentrations (Figures 19, 28B, C). As the Si-Al-Ca-rich fluids came through, meteoric waters may have been introduced as well. These fluids filled vugs, forming goethite and altering portions of magnetite to martite by non-redox DRP reactions.

The proportion of meteoric fluid input was too small to be recorded in the O isotope values indicating the Si-Al-Ca-rich fluids caused the lighter  $\delta^{56}$ Fe values. Thus, the Si-Al-Carich fluids preferentially mobilized and reprecipitated Fe in the form of  $Fe^{2+}$ , due to its relative mobility compared to  $Fe^{3+}$  and/or  $Fe^{3+}$  was remobilized from the magnetite to form specular hematite. This is consistent with the isotopically lighter Fe signature within the ore magnetite near the zone of alteration (KS-17, KS-19, KS-25, KS-26; white circles in Figure 23B). The latestage fluids formed specular hematite (Figure 14C), and spherical chlorite (Figure 18C) within euhedral quartz.

The euhedral, unfractured nature of the late-stage quartz indicates that the fractures observed in most of the minerals throughout the deposit (e.g., magnetite, garnet, epidote) is likely a result of the episodic release of fluids and volumetric changes associated with martite formation (Putnis, 2009). Overall, the formation of the Keystone skarn is complex, leaving much up for interpretation and more extensive research to be done.



**Figure 28:** Spatial relationships and trace element results of the spatially constrained ore samples from 2022 field work. (A) Reference map of the locations of Keystone Fe ore samples analyzed for their trace element geochemistry along the Cell Tower Hill. Inset in the upper right represents KS-38, collected on the East Hill. (B) Average Si concentrations in magnetite. (C) Average concentrations of Al+Mn+Ca (wt%) in magnetite as reported in the Ti+V vs. Al+Mn+Ca discrimination plot (Figure 19).

#### **8. Future Work**

In this study, the Fe ore of the Keystone skarn was extensively characterized, and for the first time, trace element concentrations and Fe and O isotopic signatures of the Fe ore and fluid sources were determined. However, the examination of the Fe ore is not sufficient to thoroughly describe the entire picture of the Keystone skarn formation or evaluate its economic potential. A better understanding of the geology, mineralogy, and geochemistry of the deposit as a whole is needed for this work to be as useful as possible for the people of Puerto Rico in mineral resource assessment and exploration of other understudied Puerto Rican Fe deposits (e.g., the Humacao deposit; Colony and Meyerhoff, 1935 and references therein; Cadilla, 1963).

To refine and expand the formation model, future work must determine the exact source pluton and the timing associated with the creation of the Keystone skarn. One way to do this is to perform U-Pb geochronology on the Keystone garnets to constrain the age of mineralization. The age of Keystone mineralization could then be compared to the age of the San Lorenzo batholith and the previously unmapped intrusion (Figure 6). The location and extent of the previously unmapped intrusion needs to be determined in detail, the mineralogy must be investigated, and it should be dated. This information will provide the context necessary to fully understand the differences between Tibes, Keystone, and Island Queen and how each formed. It will also allow for improved interpretation of accretion signatures preserved in the trace element and isotopic compositions of Fe skarn magnetite.

Extensive mapping of the Keystone deposit itself is also needed to determine the shape and continuity of the ore body or bodies, evidence of past mining efforts, and a possible genetic connection to Island Queen. An aeromagnetic survey may be the best way to accomplish this task, as the intense vegetation, steep topographical changes, and residential area inhibited sample

collection and mapping efforts. There will also be limitations with aeromagnetic data, and field mapping may be needed to differentiate between the magnetic ore and the magnetic volcaniclastic host rocks, as observed on the East Hill of the deposit. Older maps in the literature have reported a limestone belt (Collores limestone; Fettke, 1924) starting on the East Hill with a similar strike as the Keystone deposit. Carbonate rocks were observed near the East Hill during 2022 field work, but it could not be verified whether they were in place. The lenticular shape of the Keystone deposit and absence of limestone on the Cell Tower Hill could be due to complete replacement of the limestone, although one would expect to see higher concentrations of Ca within the Fe ore. Through extensive mapping of the Keystone deposit and mineralogical investigations of the host rock and zone of alteration, the shape and placement of the ore deposit can be explained.

Improved constraints on the number of episodic events and composition of fluids would help explain the lower quality of the Keystone Fe ore compared to the Tibes skarn. One way to do this is to perform powder XRD on the samples collected from the zone of alteration to better constrain the late-stage fluids that came through the system during Stage 3. Stable O isotope analysis of the late euhedral quartz as well as the alteration may help to determine how much meteoric water, if any, contributed to stages 2 and 3. Another approach would be to analyze the trace element compositions of the Keystone garnets, as Giovannetti-Nazario (2022) did for the Tibes garnets, to better illustrate the chemical changes within the fluids that formed the deposit.

Detailed mapping and characterization of the source pluton, ore, host rock, and alteration can advance our overall understanding of the formation of the Keystone skarn and help us better interpret global geochemical signatures (trace elements, Fe and O isotopes) of Fe skarns.

### **9. Conclusions**

The examination of the Keystone Fe ore through field work, petrography, major and trace element geochemistry, and Fe and O stable isotope analysis detail the complexity of ore formation and reveals the following:

- The Keystone Fe skarn deposit remains accessible as two main ridges on a hill with a cell tower ("Cell Tower Hill"). Additional ore outcrops on another hill to the east ("East Hill"), about 0.52km or less from the ore near the cell tower.
- The Keystone Fe ore is made up of magnetite, martite, specular hematite, goethite, and maghemite, in order of decreasing abundance. The magnetite can be massive, tabular, or euhedral with variable amounts of fractures, vesicles, and vugs.
- Trace element compositions of the Keystone magnetite are consistent with global skarn deposits and indicate a hydrothermal origin rather than crystallization from a magma. The magnetite is enriched in Si, Al, and Ca relative to all other trace elements analyzed.
- The Fe and O isotope signatures of the Keystone magnetite are in line with the small dataset available in literature for other Fe skarns. The  $\delta^{56}$ Fe and  $\delta^{18}$ O values indicate multiple fluid sources of Keystone magnetite but point to initial magmatic-hydrothermal source fluids and only small proportions of meteoric influx in later stages.
- Oscillatory zonation within the Keystone magnetite indicates that the concentrations of Fe, Si, and Al fluctuated during precipitation due to additional fluid input or changes in physicochemical parameters. Truncations of some of the oscillatory zoning within Keystone magnetite indicate dissolution and reprecipitation processes (DRP) due to

additional fluid input, which had a composition different than the fluid that caused the earlier zonation.

- Both redox dependent and independent reactions produced replacement of Keystone magnetite. Martite within the ore was formed as a result of later oxidizing conditions as well as DRP from additional fluid input. The presence of maghemite is evidence that a portion of the magnetite was replaced by martite during solid state oxidation. The presence of porous martite indicates where magnetite was replaced during redoxindependent DRP.
- The Keystone Fe skarn formed in three stages: 1) intrusion of an Fe-rich pluton 2) magmatic-hydrothermal fluid release and metal deposition, and 3) introduction of late Si-Al-Ca-rich fluids and meteoric water.
- The Keystone magnetite has higher Si, Al, and Ca concentrations near the zone of alteration, indicating that a late-stage, oxidized Si-Al-Ca-rich magmatic-hydrothermal fluid came through the system (Stage 3).

Additional work needs to be done on the characterization and mapping of the pluton associated with the Keystone skarn, the ore, host rock, and alteration for resource assessment and exploration purposes. Future work should also entail further examination of the Tibes and Island Queen skarns in Puerto Rico to better identify geochemical signatures of unaccreted versus accreted Fe skarns.

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## **Appendix A: Supplemental Figures**

**Supplemental Figure A1.** X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) spectra for the analysis of five representative Keystone ore samples. XRD analyses were performed in the Auburn University Department of Geosciences using a Bruker D2 Phaser with a LynxEye detector. The two-theta range was 5.0° to 75.0° with a step size of 0.02. The data were processed using Difrac.Eva version 4.2 and the Crystallography Open Database was used for phase identification. Vertical lines in the spectra represent major peaks for quartz (red), magnetite (blue), and hematite (black).



### (Coupled TwoTheta/Theta)

2Theta (Coupled Two Theta/Theta) WL=1.54060

**Supplemental Figure A2.** Mass dependent fractionation check for Fe isotope analysis. Each data point represents a single analysis of the standard (IRMM-14), reference material (BCR-2), or Keystone magnetite samples. The slope of the line is consistent with ideal, mass dependent fractionation (~1.5; Dauphas et al., 2017) and serves as a quality control check for potential instrument or procedural induced mass independent fractionation.


## **Appendix B: Full Fe and Trace Element Dataset by Electron Microprobe Analysis**

**Table B1.** Elemental (wt%) concentrations in magnetite standard 114887 (USNM 114887) from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History measured by EMPA. \*Fe (wt%) represents total Fe. Analysis computer optimized to balance FeO and Fe2O3. The average value of all measurements and accepted values by Jarosewich et al., (1980a, 1980b) are given at the end the end of the table.









<b>Sample</b>	$Mg(wt\%)$	Al $(\text{wt}\%)$	$Si (wt\% )$	$Ca (wt\%)$	$Ti (wt\% )$		$Cr (wt\%)$ $[Fe^* (wt\%)$ $Mn (wt\%)$ $Na (wt\%)$			$V (wt\% )$	$O(wt\%)$	<b>Total</b>
$KS-08(2)$	0.08	0.18	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.02	65.53	0.13	0.14	0.03	25.51	91.79
$KS-08(3)$	0.16	0.44	0.62	0.26	0.08	0.02	65.58	0.08	0.13	0.02	26.50	93.88
$KS-08(4)$	0.19	0.49	0.32	0.13	0.10	0.02	67.29	0.12	0.05	0.05	26.84	95.60
$KS-08(5)$	0.16	0.65	0.96	0.32	0.06	0.03	63.87	0.11	0.11	0.03	26.45	92.75
$KS-08(6)$	0.07	0.27	0.20	0.12	0.01	0.03	65.00	0.07	0.16	0.03	25.51	91.46
$KS-08(10)$	0.05	0.36	0.29	0.17	$0.04\,$	0.02	64.27	0.09	0.10	0.03	25.43	90.86
$KS-08(11)$	0.07	0.44	0.35	0.20	0.06	0.02	64.15	$0.11\,$	0.15	0.03	25.58	91.17
KS-08(12)	0.13	0.32	0.36	0.18	0.04	0.03	66.54	0.06	0.21	0.04	26.42	94.31
$KS-15(2)$	0.07	0.27	0.45	0.17	$0.04\,$	0.00	68.90	0.11	0.12	0.04	27.31	97.48
$KS-15(3)$	0.04	0.14	0.38	0.13	0.05	0.03	71.25	0.10	0.03	$0.08\,$	27.99	100.22
$KS-15(4)$	0.05	0.18	0.44	0.17	0.03	0.00	70.28	0.09	0.17	0.03	27.74	99.19
$KS-15(5)$	0.01	$0.04\,$	0.31	$0.04\,$	0.01	0.01	68.98	0.08	0.10	0.01	26.83	96.40
$KS-15(6)$	0.04	0.22	0.53	0.12	0.05	0.01	67.16	0.11	0.14	0.04	26.66	95.06
$KS-15(8)$	0.04	0.13	0.32	$0.04\,$	$0.02\,$	0.01	71.70	0.08	0.04	$0.02\,$	27.97	100.37
$KS-15(9)$	0.04	0.07	0.25	0.07	0.03	0.00	70.31	0.07	0.02	0.02	27.32	98.21
$KS-15(11)$	$0.00\,$	0.03	0.23	$0.01\,$	$0.02\,$	0.01	70.86	0.11	0.02	0.03	27.44	98.75
$KS-17(1)$	0.10	0.30	0.22	0.12	$0.00\,$	0.02	69.35	0.13	0.00	0.03	27.19	97.47
$KS-17(2)$	0.18	0.68	0.62	0.23	0.06	0.00	69.38	0.07	0.05	0.02	28.12	99.40
$KS-17(3)$	0.06	0.26	0.38	0.22	0.00	0.04	70.10	0.07	0.03	0.02	27.63	98.82
$KS-17(4)$	0.05	0.26	0.56	0.22	0.02	0.01	69.66	0.05	0.09	0.02	27.67	98.60
$KS-17(7)$	0.09	0.44	0.60	0.28	0.01	0.02	69.78	0.13	0.03	0.02	27.97	99.34
$KS-17(8)$	0.07	0.45	0.52	0.29	0.00	0.03	70.27	0.11	0.08	0.01	28.08	99.92
$KS-17(9)$	0.29	0.56	0.50	0.22	0.05	0.09	70.80	0.09	0.00	0.05	28.51	101.14
$KS-17(11)$	0.42	0.52	0.61	0.27	0.03	0.00	69.36	0.19	0.03	0.03	28.14	99.59
$KS-17(12)$	0.43	0.58	0.69	0.30	0.05	0.00	69.34	0.18	0.00	0.03	28.29	99.87
$KS-17(13)$	0.63	0.86	0.79	0.27	0.09	0.02	68.29	0.16	0.03	0.03	28.43	99.60
$KS-18(1)$	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	71.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	27.27	98.57
$KS-18(2)$	0.02	0.07	0.20	0.06	0.01	0.02	68.31	0.09	0.03	$0.08\,$	26.52	95.39
$KS-18(5)$	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	70.37	0.05	0.04	0.02	27.00	97.60

**Table B2.** Elemental (wt%) concentrations in Keystone Fe ore measured by EMPA. The numbers in parentheses represent the spot analysis number. \*Fe (wt%) represents total Fe. Software optimized to balance FeO and Fe2O3.





## **Appendix C: Full Trace Element Dataset by Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry**

Table C1. Trace element concentrations (ppm) in synthetic glass standard NIST 610 from the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). The average value of all measurements and accepted values by National Institute of Standards and Technology (2012a) and reference<br>therein are given at the end the end of the table. SD = Standard Deviation.<br>Sample therein are given at the end the end of the table.  $SD = Standard Deviation$ .







**Table C2.** Trace element concentrations (ppm) in synthetic glass standard NIST 612 from the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). The average value of all measurements and accepted values by National Institute of Standards and Technology (2012b) and reference therein are given at the end.  $SD =$  standard deviation.







**Table C3.** Trace element concentrations (ppm) in Columbia Basalt glass standard BCR-2GA, shortened to BCR2G within the table, from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The average value of all measurements and accepted values by U.S. Geological Survey (2022b) and<br>reference therein are given at the end the end of the table. SD = standard deviation. reference therein are given at the end the end of the table. SD = standard deviation.

Sample	$1^{23}$ Na (ppm)	2SD	$\left  \frac{24}{10}$ (ppm)	2SD	$25$ Mg (ppm)	2SD	$27$ Al (ppm)	2SD	$29$ Si (ppm)	2SD	$43$ Ca (ppm)	2SD	$^{47}{\rm Ti}$ (ppm)	2SD
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	22650	4877	19117	2950	18101	2877	75192	11349	260242	51482	48647	8860	12725	1969
BCR2G	22767	4489	19480	2615	18540	3055	74786	11223	260072	51911	49760	7514	12956	1975
BCR2G	22739	4262	19390	2744	18944	2968	75396	12901	254952	51628	50207	8459	13135	2030
BCR2G	22568	3172	19643	2423	19012	3004	75315	9715	251617	35208	49499	8337	12931	1673
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23148	4513	19818	3413	19392	2966	75498	11329	257815	45985	50026	10747	13120	1987
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23219	3369	19772	2702	19314	3292	76001	10448	254242	43956	50039	8751	13242	1632
BCR2G	23224	5040	19892	2323	18482	2595	77272	10426	261780	57284	50463	9603	13276	2061
BCR2G	23279	4280	20113	3867	18615	3518	76390	14398	257632	54051	49604	10167	13377	2504
BCR2G	23247	5209	20609	4877	19167	3906	76644	14053	254990	59949	51747	11561	13389	2775
BCR2G	23848	4496	20602	3745	19390	3291	78585	14485	261707	64805	50905	8890	13649	2658
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	22651	2114	19179	1923	18636	1915	74417	6237	254799	44478	49473	6406	12784	1731
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	22821	3206	19326	4036	18733	4523	74288	7538	259124	64333	49977	9890	12741	2859
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23791	3963	19886	5630	19126	6760	76012	7689	267943	105956	50594	17710	13060	4808
BCR2G	23949	3264	20236	5855	19103	6206	75390	6580	269512	94758	50243	14114	13191	4296
BCR2G	23559	3385	19903	3067	19006	3071	75443	6843	263329	56808	49224	7721	12878	2261
BCR2G	23336	3898	19933	2656	18989	3041	75339	6470	259950	45851	50411	8717	12922	1787
BCR2G	23287	3589	20110	3674	19158	4113	75163	7629	261217	65031	50005	9144	13053	2516
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	22944	4460	19703	4456	19006	5912	74759	7953	258723	75250	49753	13611	12962	3601
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	22968	3495	19824	3147	19114	4183	75226	8325	258927	55963	50542	10845	13175	3051
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23114	4263	20507	4845	19420	4887	75576	8689	261937	72123	49436	11570	13168	3532
BCR2G	23127	4654	19768	4193	19506	5135	75379	7199	263679	78300	50664	12035	13032	3199
BCR2G	23258	4154	19804	4243	19628	4919	75244	5908	264066	76771	50920	12899	13066	3579
BCR2G	23633	4120	20223	5384	19575	6264	75930	6599	263903	93430	50391	14620	13475	4054
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23592	4298	20250	4342	19654	4948	76317	7817	262134	74573	50034	14201	13342	3310
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23524	4391	20323	4730	19433	5124	76901	6924	266836	79276	50528	15249	13212	3471
BCR <sub>2G</sub>	23550	4317	20449	4689	19564	5830	76628	6799	266123	81725	50532	13595	13095	3820
BCR2G	23799	4714	20190	5003	19292	6005	76319	8107	267816	89180	49797	14066	13442	3841
BCR2G	23758	4421	20212	5030	19292	5788	76772	8035	267320	93645	50403	14377	13438	4082
BCR2G	23240	6045	18683	3378	18911	4148	76265	8889	275920	88623	49839	12053	12305	2545
BCR2G	23412	6020	18577	2836	18829	3700	76033	7674	275709	86356	49762	11482	12153	2024
Average	23267	4216	19851	3826	19098	4265	75816	8941	262134	67956	50114	11240	13077	2854
Accepted														





**Table C4.** Trace element concentrations (ppm) in Keystone Fe ore collected in 2022 measured by LA-ICP-MS. The numbers in parentheses represent the spot analysis number. All data were processed using Fe as the internal standard based on EMPA Fe analyses. SD = Standard<br>Deviation; LOD = Limit of Detection.<br>Sample  $\begin{vmatrix} 2^3\text{Na(ppm)} & 2\text{SD} \end{vmatrix}$   $\begin{vmatrix}$ Deviation;  $LOD = Limit of Detection$ .

<b>Sample</b>	$23$ Na (ppm)	2SD	$^{24}$ Mg (ppm)	2SD	$^{25}$ Mg (ppm)	2SD	$27$ Al (ppm)	2SD	$29$ Si (ppm)	2SD	$ ^{43}$ Ca (ppm)	2SD	$44$ Ca (ppm)	2SD
$KS-08(2)$	51	119	797	604	792	559	1924	653	2235	1289	351	995	253	583
$KS-08(3)$	1013	835	2988	516	3018	754	7309	1196	9772	3149	3550	2112	3587	1112
$KS-08(4)$	981	247	3193	1425	3245	1461	8317	2005	10000	2818	4897	2368	4781	1161
$KS-08(5)$	798	180	1403	377	1397	400	7220	1271	8452	2942	3164	1456	3400	875
$KS-08(6)$	665	168	1485	302	1480	252	5875	724	7171	1683	2913	1657	2947	643
$KS-08(10)$	1005	598	1748	1798	1735	1869	8420	4912	8643	5467	2573	2176	2891	1979
$KS-08(11)$	859	193	3337	739	3338	633	8051	1414	9844	3574	3933	1385	3985	953
$KS-08(12)$	965	1152	1838	456	1890	459	8443	1142	8241	4933	3083	2407	3019	1861
$KS-15(2)$	698	2397	1715	2861	1704	2831	2849	2432	8965	8792	1338	1162	1428	861
$KS-15(3)$	229	93	284	157	286	181	1161	441	4380	1930	942	818	986	475
$KS-15(4)$	239	138	1645	3451	1576	3353	2440	3426	6839	7783	1380	2151	1184	1139
$KS-15(5)$	66	43	279	406	277	463	578	402	2103	1724	296	508	397	352
$KS-15(6)$	251	51	250	60	255	65	2162	374	3734	1070	1156	599	1126	231
$KS-15(8)$	277	246	300	260	305	272	1411	1334	3736	2518	1019	1173	1029	1066
$KS-15(9)$	333	146	339	153	337	177	2477	1106	4297	1321	1558	877	1520	742
$KS-15(11)$	505	477	1932	3705	1910	3519	4209	4817	8214	9252	2244	2135	2275	1863
$KS-17(1)$	1602	741	3935	1500	4132	2018	8656	2867	12761	5195	5024	3141	4642	1555
$KS-17(2)$	1650	436	4241	1060	4365	1070	10973	2254	13354	3395	4742	2513	4328	1042
$KS-17(3)$	818	568	1853	892	1861	863	5202	2276	9501	6597	3582	3103	3167	1379
$KS-17(4)$	853	141	1965	620	2036	682	6135	1541	9957	2237	3239	1861	3170	800
$KS-17(7)$	635	135	1123	233	1169	353	5655	1118	8000	2223	3765	2558	3642	909
$KS-17(8)$	1121	356	2572	1073	2573	869	6873	2640	10968	4159	4367	3094	4324	1490
$KS-17(9)$	1016	258	3918	999	4042	1408	8013	1457	9403	2575	2980	2237	3051	692
$KS-17(11)$	974	174	4292	895	4343	796	7509	1256	10040	2419	3454	2091	3719	842
$KS-17(12)$	1082	602	3370	1631	3440	1744	8154	2810	10372	4393	3876	2994	3840	1728
$KS-17(13)$	431	173	549	183	561	227	4310	1200	4434	1944	1160	1286	1389	627
$KS-18(1)$	25	$32\,$	61	51	65	56	390	141	2756	2692	$\triangle$ OD		135	216
$KS-18(2)$	98	61	122	87	120	94	475	167	2937	2397	555	1112	386	302
$KS-18(5)$	150	69	405	477	360	419	847	574	4950	3643	938	1220	722	461















**Table C5.** Trace element concentrations (ppm) in Keystone Fe ore collected in 2020 measured by LA-ICP-MS. The numbers in parentheses represent the spot analysis number. All data were processed using Fe as the internal standard based on average preliminary EMPA data of 67wt%, except for 20KS-08b, which used 70wt%.<br>
Sample <sup>23</sup>Na (ppm) 2SD <sup>24</sup>Mg (ppm) 2 67wt%, except for 20KS-08b, which used 70wt%.





