



Josiah Edward Spurr

1870–1950

Josiah Spurr's 1896 U.S. Geological Survey expedition to Interior Alaska led to the first characterization of the Yukon River gold district, describing placer and lode deposits. His 1898 expedition traversed the Kuskokwim River, during which he named many of the region's geographical features. His team made the first scientific observations of Mount Katmai volcano. Spurr's work in Alaska led him to develop theories of magma-derived ore deposits, and he coined the name "alaskite" to describe a light-colored alkali-feldspar-granite. Spurr was regarded as one of the world's foremost geologists in the emerging field of economic geology and was involved in the founding of the Society of Economic Geologists. He also published on the origin of lunar craters, making major contributions to the field.

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