

DAILY MINER

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What can Brown drill for you?

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Miner Staff Reporter

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KINGMAN - Brown Drilling, the only exploration drilling company in Kingman, bought its third exploration rig recently and is sending it to Nevada for work on an active gold mine.

In 2007, the sister and brother team of Amanda and Jon Kaufman bought Brown Drilling - which at the time specialized in water-well drilling - and expanded the business to include exploration drilling.

Exploration drilling is used to search for gold, silver, copper or any other type of material found in the Earth's surface.

There are two ways Brown Drilling is contracted to seek these materials.

First, there is core drilling, Amanda said. Using a cylindrical bit with teeth that contain synthetic diamond, the rig digs into the surface and is able to bring back perfect rock samples. The samples are sliced in two, with half going to an assayer and half being used to show investors what was found. Samples allow assayers to see whether or not a specific site contains an ore body, Amanda explained.

Next, there is reverse-circulation drilling. This type of drilling does not yield perfect rock samples, Amanda said. Instead, the drill pulverizes the rock as it makes its descent into the Earth and sends back cuttings - pebble-sized samples - to the surface.

Core drilling, which is the more expensive option, is more common because the organizations Brown contracts with are often working to open a mine, Jon said. However, it's not uncommon that both types of

drilling are used on a job.



JC AMBERLYN/Miner

Jon Kaufman shows some core drillings Tuesday morning.

If an ore body is 1,500 feet deep, Brown might use reverse circulation to get to the depth of the ore and then switch to core drilling once it's there, Amanda said. That's where Brown's Discovery 2 core drill, which is capable of both types of drilling, comes in handy, she said.

With the purchase of the new rig, a LF70 core drill, Brown's drill count is up to three. All three of the drills are capable of core drilling while the Discovery 2 does both, Amanda said.

The LF70 can dig to a depth of 3,000 feet, but what makes it stand out is its portability. It can be taken off its tracks and heliported to a site. When mounted on Morooka rubber-track carriers, it takes up minimal space compared to other drills.

"It's smaller, less disruptive and leaves a smaller footprint than other drills," Amanda said.

Throughout the year, business is up and down with summer months usually booming, Amanda said. Right now, business is good, she said. Brown's worst autumn occurred in 2008. The company had 24 employees in June of that year; by Christmas only four remained.

"There was no work," Amanda said.

The amount of employees the company holds at any given time is decided by how much work is out there, Amanda said. Currently, Brown employs 17 people and is actually looking for one more.

Amanda said Brown needs a laborer with a commercial driver's license that's willing to work around 80 hours a week.

Brown only needs the worker to drive approximately two hours a day, depending on what project is being worked on, Jon said. Employees work 12-hour shifts for 14 days straight, but then they get more than a week off of work, and the process starts again. It's actually a pretty good deal, Jon said. One works two weeks straight, but then gets a vacation and a large paycheck because of the overtime, he said.

Depending on how things go, Brown may be looking to hire even more in the coming months, Amanda said.

For more information about Brown Drilling, call (928) 757-1920 or visit the company's website, www.browndrilling.com.



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Jon Kaufman stands by the LF70 Core Rig Tuesday morning.

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