

# **Update Report**

**January 18, 2018** 

# SILVER SPRUCE RESOURCES INC.

(TSXV: SSE)

Price: January 18 \$0.065 52-Week Range: \$0.12-\$0.045

Shares O/S: 60.158 million Market Cap: \$3.91 million

**Average Share Volume** 

50-day: 149,600 200-day: 92,100

Year-End: October 31

Symbol: TSX-V: SSE

Website:

www.silverspruceresources.com

**Corporate:** 

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eResearch Analyst (on this report): Bob Weir, B.Sc., B.Comm., CFA



#### THE COMPANY

Silver Spruce Resources Inc. ("Silver Spruce Resources" or the "Company") is a junior mining exploration company with primary interests in two strategic projects:

- 1. **Kay Mine**: located in the State of Arizona in the USA, and comprising a VMS (volcanogenic massive sulphide) deposit of silver-gold-base metals (Ag-Au-Cu-Pb-Zn); and
- 2. **Pino de Plata**: located in the Sierra Madre Occidental region of Chihuahua State in Mexico, also comprising Ag-Au-Cu-Pb-Zn; and

In 2015, Silver Spruce Resources began to reposition itself from being an early exploration company to one seeking properties more advanced in the exploration cycle. To this end, the Company is now focused on the two above properties that are believed to have significant upside potential.

In fiscal Q4 (ending October 31), the Company raised \$132,500, through shares and warrants, to augment its liquidity for meeting its operating expense requirements. In Q1/2018, Silver Spruce received a financing mandate letter from a Hong Kong retail brokerage firm to provide up to US\$1.8 million, with the net proceeds to be used for its drill program at Pino de Plata, and for further development expense on the Kay Mine.

**INITIAL REPORT**: eResearch published its initial report on Silver Spruce Resources on May 26, 2017. A link to that report is <u>HERE</u>. An update report was published on August 17, 2017. For that report, go to this link: <u>LINK</u>

# **KAY MINE**

- Silver Spruce Resources has acquired a 100% interest in a 71-acre property (the Kay Mine property) of patented claims located in Yavapai County, Arizona, about 50 miles north of Phoenix, and near Black Canyon City. The Company successfully staked an additional 400 acres of unpatented claims in the area.
- The Kay Mine was discovered in the 1800s and was mined on a small scale until 1916 and intermittently until 1956. Production of the VMS deposits was set up on 11 levels that were accessed from 4 shafts. However, in 1957, the pumping station was damaged and the mine was flooded.
- Nothing much happened on the property until Exxon Minerals Company purchased it in 1972. Over the next ten years, Exxon Minerals spent about \$1.5 million exploring, mapping, sampling, and drilling. Total drill activity was 23 holes comprising 26,500 feet. A 1982 internal Exxon Minerals report (not NI 43-101 compliant) indicated that the deposit comprised about 6.4 million tons grading an estimated 2.2% Cu (copper), 3.0% Zn (zinc), 1.6 oz/ton of Ag (silver), and 0.082 oz/ton of Au (gold). Additional drilling is required to confirm the Exxon Minerals' estimates.
- In September/October 2017, the Company confirmed sulphide mineralization from historic dumps of underground production. The mineralized material indicated disseminated (widely spread) to semi-massive to massive sulphides.
- Silver Spruce's two-phase budget will provide for property geo-physics on the two Kay Mine deposits, will permit identification of the potential down-strike, and will allow for up to 6,000 metres of drilling that is designed to verify and infill historical drill-hole patterns.
- Field reconnaissance, part of which was conducted with prospective joint venture partners that are productionoriented international mining entities, confirmed vehicle access routes, shafts, and historical drill locations, all of which were part of the geological mapping activities undertaken by Exxon Minerals.
- The Company intends to initiate an exploration program to record and confirm the tonnage and grade outlined by Exxon Minerals, and then complete a NI 43-101 compliant resource estimate.
- In early December 2017, Silver Spruce was sent the first assays of mineralized rock samples designed to verify the findings of the work done by Exxon Minerals. The Company reported that 18 of the 25 samples analyzed comprised VMS and sulphide-bearing material. Further assays (14) are being evaluated.

**COMMENT**: Silver Spruce Resources is studying the possibility of de-watering the mine to give it direct access to the mineralization.

**Figure 1: Kay Mine Patented Claim Boundary** 

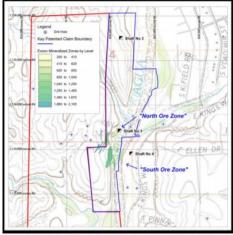


Figure 1: Patented Claim boundary (blue) in relation to Exxon resource envelopes (colored by depth). North and South "Ore Zones" denote the two zones of mineralization defined by Exxon. Area outlined in red is

### PINO DE PLATA

- Silver Spruce Resources acquired a 100% interest in the 397-hectare (980 acres) Pino de Plata property in 2015. The property is located in the south-west part of the northern state of Chihuahua in Mexico, a very mining-friendly jurisdiction, and at the western edge of the prolific Sierra Madre Occidental silver-gold belt. It is approximately 15km southwest of Coeur Mining's open pit/underground silver-gold complex with its sizable Proven+Probable tonnage reserves.
- Some historic surface mining at Pino de Plata revealed high levels of silver but little exploration has been conducted in the last 200+ years, and no drilling has been conducted on the property;
- The Company's NI 43-101 exploration assessment report identified three areas for exploration and drilling, and a permitting process is underway for the initial drill program, which will begin in early 2018. Three highpriority target areas have been identified, as follows.
- El Terrero Target: Comprises an area of 2,000 square metres. A total of six drill holes are planned to a depth of 100 metres.
- Theodora Vein Target: The Company intends to drill three holes to a depth of 100 metres.
- Santa Elena-Gossan Target: Silver Spruce intends to drill 3-5 holes to a depth of 100 metres.

**COMMENT**: For any of the three drill targets, if the drilling at 100 metres remains in mineralized rock, then the Company will continue the drill-bit down to 300 metres.

• The property is located 5-6 km, by a dirt road, south of the town of Chinipas de Almada, which is about 440 km south-west (9-hour drive) of Ciudad Chihuahua. The nearby Chinipas River has several crossings about 7 km south of the town. Crossings would present no difficulties during the dry season, but could prove problematic in the wet season. There is a small, paved airstrip about 1 km north of the town. Labour and supplies are available in Chinipas de Almada. A power-line runs across a corner of the property. There is no rail-line nearby, so transportation will have to rely on the road.





# INVESTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

# A. Strengths

- Silver Spruce Resources Inc. has tactically changed its corporate strategy. The Company's operating emphasis
  has shifted from being an early exploration play to one that is focused on developing properties further
  advanced in the exploration cycle. This will shorten the development timetable and allow the Company to
  bring promising properties into production much sooner;
- The Company is active on two key projects: the Kay Mine in Arizona; and the Pino de Plata project in northern Mexico.
- Silver Spruce Resources recently completed the purchase of the Kay Mine, a substantial silver-gold-base metals property. Once a planned exploration program has finished, the Company intends to proceed to completing a NI 43-101 resource estimate.
- The Company is also intent on advancing its significant silver-gold-base metals property, Pino de Plata, by increasing its drilling and by completing a NI 43-101 Technical Report with a mineral estimate;
- Both Arizona and Mexico are mining-friendly jurisdictions with exceptional mining infrastructure.
- Silver Spruce Resources has ample liquidity to undertake fully its 2018 exploration and development work program (unless the Company entails an extraordinary unexpected expenditure, e.g., an acquisition).

# **B.** Challenges

- The Company's market cap is about \$4.2 million, with only 60 million shares outstanding and, therefore, not suitable for institutional ownership; fairly illiquid share trading (average 150,000 per day over last 50 days and 92,000 per day over the last 200 days);
- The Company regularly needs financing, and equity financing is sometimes difficult when shares sell for less than \$0.10 each;
- Silver Spruce Resources needs to complete its permitting approvals for both of its key properties.
- Once the permits have been received, the Company needs to firm up its deposit information at both the Kay Mine and Pino de Plata, and publish a resource estimate for both projects; and
- Production at its properties is still years away.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TABLE 1: SELECTED ANNUAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
(C\$)	Year End	Year End	Year End	Year End	TTM
Statement of Income (Loss)	Oct 31/2013	Oct 31/2014	Oct 31/2015	Oct 31/2016	Jul 31/2017
General & Administrative	-304,922	-137,103	-147,219	-401,097	-584,667
Exploration & Evaluation Expenses	0	0	-2,075,569	-494,993	-692,553
Other Operating (Expenses)/Income	0	-107,130	1,907,450	193,621	193,621
Non-Operating (Expenses)/Income	15,107	-9,805	-26,958	-14,460	-7,440
Non-Cash Items	-811,882	<u>-759,814</u>	-1,921,110	1,304,487	1,304,289
Net Profit/(Loss)	-1,101,697	-1,013,852	-2,263,406	587,558	213,250
Total Shares Outstanding	11,195,781	14,025,781	21,135,781	39,620,816	60,157,992
Weighted Average Shares O/S	11,179,810	11,203,561	16,601,507	28,694,586	43,851,305
Net Profit/(Loss) Per Share	(\$0.10)	(\$0.09)	(\$0.14)	\$0.02	\$0.00
Cash Flow Statement					
Net Profit/(Loss)	-1,101,697	-1,013,852	-2,263,406	587,558	213,250
Non-Cash Items	811,882	759,814	1,921,110	<u>-1,304,487</u>	<u>-1,304,289</u>
Cash Flow from Operations	-289,815	-254,038	-342,296	-716,929	-1,091,039
Capital Expenditures (Properties)	23,512	-40,507	0	0	-635,545
Other Investing Items	46,527	6,800	<u>0</u>	4,000	<u>0</u>
Free Cash Flow	-219,776	-287,745	-342,296	-712,929	-1,726,584
Working Capital Changes	92,725	208,022	53,245	-31,235	-82,918
Cash Flow before Financing	-127,051	-79,723	-289,051	-744,164	-1,809,502
Equity Financing	0	128,938	183,400	859,316	1,125,226
Debt Financing	30,000	35,000	0	15,000	560,911
Change in Cash	-97,051	84,215	-105,651	130,152	-123,365
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Cash, Beginning of the Period	129,774	32,723	116,938	11,287	141,439
Cash, End of the Period	32,723	116,938	11,287	141,439	18,074
Balance Sheet					
(C\$) As at:	Oct 31/2013	Oct 31/2014	Oct 31/2015	Oct 31/2016	Jul 31/2017
Cash and Equivalents	32,723	116,938	11,287	141,439	18,074
Other Current Assets	39,320	35,198	7,509	21,703	162,378
Mineral Properties	816,885	1,195	1,195	0	1,285,716
Equipment	67,128	49,581	9,491	3,712	0
Investments	<u>338</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>338</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Assets	<u>956,394</u>	203,250	<u>29,820</u>	<u>166,854</u>	<u>1,466,168</u>
Current Liabilities	372,706	532,975	1,280,782	376,702	880,376
Property Acquisition Obligation	0	0	1,124,000	0	0
Shareholders' Equity (Deficiency)	583,688	<u>-329,725</u>	-2,374,962	-209,848	585,792
Total Liabilities & Equity	956,394	203,250	29,820	166,854	1,466,168
Book Value (S.E.) Per Share	\$0.05	(\$0.02)	(\$0.11)	(\$0.01)	\$0.01
Cash Per Share	\$0.00	\$0.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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**COMMENT**: The above statement does not conform to the reporting statement provided by the Company and available on SEDAR. eResearch believes the adjusted format presented above better represents the financial picture of the Company. See more detailed commentary with the next table on the ensuing page.

TABLE 2: SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
(C\$)	3 Months	3 Months	6 Months	6 Months	9 Months	9 Months
Statement of Income (Loss)	Jul 31/2016	Jul 31/2017	<u>Apr 30/2016</u>	Apr 30/2017	<u>Jul 31/2016</u>	Jul 31/2017
General & Administrative	-56,772	-150,289	-196,859	-286,912	-253,631	-437,201
Exploration & Evaluation Expenses	-64,397	18,544	68,310	-212,191	3,913	-193,647
Other Operating (Expenses)/Income	98,711	-875	-98,711	875	0	0
Non-Operating (Expenses)/Income	-438	875	-6,582	-875	-7,020	0
Non-Cash Items	<u>-170,790</u>	<u>-53,559</u>	88,927	-28,502	<u>-81,863</u>	<u>-82,061</u>
Net Profit/(Loss)	-193,686	-185,304	-144,915	-527,605	-338,601	-712,909
Total Shares Outstanding	30,913,047	60,157,992	28,413,047	45,989,566	30,913,047	60,157,992
Weighted Average Shares O/S	28,711,960	48,443,353	22,346,619	41,757,349	24,483,887	43,851,305
Net Profit/(Loss) Per Share	(\$0.01)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.01)	(\$0.02)
Cash Flow Statement						
Net Profit/(Loss)	-193,686	-185,304	-144,915	-527,605	-338,601	-712,909
Non-Cash Items	170,790	53,559	-88,927	28,502	81,863	82,061
Cash Flow from Operations	-22,896	-131,745	-233,842	-499,103	-256,738	-630,848
Capital Expenditures (Properties)	0	-635,545	0	0	0	-635,545
Other Investing Items	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	4,000	<u>0</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Free Cash Flow	-22,896	-767,290	-229,842	-499,103	-252,738	-1,266,393
Working Capital Changes	4,439	13,583	-125,920	-126,111	<u>-121,481</u>	-112,528
Cash Flow before Financing	-18,457	-753,707	-355,762	-625,214	-374,219	-1,378,921
Equity Financing	66,569	211,745	362,166	482,900	428,735	694,645
Debt Financing	<u>0</u>	559,911	15,000	1,000	<u>15,000</u>	560,911
Change in Cash	48,112	17,949	21,404	-141,314	69,516	-123,365
Cash, Beginning of the Period	32,691	125	11,287	141,439	11,287	141,439
Cash, End of the Period	80,803	18,074	32,691	125	80,803	18,074

**COMMENT**: The table above shows the quarterly financials in adjusted eResearch format. In the far right column, the figures for the nine-month period ending July 31, 2017 indicate that the Company had only \$18,074 of cash, and that was after the Company raised a total of \$211,745 in Q3. In Q4 (ending October 31), the estimated equity infusion was \$132,500, which was the amount of a non-brokered private placement that closed on October 31, 2017.

As shown in Table 3 on the following page, based on its nine-month results, the Company is currently experiencing an average monthly "operating burn" between (about) \$45,000 and \$50,000. Using that parameter, the Company would have consumed about \$135,000-\$150,000 in Q4, which would have left it with a small cash balance at the end of its fiscal year. Thus, the Company will need to replenish its cash liquidity, which it did with a December announcement that it received a financing mandate letter from a Hong Kong brokerage firm to provide up to US\$1.8 million from a private placement equity financing. Some of the proceeds will be used for the Kay Mine and Pino de Plata, but there could be sufficient remaining funds to cover all of its fiscal 2018 operating cost requirements. In addition, there are one-year warrants attached to the capital raise which, if the stock performs, could provide a further US\$3,000,000. Wouldn't that be nice!

TABLE 3: SALIENT FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Balance Sheet	Year End	Q1 Ending	Q2 Ending	Q3 Ending
	Oct 31/2016	Jan 31/2017	Apr 30/2017	Jul 31/2017
Cash	\$141,439	\$11,317	\$125	\$18,074
Other Current Assets	\$21,703	\$94,777	\$110,234	\$162,378
Total Assets	\$166,854	\$109,064	\$112,586	\$1,466,168
Current Liabilities	\$376,702	\$508,698	\$341,207	\$880,376
Working Capital	-\$354,999	-\$413,921	-\$230,973	-\$717,998
Working Capital Ratio	0.06	0.19	0.32	0.18
Total Equity	-\$209,848	-\$399,634	-\$228,621	\$585,792
Actual Shares O/S	39,620,816	39,970,816	45,989,566	60,157,992
Weighted Average Shares O/S	28,694,586	39,772,990	41,757,349	43,851,305
Statement of Net Profit/(Loss)	12 Months	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months
	Jan 31/2017	Jan 31/2017	Apr 30/2017	Jul 31/2017
Non-discretionary OpEx ("Burn")	-\$466,386	-\$121,436	-\$286,912	-\$437,201
Average Monthly Burn	-\$38,866	-\$40,479	-\$47,819	-\$72,867
Equity Financing	\$1,001,466	\$198,900	\$482,900	\$694,645
Debt Financing/(Repayment)	-\$10,000	-\$5,000	\$1,000	\$560,911
Exploration/Evaluation Expenses	-\$570,119	-\$86,040	-\$212,191	-\$193,647
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$656,265	-\$228,448	-\$527,605	-\$712,909

Source: Company and eResearch

Table 4: Warrants and Options as at April 30, 2017 (ProForma Dec. 13, 2017)

# WARRANTS

Number	Exercise Price	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	Ī	Potential Equity
2,738,633	\$0.10	20-Apr-2018	Out-of-the-Money		\$273,863
8,457,768	\$0.10	12-Aug-2018	Out-of-the-Money		\$845,777
5,768,750	\$0.12	13-Mar-2019	Out-of-the-Money		\$692,250
2,378,500	\$0.10	13-Jul-2019	Out-of-the-Money		\$237,850
2,650,000	\$0.075	31-Oct-2019	Out-of-the-Money		\$198,750
30,000,000	US\$0.10	13-Dec-2018	Out-of-the-Money	US	\$3,000,000
51,993,651					\$5,974,273

Current Price: \$0.065 (01/18/2018) FX: \$C:\$US (01/18/2018) \$0.8052

# OPTIONS

<u>Number</u>	Exercise Price	Expiry Date	<u>Status</u>	Potential Equity
2,900,000	\$0.15	September 2019	Out-of-the-Money	\$435,000
600,000	\$0.12	May 2019	Out-of-the-Money	\$72,000
3,500,000				\$507,000

Source: Company and e Research

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# ANALYST ACCREDITATION

eResearch Analyst on this Report: Bob Weir, B.Sc., B.Comm., CFA

**Analyst Affirmation:** I, <u>Bob Weir</u>, hereby state that, at the time of issuance of this research report, I do not own shares of Silver Spruce Resources Inc.

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