

Yukon placer mining development and exploration overview, 2025

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van Loon, S., 2026. Yukon placer mining development and exploration overview, 2025. In: Yukon Exploration and Geology, 2025, A. Stuart, L.H. Weston and S.K. Schultz (eds.), Yukon Geological Survey, Government of Yukon, p. 19–38.

Introduction

Placer mining in the Yukon for the 2025 season reported the highest crude gold total in 28 years, exceeding the last record high reported in 1997 (116 383 crude ounces). From April 1 to November 1, 2025, reported placer gold production totalled 104 367 crude ounces, ranking 11th highest in the past 50 years. A total of 165 placer operations contributed to production, a slight increase from 156 in 2024, reflecting expanded activity and leasing by established operators rather than new entrants. The Dawson Mining District continued to host the majority of operations (68%), followed by the Whitehorse Mining District (18%) and the Mayo Mining District (14%). Elevated gold prices were the primary economic driver in 2025, which averaged C\$4811 per ounce (US\$3476/oz) over the reporting period, and reached a record high of C\$6114 per ounce on October 20, 2025. Using a gold price averaged over the entire season, reported production represents an estimated C\$401 million in placer gold revenue, highlighting the industry's continued economic importance to the Yukon.

Climate for mining

Winter began early in October 2024, bringing widespread snowfall across central and southwestern Yukon. From October 2024 to March 2025, temperatures were near to slightly below seasonal averages and precipitation ranged from 75 to 150% of normal (Government of Yukon, 2025a). Snowfall was above average in parts of central and northern Yukon, including Dawson and Old Crow, resulting in a substantial late-season snowpack.

Spring was slow to arrive in April, when daily maximums in Dawson averaged 8°C and the mean temperature was 1.5°C. Overnight freezing persisted throughout most of the month, delaying ground thaw and early start-up at some Dawson-area operations (Government of Yukon, 2025b). By May, daytime highs averaged 15°C and stable conditions allowed sluicing to begin by mid-month (Government of Yukon, 2025c).

Summer weather was favourable across most of the territory. Temperatures in July and August were warmer than normal throughout the Yukon, and Dawson, Mayo

and Whitehorse all recorded above-average mean temperatures. September remained notably warm across most of the Yukon, reporting mean monthly temperatures ranging from 8°C at Burwash Landing to 10.4°C at Whitehorse, approximately 1 to 3°C above normal. Precipitation varied from 32% of normal at Whitehorse to over 130% at Burwash Landing and Dawson. In October, mean temperatures remained warmer than normal across most communities, ranging from 0.1°C at Burwash Landing to 3°C in Whitehorse, representing anomalies of 1.2 to 3.5°C above normal. Precipitation was generally below normal at Whitehorse (40% of normal) and Mayo (69% of normal), whereas Dawson recorded 194% of normal precipitation, marking a notably wetter month in central Yukon (G. Bramwell, pers. comm., 2025). Mild conditions persisted into the fall across much of the territory, which extended the mining season in most placer mining areas and supported the ability for some operations to sluice into early November.

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Gold production summary

The 2025 season marked a significant year for the Yukon placer industry resulting in a reported gold production from April 1 to November 1, 2025 of 104 367 crude ounces. This is the highest reported placer gold production since 1997, reflecting strong industry performance despite a year characterized by elevated operating costs and shifting regulatory and labour conditions. Favourable spring conditions and an extended fall sluicing window further contributed to elevated production across most placer mining areas. The total placer production revenue from April 1 to November 1, 2025, amounted to C\$401 million with an average gold price of C\$4811 per ounce (Fig. 1).

The Yukon is divided into eleven placer mining areas: 1. Bonanza-Hunker; 2. Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River; 3. South Klondike; 4. Fortymile, Sixty Mile, Moosehorn; 5. Clear Creek-McQuesten; 6. Mayo, Keno; 7. Big Creek, Nansen, Hayes-Canadian; 8. Livingstone; 9. Kluane, Ruby Range, Kimberley; 10. Nisutlin-Pelly, Whitehorse South; and 11. Watson, Hyland (Fig. 2). In 2025, the five leading placer mining areas were Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River (57 391 crude ounces), Fortymile, Sixty Mile, Moosehorn (14 003 crude ounces), Bonanza-

Hunker (11 561 crude ounces), South Klondike (10 047 crude ounces), and Mayo-Keno (5114 crude ounces). Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River accounted for 55.0% of the total Yukon placer gold production, followed by Fortymile, Sixty Mile, Moosehorn at 13.4% and Bonanza-Hunker producing 11.1% (Fig. 3).

The number of active operations remained relatively consistent, increasing slightly from 156 in 2024 to 165 in 2025. Of these, 68% were in the Dawson Mining District, 18% in the Whitehorse Mining District, and 14% in the Mayo Mining District. The increase does not reflect new mining areas or an influx of new operators; instead, it is largely attributed to expansions by established operations and, in several cases, next-generation miners initiating activity on existing ground.

Development highlights

Bonanza-Hunker placer mining area

Placer gold production in the Bonanza-Hunker placer mining area totalled 11 561 crude ounces in 2025, a 31% decrease from 16 764 crude ounces in 2024. The main contributors in 2025 were Bonanza Creek

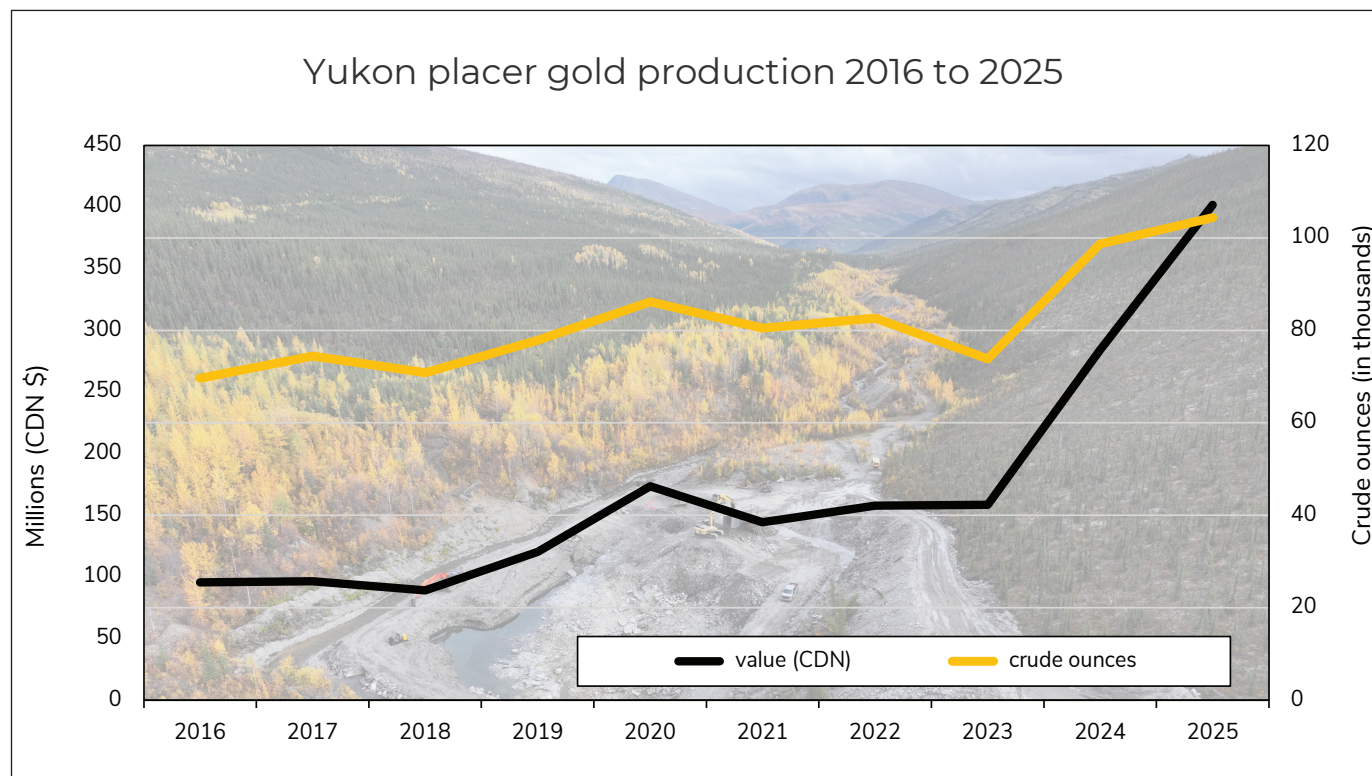


Figure 1. Yukon placer gold production in Canadian dollars over the past ten years including most recent production from April 1 to November 1, 2025. The chart displays crude ounces produced and the total value.

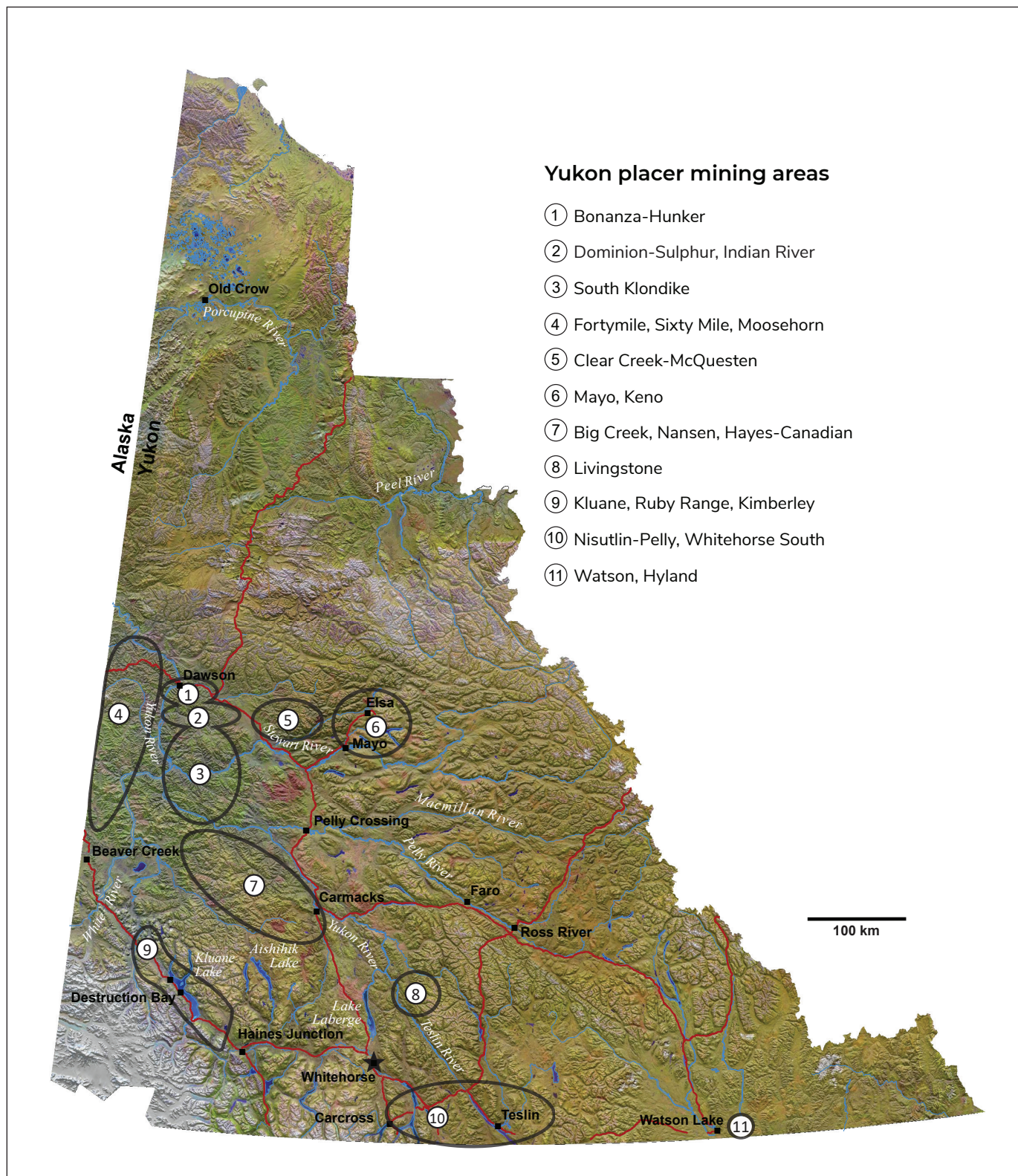


Figure 2. Placer-mining areas of the Yukon.

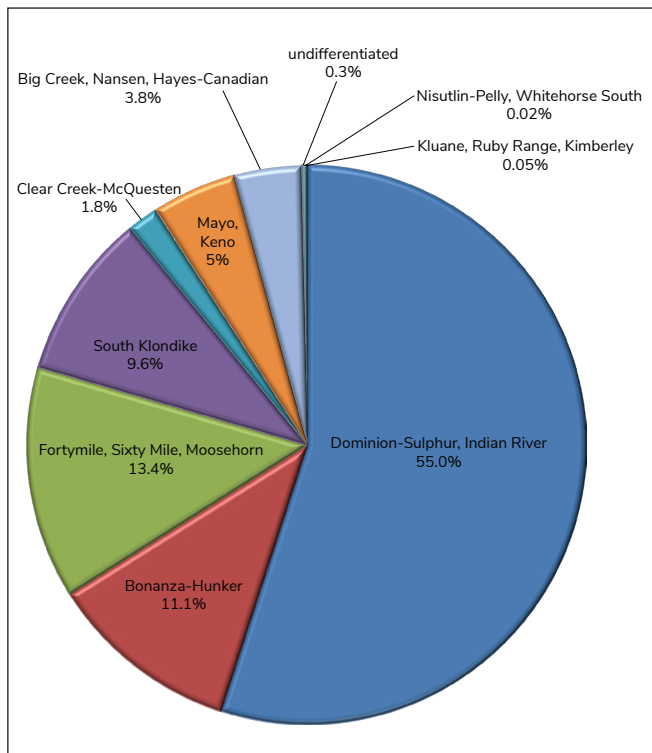


Figure 3. Distribution of placer gold production by placer mining area, based on royalties reported from April 1 to November 1, 2025.

(7358 crude ounces), Hunker Creek (2065 crude ounces), Hattie Gulch (648 crude ounces), Last Chance Creek (618 crude ounces), and Adams Creek (337 crude ounces; Fig. 4).

In spring 2025, Rodal Placers sold their property on Eldorado Creek, located upstream from the confluence with Glacier Gulch, to Le Fevre and Company Property Agents Ltd. The new operator ran a small, two to three-person crew and undertook an exploration-focused season supported by the Yukon Mineral Exploration Program (YMEP). The project targeted two primary areas: potential side pay on the left limit buried beneath a colluvial apron, and a large rockslide on the right limit that fans into the Eldorado Creek valley. Thirty-five sonic drill holes totaling 229 m (750 ft), along with three test pits, were completed to assess these two areas (Fig. 5). Pay gravel was confirmed beneath the slide, and evidence of old-timer workings was observed in the deposit, which led to focussing mining efforts along the toe of the fan to evaluate the thickness and lateral extent of the paleo-Eldorado Creek floodplain into the right limit.

FellHawk Enterprises Ltd. continued leasing ground on Bonanza Creek from R. Berglund and D. Trudeau for a fifth consecutive season, having initiated work on the property in 2021. All mining activity was focused on the left limit of Bonanza Creek, using a crew of up to six people. The company completed sonic drilling to evaluate the potential for remnant in-situ Bonanza Creek gravel that may have been missed by historical dredging due to its proximity to the valley wall, as well as side pay buried beneath hydraulic tailings. Drilling results confirmed the presence of in-situ pay extending beneath the Bonanza Creek road. As a result, the focus of the 2025 season was to relocate the road and progressively mine upstream along the left limit.

In February 2024, Northern Shovel Resources Ltd. purchased three claims on Hunker Creek from M. Wierda. The claims are located between Hester and Independence creeks and were formerly part of a larger block of claims held by the late D. Gould. The ground was previously dredged, but the company is evaluating remnant in-situ gravel preserved on bedrock beneath tailings. In August, the operation moved to a new property in the Mayo Mining District.

H3 Mining Corporation continued mining on Hattie Gulch throughout the 2025 season, following their acquisition of the property in 2024. A 20-person crew focused on the concurrent development of cuts on both the left and right limits of Hattie Gulch, situated on top of Australia Hill. Mining targeted the lowermost 9 m (30 ft) of White Channel gravel directly overlying bedrock. Crews alternated between the two limits, stripping and sluicing simultaneously, as they waited for thaw to progress. The stratigraphy on the left limit consists of 20 m (66 ft) of lower White Channel gravel overlain by 21 m (70 ft) of upper White Channel gravel. This season, H3 Mining Corporation received YMEP funding to support a drilling campaign on both limits of Hattie Gulch. The program successfully delineated the lateral extent of pay as the company continues to mine into the slope on both sides of the gulch.

Jerusalem Mining began work on Too Much Gold Creek in 2025, after optioning the ground from the Too Much Gold ownership group (Fig. 6). The left-limit tributary of the Klondike River is situated immediately downstream from Allgold Creek. Extensive exploration has occurred in the drainage, including hand shafting and drilling; furthermore, operators have received YMEP funding to support various programs over the years. A seven-person crew was active throughout the 2025 season, completing a cut 366 m (1200 ft) long, averaging 36 m (120 ft) wide, and 3.7 m (12 ft) deep. In the valley

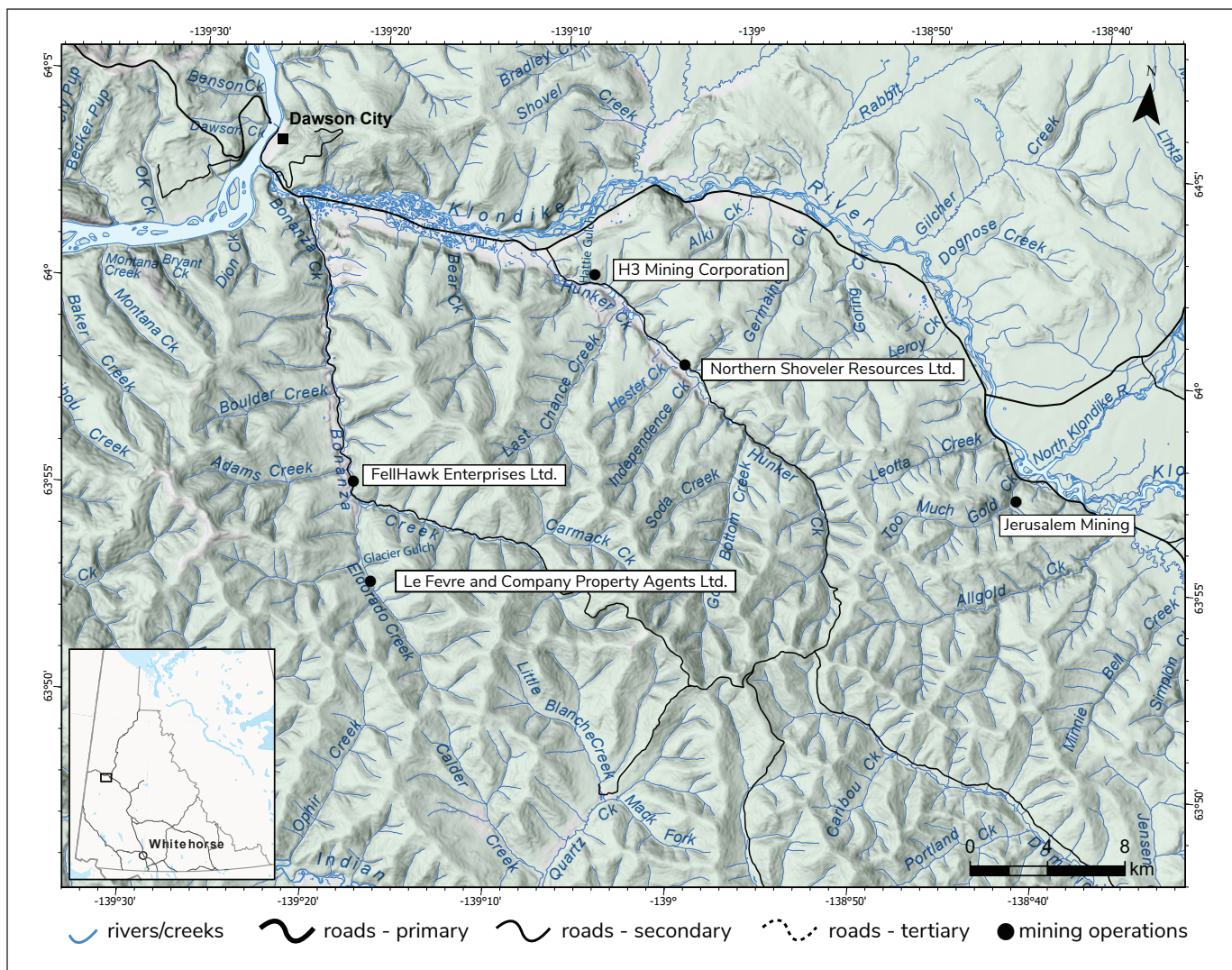


Figure 4. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Bonanza-Hunker placer mining area.



Figure 5. Le Fevre and Company Property Agents Ltd. completed 35 sonic drill holes on Eldorado Creek in June 2025 through the YMEP program. The drill rig is shown on the left limit of the creek (right side of image). The view is looking upstream.

bottom, an observed section measured 3.4 m (11 ft) in total thickness to bedrock, and depth increased at the base of the slope where a colluvium apron thickened. The pay unit is a compact, poorly sorted, matrix-supported gravel containing subrounded clasts. A high-energy depositional setting was interpreted due to the presence of weathered bedrock fragments in the lowermost 0.6 m (2 ft) of the gravel. The recovered gold is predominantly fine grained and has a fineness of 82%.

Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River placer mining area

The Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River placer mining area remained the top producer in 2025, reporting 57 391 crude ounces, a 24% increase from 46 217 crude ounces in 2024. The area continued as the leading contributor to Yukon placer gold production, accounting for 55.0% of the territory's total reported ounces. The top producing drainages in 2025 were Indian River (17 409 crude ounces), Dominion Creek (16 896 crude ounces), Sulphur Creek (7562 crude ounces), Eureka Creek (7416 crude ounces), and Montana Creek (3163 crude ounces; Fig. 7).

Armstrong Mining commenced their first season of mining in 2025, operating on a large claim block leased from Klondike Gold Corp. The 239 placer claim block is situated in the Indian River valley, encompassing the mouth of Montana Creek and extending downstream. The claims had not been extensively mined since 316 Mining was active in 2015. The operation employed a nine-person crew and had an ambitious first year completing seven cuts by July without conducting pre-season stripping (Fig. 8). They quickly caught up, using two Komatsu 475 bulldozers in tandem to strip muck and a sandy, pebble gravel. Cuts ranged from 6 to 9 m (20–30 ft) in total thickness, and sluicing targeted the lowermost 3 m (10 ft), which included auriferous gravel and several feet of bedrock. Material was processed at a rate of 115 m³ (150 yd³)/hr using a Macon T600 trommel.

The company 16406 Yukon Inc. holds a large claim block that covers an area on mid-Montana Creek and continues up Steele Creek, a right-limit tributary of Montana Creek. Significant exploration began in 2023, including an extensive sonic drill program. Results from the drilling guided mining in 2024 and 2025, and efforts focused on the left limit of the modern Montana Creek valley, along the rim of a low-level bench that extends the length of the drainage into the Indian River valley. A five-person crew mined an average of 1.2 m



Figure 6. Jerusalem Mining's sluicing operation on Too Much Gold Creek in 2025. The view is looking upstream.

(4 ft) of pay gravel overlying bedrock that is composed of a conglomerate unit rich in quartz pebbles (mapped as the Indian River Formation). Minimal stripping was required (maximum of 3 m [10 ft]), and the material was composed of black muck and fine pebble gravel.

DK Gold Inc. continued mining on Green Gulch, a left-limit tributary of upper Sulphur Creek, focusing on two target areas during the 2025 season. DK Gold Inc. worked in collaboration with Lucky Dog Mining, employing up to eight people. On the upper part of the drainage, the crew used a single water monitor to thaw several metres of frozen black muck and massive ice in an area that had been extensively mined by old-timers. At the mouth of Green Gulch, immediately upstream from its confluence with Sulphur Creek, DK Gold identified a new target on the left limit. Initial interest in the area was piqued by the presence of an exposed historical shaft at surface; this prompted a sonic drill program in the spring of 2025. They stripped a cut 84 by 98 m (275 × 320 ft) on the left limit of lower Green Gulch and completed sluicing 3/4 of the cut. Figure 9 displays some of the coarse gold recovered in the lowermost cut, including a 28 g (1 oz) nugget.

In 2025, L. Humrickhouse returned for a second season leasing ground from R. Stuart on Caribou and Dominion creeks. In 2024, mining was focused on Caribou Creek; the operation shifted into the Dominion Creek valley for the 2025 season. A five-person crew investigated in-situ gravel that was believed to occur beyond the historical dredge limit, which led to the discovery of a mid-level bench deposit. The deposit is composed of gravel up to 1.5 m (5 ft) in thickness at

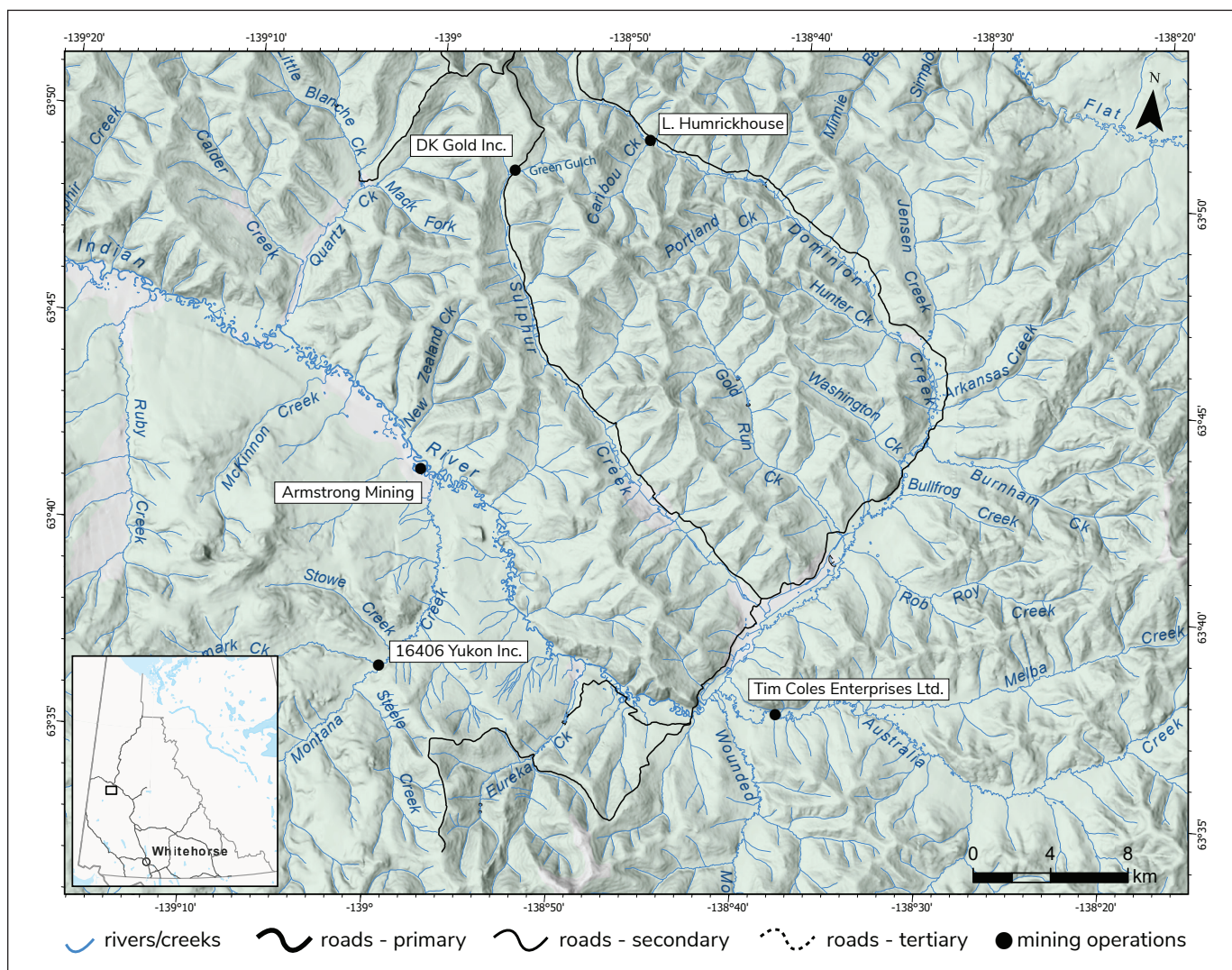


Figure 7. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River placer mining area.

the rim. It is characterized by pervasive oxidation and contains a high concentration of weathered clasts. Minimal stripping was required along the outer edge of the bench, consisting of 3 m (10 ft) of overburden. The thickness of overburden increases toward the hillslope and is overlain by a colluvial apron. Fine gold was recovered from the bench deposit.

Tim Coles Enterprises Ltd. returned for his second season mining on Australia Creek, working claims leased from Metallic Minerals Corp. Equipment was moved into the drainage late in the 2024 season. An eight-person crew operated approximately 2.5 km upstream from the confluence with the Indian River, in the vicinity of ground previously worked by Little Flake Mining in 2023. In preparation for the 2025 season, 30 sonic drill holes were completed to inform the mine

plans for both the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Mining efforts targeted a bedrock reef previously intercepted by Little Flake Mining at the upstream end of their cut. Coarse gold was associated with the reef, suggesting it may have functioned as a trap (Fig. 10). Gold recovered from the site has a fineness ranging from 86 to 88%.

Fortymile, Sixty Mile, Moosehorn placer mining area

Fortymile, Sixty Mile and Moosehorn placer mining area production increased in 2025, reporting 14 003 crude ounces, up from 12 794 crude ounces in 2024. For the first time in the past ten years, the Fortymile, Sixty Mile, Moosehorn placer mining area ranked as the second highest producer, contributing 13.4% of the Yukon's total placer production. Continued growth



Figure 8. Mining cuts on the Indian River, outlined by white dashed lines, completed by Armstrong Mining as of July 2025.

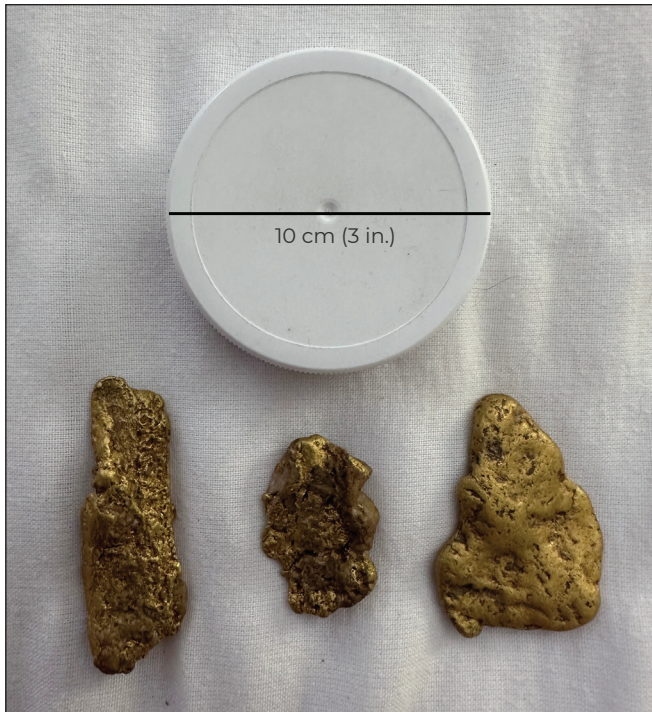


Figure 9. Coarse gold recovered from Green Gulch by DK Gold Inc. The largest nugget weighs 28 g (1 oz).



Figure 10. Bedrock reef exposed in Tim Coles Enterprises Ltd. cut in 2025 on Australia Creek (delineated by white dashed lines).

reflects expanded workings and strengthened output from core contributors within the placer mining area. The Sixty Mile River remained the dominant producer, reporting 10 176 crude ounces and accounting for most of the area's total production. Additional contributors included Browns Creek (1123 crude ounces), Ten Mile Creek (772 crude ounces), Kate Creek (tributary of Great Bear Creek; 505 crude ounces), and Glacier Creek (237 crude ounces; Fig. 11).

In 2025, H. Clopp leased Cheryl and Ralph creeks, both left-limit tributaries of Fifty Mile Creek, from claim owner R. Nordling. Equipment was mobilized in early July, and ground was opened on lower Cheryl Creek, approximately 0.8 km upstream from the confluence with the Fifty Mile River. Mining focused on a 4.6 m (15 ft)-thick section, targeting the lowermost 0.6 m (2 ft) of auriferous gravel and up to 0.6 m (2 ft) of

bedrock composed of variably oxidized muscovite schist (Fig. 12). A boulder lag present at the bedrock contact marked a high-energy depositional environment and defines the pay layer. Prospecting efforts were aimed at delineating the extent of a paleochannel that appears to be continuous along the right limit. This channel was not reworked during incision on lower Cheryl Creek. However, evidence of significant downcutting is observed below a left-limit bench where the modern creek level is incised 9.1 m (30 ft) within the current valley bottom.

Favron Enterprises Ltd. and Northern Envy continued their operations in the West Yukon area, marking their second year of sluicing high volumes of pay. Following camp mobilization in September 2024, the operation ran at full capacity throughout the 2025 season, with a crew of up to 13 people. By July, four large cuts

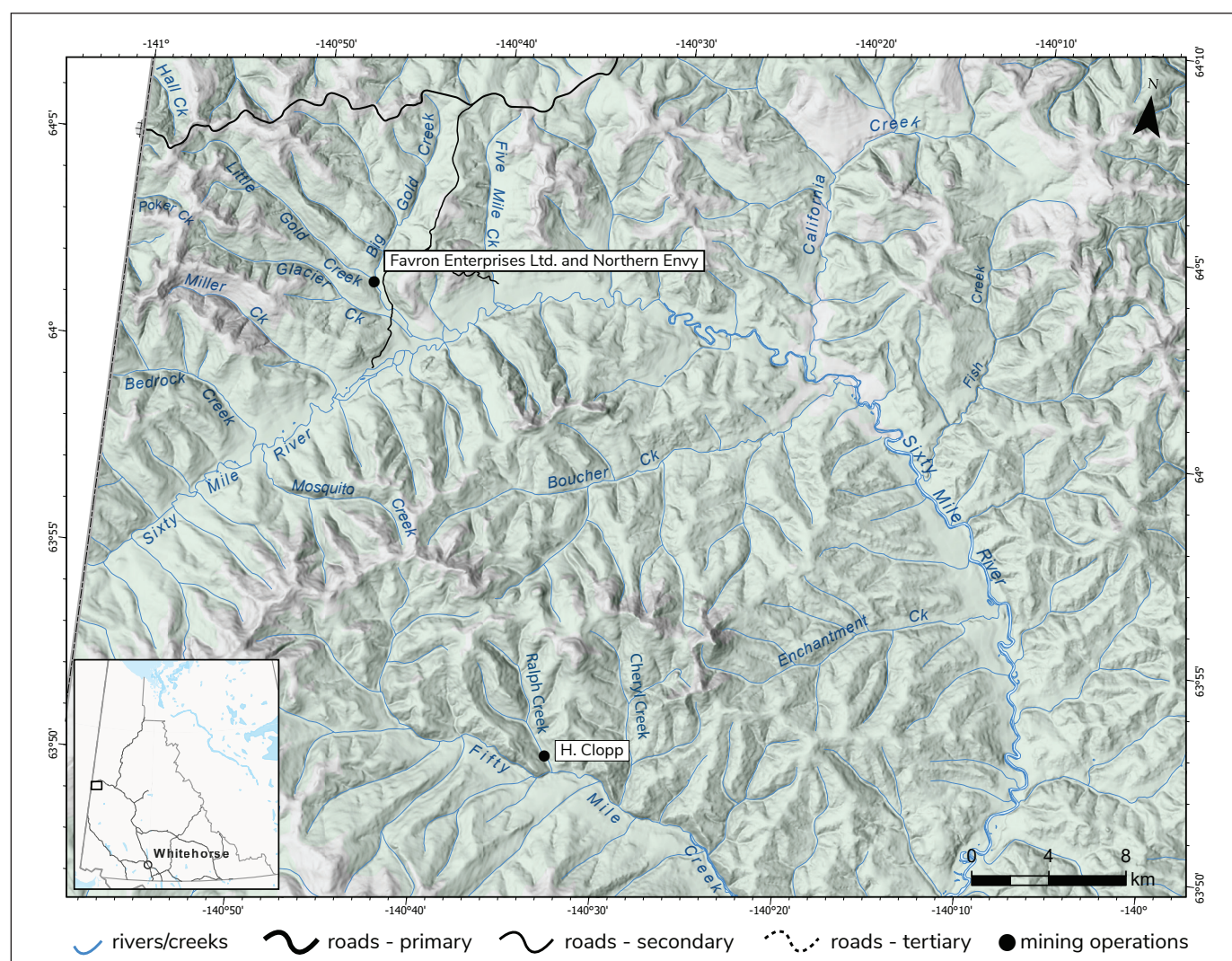


Figure 11. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Fortymile, Sixty Mile and Moosehorn placer mining area.

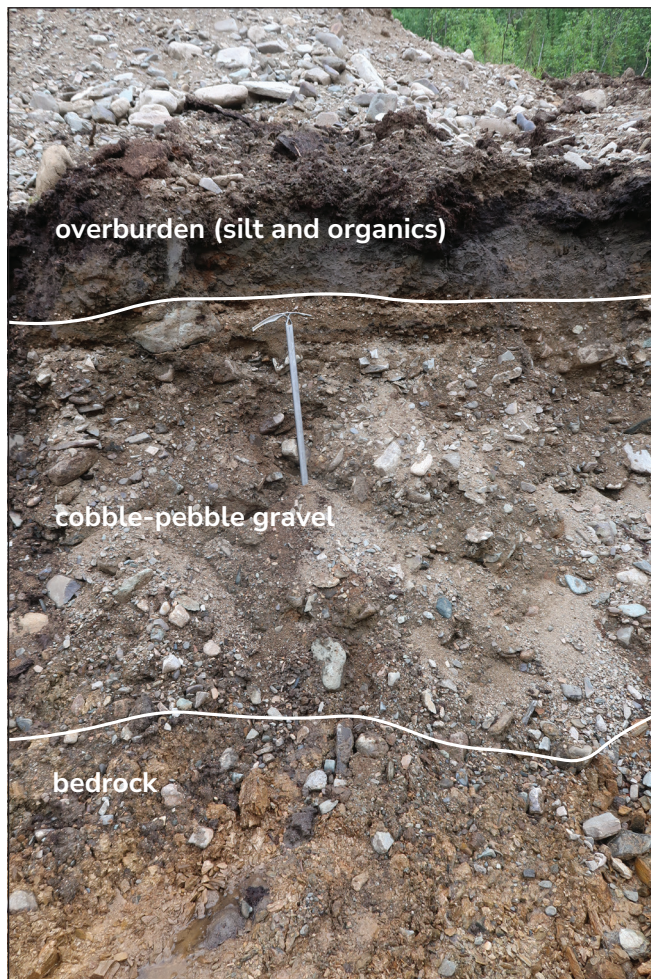


Figure 12. Section exposed on lower Cheryl Creek in July 2025. An ice axe for scale measures 0.9 m (3 ft).

had been completed, and a fifth cut was underway on the right limit of Glacier Creek. Cut 1, measuring approximately 32 500 m² (350 000 ft²), was situated between Glacier and Big Gold creeks, which flow parallel to one another before they meet the Sixty Mile River. Cut 2, which is the largest at 46 500 m² (500 000 ft²), was situated on the far left limit of Big Gold Creek near its confluence with the Sixty Mile River valley. Cut 3 was located in the centre of the valley, adjacent to historic dredge tailings on the right limit. Cut 4 measured 55 700 m² (600 000 ft²) and averaged 6 m (20 ft) in depth, and consisted of 3 m (10 ft) of mud overlying 3 m (10 ft) of gravel. Recovered gold has an average fineness of 84%, and 90% of the gold grain population is rice-sized or smaller. Extensive sonic drilling was completed across the property, and drill holes were spaced at 30 m (100 ft) intervals along fences set every 150 m (500 ft). This comprehensive drill program provided detailed resource calculations to support a multi-year mine plan. They sluiced a total of 191 139 m³ (250 000 yd³) of pay gravel in 2025.

South Klondike placer mining area

The South Klondike placer mining area reported 10 047 crude ounces in 2025, representing a 12% decrease from 11 417 crude ounces in 2024. Henderson Creek remained the dominant contributor, producing 5627 crude ounces, or more than half of the area's total output. Other top contributors were Black Hills Creek (1456 crude ounces), Scroggie Creek (1136 crude ounces), Barker Creek (680 crude ounces), and Brewer Creek (403 crude ounces; Fig. 13). The overall decrease reflects reduced output from several secondary drainages due to a shift in active operations, while core production from Henderson Creek remained stable.

The Maisy May drainage, which has had limited activity in recent years, was a hub of mining activity during the 2025 season. The most significant development was a change in ownership: Bedrock Mining Company Inc. sold the property to FellHawk Enterprises Ltd. in the fall of 2024. The 2025 season marked FellHawk Enterprises first year of sluicing on the creek, commencing in July after relocating from their former operation on North Henderson Creek. Operating with a four-person crew, FellHawk Enterprises targeted potential side pay that had not undergone mechanized mining during the 1970s. Historic air photos were used to identify those areas that remained untouched. Work focused on a single cut on the left limit, situated 1.7 km downstream from the mouth of Patton Creek. The cut measured 24 m (80 ft) wide and 207 m (680 ft) long (Fig. 14). Pay was considered to be the lowermost 0.9 to 1.2 m (3–4 ft) of a unit of pervasively oxidized, high-energy, poorly sorted gravel in contact with bedrock.

Two additional sluicing operations were active on lower Maisy May Creek in 2025, which were both on leased ground from 40419 Yukon Inc. Full Throttle Gold Syndicate Inc., who tested the property during the 2024 season, commenced a full year of mining in 2025. The company also received support from YMEP, which helped to fund a sonic drill program to evaluate the potential of bench deposits in the lower part of the drainage. Mining targeted both limits of the valley, and they processed material with a Gold Machine 250 trommel at a rate of 122 m³ (160 yd³)/hr. The pay gravel averages 1.2 m (4 ft) in thickness, and overlies a highly undulating bedrock surface with a well-defined boulder lag at the contact. The recovered gold is predominantly fine grained, and has an assay fineness of 78%. The largest nugget weighed 8 g.

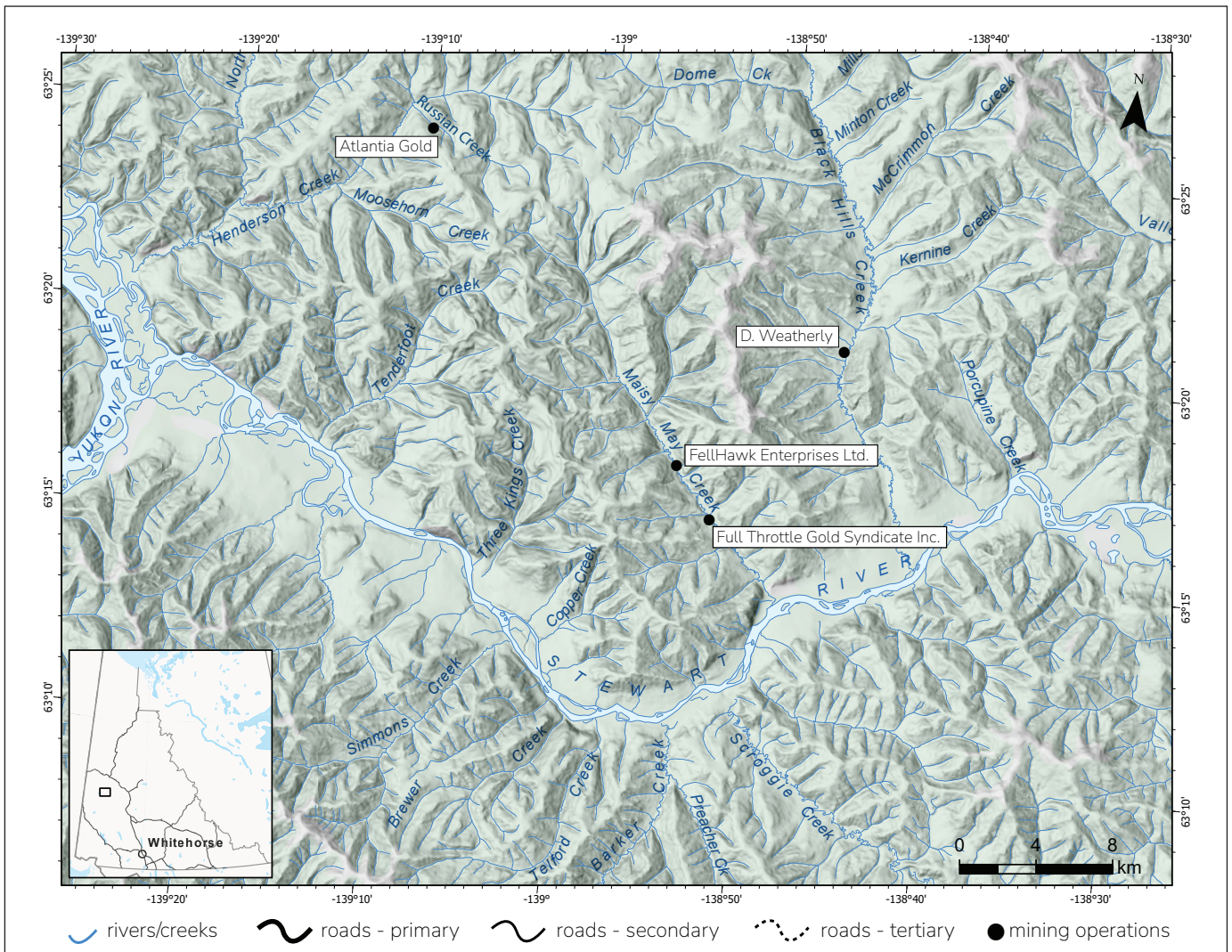


Figure 13. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the South Klondike placer mining area.

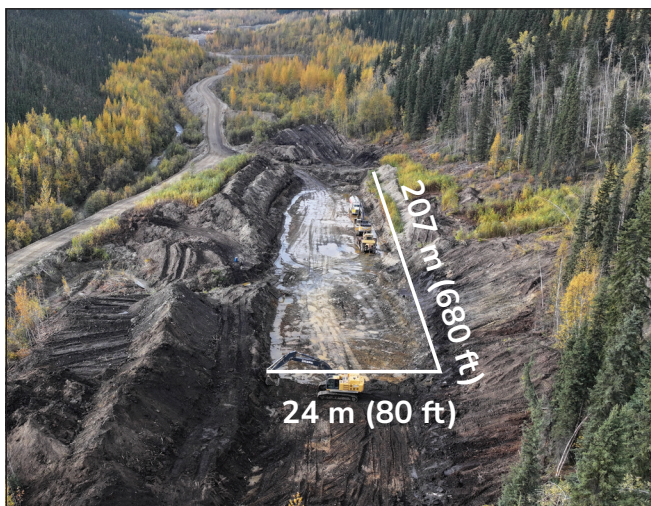


Figure 14. Fellhawk Enterprises Ltd. left-limit cut, situated 1.7 km downstream from Patton Creek. The view is looking upstream.

In 2025, D. Weatherly shifted his operation from Dome Creek and mid Black Hills Creek to a new site on lower Black Hills Creek, where he leased ground from T. Nixdorf. This location represents the lowermost active placer operation in the Black Hills drainage and had been inactive for a number of years prior to Weatherly's move. An eight-person crew was employed throughout the season. Mining focused on two settings: a right-limit bench and the modern valley bottom (Fig. 15). The bench cut measured 81 by 114 m (265 × 375 ft), while the valley-bottom cut measured 152 by 87 m (500 × 285 ft). In the valley bottom, operators stripped 1.8 m (6 ft) of pebble gravel and sand before reaching the pay unit, which consisted of a cobble-pebble gravel.

Atlantia Gold continued mining on Russian Creek, a left-limit tributary of upper Henderson Creek. The company has been steadily advancing upstream since



Figure 15. D. Weatherly's two cuts on Black Hills Creek completed in 2025; a right-limit bench cut and a modern, valley-bottom cut. The view is looking upstream.

2016 and is now active approximately 2.5 km above the confluence with Henderson Creek. In 2025, the operators mined rim to rim where, at that location, the valley bottom is 40 m (130 ft) wide. The operation employed between three and five people throughout the season. Stripping included 3.0 to 3.7 m (10–12 ft) of black muck and organic material overlying 0.9 to 1.5 m (3–5 ft) of pay gravel, all of which was sluiced. Notably, as mining progressed upstream, the gold recovered became slightly coarser. An incised bedrock gutter was identified within the drainage, measuring 2.4 to 3.0 m (8–10 ft) wide and up to 1.2 m (4 ft) deep. This feature is highly sinuous and represents a meandering channel carved into bedrock and could be responsible for the increase in recovery of coarse gold.

Clear Creek-McQuesten placer mining area

Placer production in the Clear Creek-McQuesten placer mining area increased in 2025, reporting 1864 crude ounces, up from 1143 crude ounces in 2024. This represents a 63% increase from the previous year and reflects strengthened output from a limited number of active operators. Clear Creek remained the dominant contributor, producing 1733 crude ounces, while Barlow Creek reported 130 crude ounces. Although overall production volumes in this placer mining area remain modest, the 2025 increase highlights continued activity and scale of the active operations in the area (Fig. 16).

Scott and Son Mining resumed their operations from the same location as last year but progressing further downstream. Mining took place on the main stem of Clear Creek, 7.5 km downstream from the confluence of the upper forks of the creek. An eight-person crew targeted right-limit side pay that had been overlooked by earlier mining (Fig. 17). The pay averaged 1.2 m (4 ft) in thickness and has a maximum thickness of up to 1.8 m (6 ft). Gold distribution and concentration is controlled by faulting in the modern valley bottom. A series of cross-cutting faults were observed by the operator and was noted to have contributed to the high grades recovered on the downstream side. The pay gravel is a compact, high-energy, boulder-cobble gravel, and all gravel encountered was sluiced as pay.

Mayo, Keno placer mining area

Placer production in the Mayo, Keno area increased in 2025, reporting 5114 crude ounces, up from 4354 crude ounces in 2024. This reflects a 17% increase from the previous year and steady activity across several established drainages. The district contributed 5% of the Yukon's total placer gold production in 2025. Hight Creek was the leading contributor, producing 1701 crude ounces, followed by Granite Creek with 1570 crude ounces. Additional production was reported from Owl Creek (544 crude ounces), Minto Creek (534 crude ounces), and Ross Creek (317 crude ounces; Fig. 18).

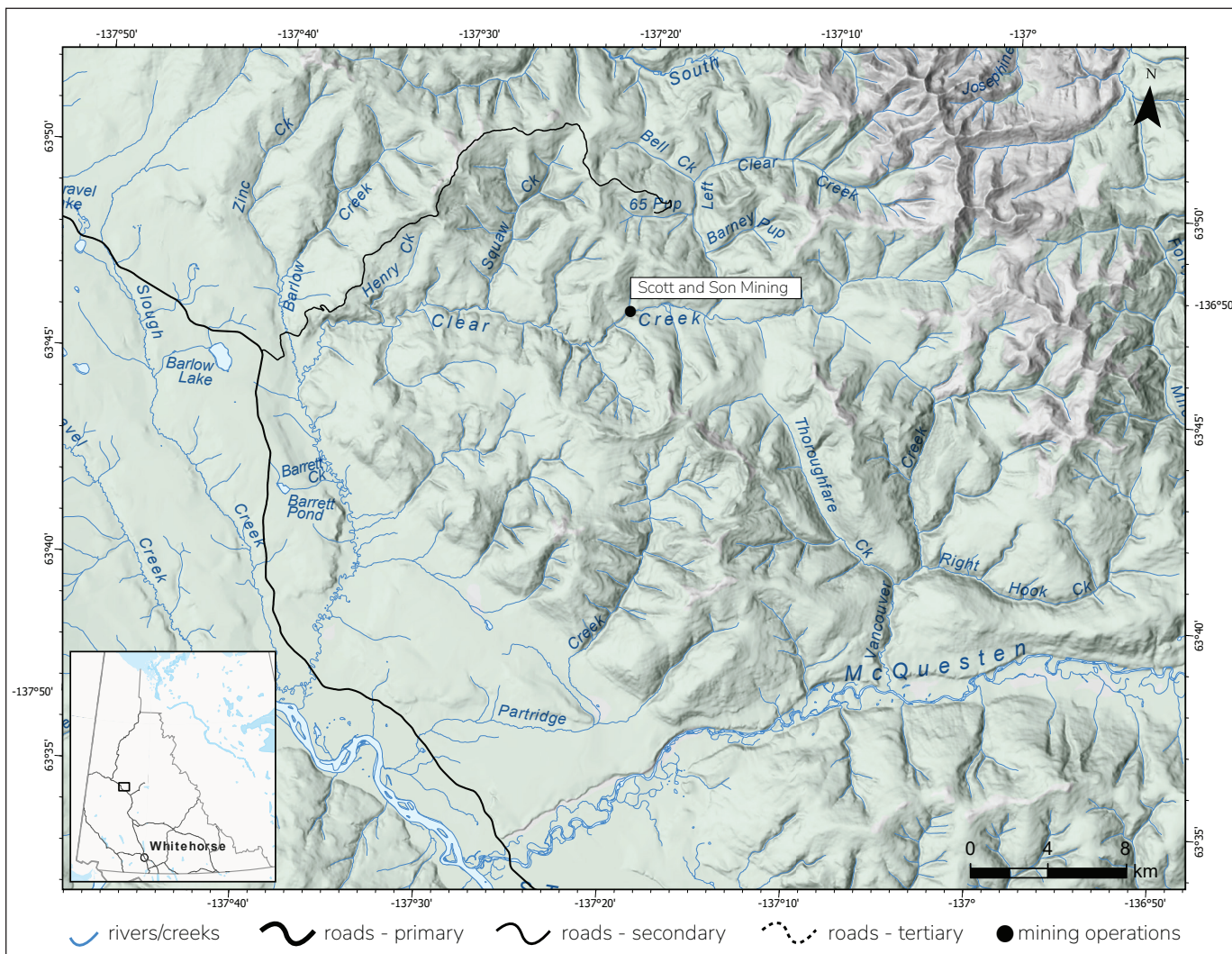


Figure 16. Location of the highlighted placer operation in the Clear Creek-McQuesten placer mining area.



Figure 17. Scott and Son Mining's operation on Clear Creek, 7.5 km downstream from the confluence of the upper forks of Clear Creek. The view is looking upstream.

Taylor Mining and Reclamation Ltd. initiated mining on their Upper Duncan Creek claims during the 2025 season, approximately 1.8 km upstream from the confluence with Duncan Creek proper (Fig. 18). The ground was staked in 2023, and a three-person crew undertook their first year of production following an extensive exploration program in the drainage that included geophysics on a bench deposit (resistivity and lidar surveys) and sonic drilling. Historical activity on the property dates back to the early 1980s, when Nugget Drilling & Company was active in the drainage; they were followed by C. Barchan who continued to mine in the area through to the mid-1990s. The current cut, measuring 15 by 41 m (50 × 135 ft), had been previously disturbed and is presumed to have been incompletely excavated by earlier cat-mining methods. The bedrock surface is highly undulating and extensively fractured, conditions that would have been difficult to mine effectively using cat-mining methods

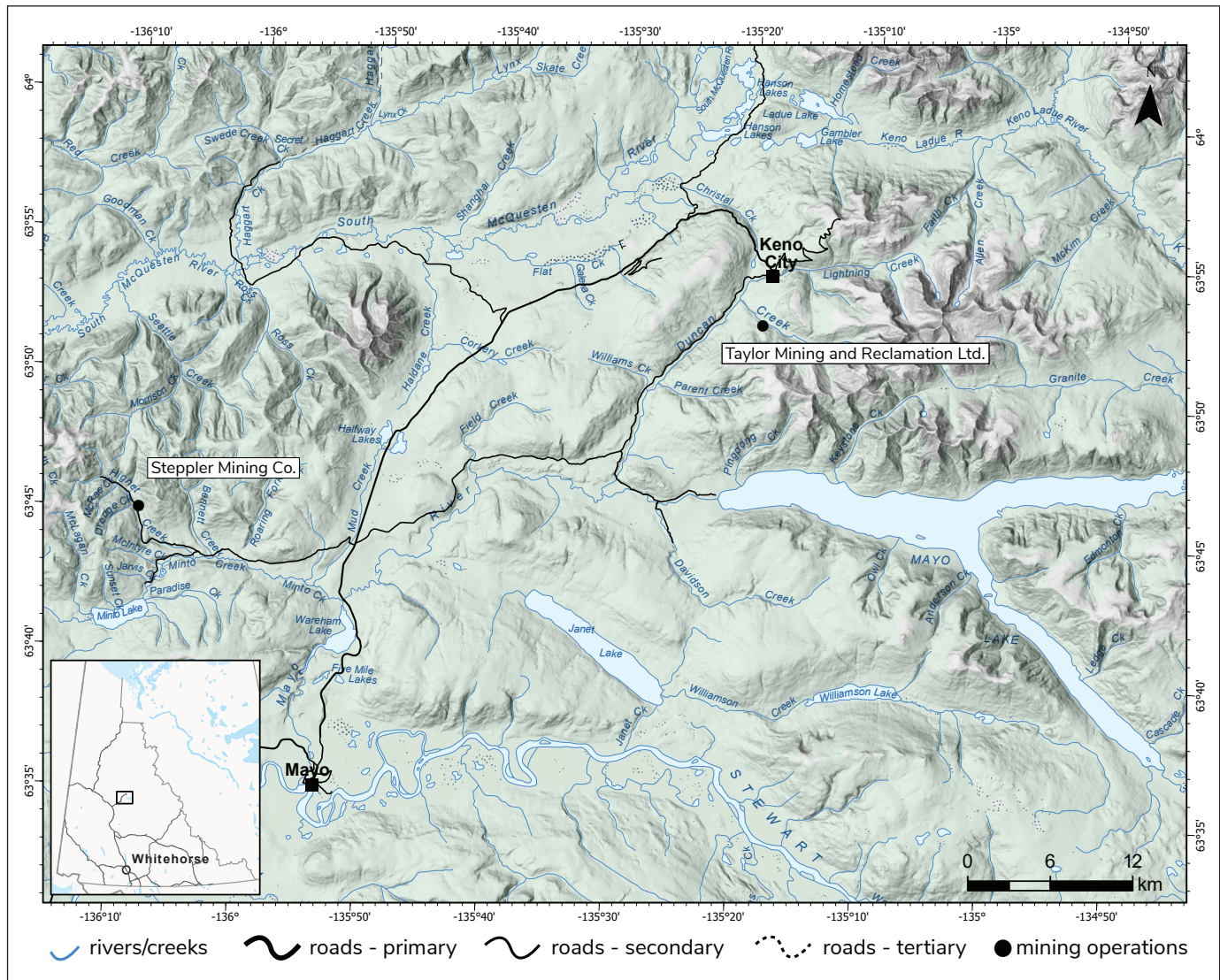


Figure 18. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Mayo, Keno placer mining area.

(Fig. 19). The total thickness of the section in the cut was 6 m (20 ft), and all material was sluiced using a scalping deck plant capable of processing 57 m³ (75 yd³)/hr.

Steppler Mining Co. continued mining on Hight Creek at the mouth of Dredge Creek with a four-person crew, shifting from the left limit in 2024 to the right limit in 2025. The operation began on a lower right-limit bench, where 19 000 m³ (25 000 yd³) of material was sluiced. By mid season they relocated upstream to an area that had been previously dredged and later cat mined, and current efforts targeted side pay, as well as other areas untouched by previous mining. Earlier cat mining terminated on a graphitic schist layer thought to be bedrock; however, C. Steppler identified it as false bedrock and exposed a paleo Hight Creek channel

preserved beneath. Coarse gold, including nuggets weighing up to 7 g (1/4 oz), were recovered from the right limit in 2024, whereas gold grains recovered on the left limit in 2025 were finer grained. The coarse component of the gold recovered in 2025 is shown in Figure 20. The graphitic schist unit was poorly exposed at the time of the site visit but it may represent a slide or an overhanging feature incised by the paleochannel.

Whitehorse Mining District

The Whitehorse Mining District is comprised of four placer mining areas: 1. Big Creek, Nansen, Hayes-Canadian; 2. Livingstone; 3. Klauene, Ruby Range, Kimberley; and 4. Nisutlin-Pelly, Whitehorse South. Reported production in the Whitehorse Mining District is predominantly derived from Big Creek, Nansen,



Figure 19. Undulating and blocky bedrock surface exposed in Taylor Mining and Reclamation Ltd.'s cut on upper Duncan Creek in 2025.

Hayes-Canadian placer mining area, reporting 4% of the Yukon's total production as of November 1, 2025. The top three producing drainages in the Whitehorse Mining District are Nansen Creek (1508 crude ounces), Canadian Creek (tributary of the Yukon River; 1254 crude ounces) and Seymour Creek (779 crude ounces; Figs. 21 and 22), all of which are drainages in the Big Creek, Nansen, Hayes-Canadian placer mining area.

Following their 2024 season on upper Nansen Creek, Reno Contracting relocated their operation southeast to Victoria Creek, a tributary of the Nisling River. Mining was conducted under a water licence held by Mammoth Mining Inc., purchased earlier in the year. A six-person crew focused on a right-limit tributary of Victoria Creek, dedicating the early part of the season to testing and completing 765 m³ (1000 yd³) of bulk samples across several units. The 2025 exposure consisted of three units overlying a clay layer that acted as a false bedrock. Unit 1, from 0 to 1.8 m (0–6 ft), consists of Nansen till; unit 2, a periglacial gravel, extends from



Figure 20. Coarse gold recovered from Stepler Mining Co.'s operation on Hightett Creek in 2025.

1.8 to 4.0 m (6–13 ft); and unit 3, from 4.0 to 6.7 m (13–22 ft), comprises Klaza till. The periglacial gravel between the two till units was identified as the most economic material (Fig. 23). Drilling (using a privately owned rig) was used to inform the size and dimension of the cut for the 2025 season, targeting deep ground where total depth to bedrock was 26 m (85 ft). Material was processed using a shaker-deck plant at a rate of 45 to 75 m³ (60–100 yd³)/hr.

Ownership on Back Creek in the Nansen area shifted this season when L. Hearn sold the claim block to Jopebo Mining Inc., a company based in Namibia (southern Africa). This was the operator's second year on the ground, as they gradually increased capacity at the site, operating a daily single shift with a six-person crew. Sonic drilling of 21 holes in 2024 directed this year's mining efforts. The targeted pay unit is a pre-glacial gravel on the left limit, where 1.8 m (6 ft) of material was sluiced, including the uppermost part of bedrock. A trommel processed material at a rate

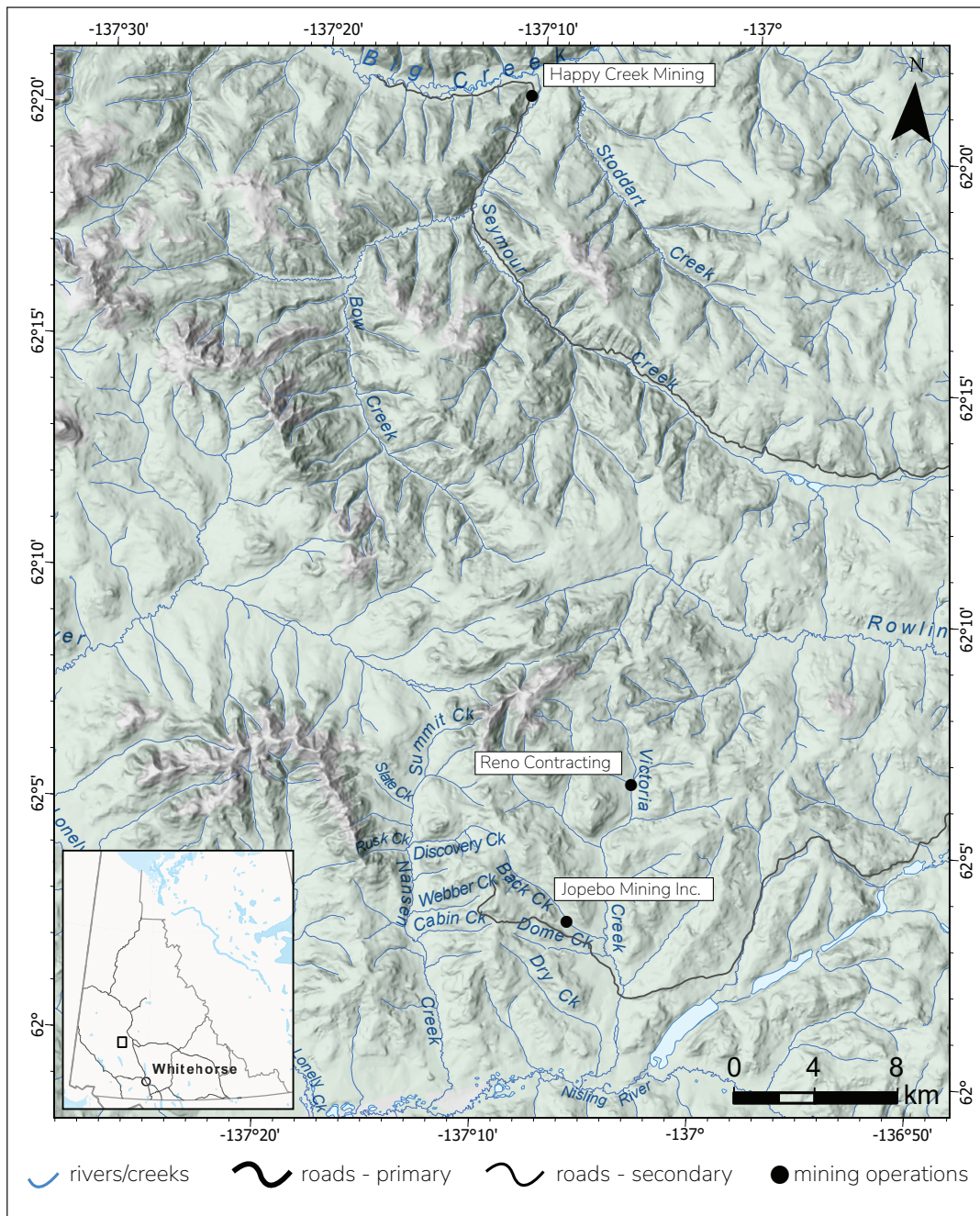


Figure 21. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Whitehorse Mining District.

of 31 m³ (40 yd³)/hr. Much of the season was spent exploring the ground to assess and delineate the pay zone. Gold recovered has a fineness of 70%, and the largest nugget recovered weighed 6.8 g (<1/4 oz).

Happy Creek Mining opened up their property on lower Seymour Creek for the first time during the 2025 season, operating with a crew of up to five people. Mining was focused on the left limit of Seymour Creek, immediately upstream from its confluence with Big Creek. The

company had long sought to test the potential of low-level bench deposits in the area, particularly those with possible influence from Big Creek. A total of five distinct bench levels are present along lower Seymour Creek, and the lowest bench is situated approximately 4.6 m (15 ft) above the modern creek level (Fig. 24). Stripping conditions were favourable, with only 0.6 m (2 ft) of moss and tephra overburden. All underlying gravel was sluiced as pay. The gravel is a clast-supported, cobble-dominated unit with a medium to coarse sand

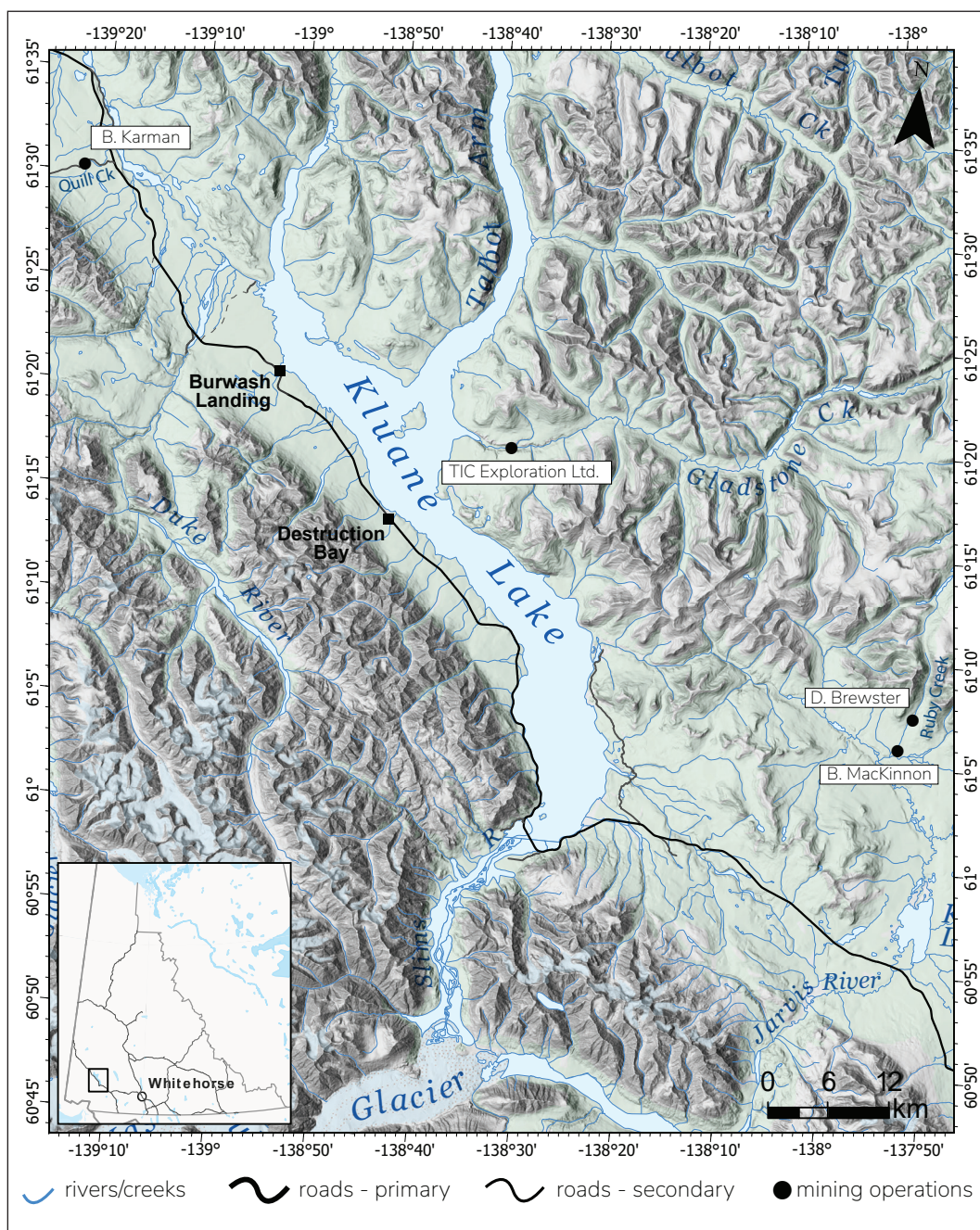


Figure 22. Locations of highlighted placer operations in the Ruby Range area, within the Kluane, Ruby Range, Kimberley placer mining area.

matrix. It is moderately sorted, and contains minor boulders throughout. The gold that was recovered is fine grained. Material was processed at a rate of 54 m³ (70 yd³)/hr using a shaker plant.

A change of ownership occurred in the Kluane region in October 2024, when B. Karman purchased nine claims on lower Quill Creek. The ground had been held by J. Nicols since 2001, and minimal activity

was reported over the past several seasons. Karman mobilized equipment to the site and initiated mining in mid-summer 2025. Mining efforts were focused on the left limit, below the mouth of a canyon.

Two operations were active on Ruby Creek, a tributary to the Jarvis River. Both are one-person operations (B. MacKinnon and D. Brewster), and they have been present in the drainage since the 1980s; MacKinnon

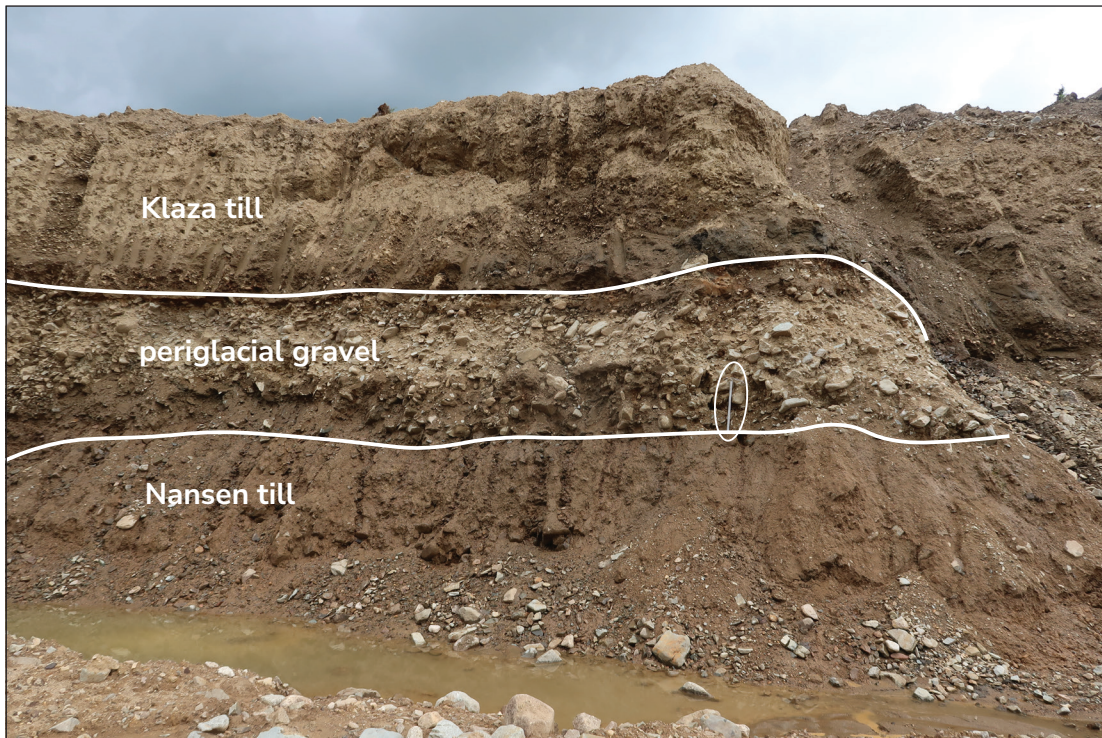


Figure 23. Exposed section at Reno Contracting's cut on Victoria Creek in 2025. The total section depth was 6.7 m (22 ft) and consisted of three units, situated on a false bedrock of clay. An ice axe for scale (circled in white) measures 0.9 m (3 ft).



Figure 24. Five distinct bench levels on lower Seymour Creek at Happy Creek Mining's property. The dashed white lines indicate the different bench elevations.

mined the lower reaches of the creek, while Brewster focused upstream. Mining targeted reworked modern Ruby Creek gravel overlying a compact till that acts as a false bedrock. At MacKinnon's 2025 cut, a low-level, right-limit bench is present, but appears to be defined by the till surface rather than by a re-incised Ruby Creek channel. The modern creek gravel contains a boulder lag both at surface and along the till contact. Pay gravel thickness ranges from 2.4 to 3.7 m (8–12 ft), all of which was sluiced as pay.

TIC Exploration continued mining on Gladstone Creek (tributary to Kluane Lake), advancing into a deep, right-limit cut located upstream from their camp, 5.9 km up the drainage from its confluence with Kluane Lake. They also mined a second site (upstream from the right-limit cut) 7.5 km from the confluence with Kluane Lake, where they sluiced modern Gladstone Creek gravel. This right-limit cut is one of their deepest targets to date since they began mining in 1992. Operating with a six-person crew, they mined a section 37 m (120 ft) deep, which is composed of till and glacial lake sediments overlying a gravel unit. They sluiced the lowermost 1.2 m (4 ft) of material where the gravel becomes

coarser and a boulder layer marks the start of pay (Fig. 25). The operation used a unique mining style that relies exclusively on excavators, moving pay to the plant through three to four excavator relays to efficiently manage material at depth.

Summary

The resilience of the Yukon placer mining industry has been demonstrated for decades, and stable production was maintained through fluctuating gold prices, shifting market conditions, and evolving regulatory requirements. In 2025, the industry reported an estimated C\$401 million in placer gold revenue, the highest on record, which was primarily driven by elevated gold prices. Operators have sustained activity during periods of significantly lower gold values, making this year's strong revenue particularly notable. Most production was derived from the Dominion-Sulphur, Indian River placer mining area, which accounted for 55% of the Yukon's total and hosts several of the largest operations in the territory. Production increases were also recorded in multiple placer mining areas, including Clear Creek-McQuesten (63% increase); Mayo, Keno (20% increase); Fortymile, Sixty Mile,



Figure 25. TIC Exploration Ltd.'s operation on Gladstone Creek in 2025. They mined in two locations throughout the season. The view is looking downstream, toward Kluane Lake.

Moosehorn (10% increase); and Big Creek, Nansen, Hayes-Canadian (7% increase). Another highlight of the 2025 season was the reported production from the Watson, Hyland placer mining area, marking the first documented output from this region since 1981. Despite regulatory delays and a shifting political landscape, the placer industry continues to move forward and remains one of the Yukon's most significant economic contributors. Increases in four placer mining areas, modest growth in the number of active sluicing operations, and renewed production from a long-dormant placer region all point to sustained strength and a positive outlook for the Yukon's placer mining industry.

Acknowledgments

A sincere thank you to the Yukon placer mining community, and particularly to miners and their crews, for their continued support, openness, as well as their willingness to share their time during site visits throughout the season (Fig. 26). The ability to document active operations and observe geology is made possible through the willingness of operators to share knowledge, provide site access, and walk through their cuts in the field. This collaboration is deeply valued and essential to the ongoing work of documenting and understanding the Yukon's placer industry.



Figure 26. Gold recovered during a site visit, illustrating the support and openness of Yukon placer operators who continue to provide access, share knowledge, and allow us to walk through active cuts in the field.

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