

Shrub Trial Plots – Brewery Creek Mine 2006 Follow-up Monitoring Report Summary

In order to determine which shrub species might be useful in revegetating Yukon mine sites at the time of closure, eleven species of shrubs were transplanted at three open disturbed sites at the Brewery Creek Mine in the Central Yukon in the fall of 2000. These sites included a steep north-facing slope, a steep south-facing slope, and a lower nearly level area. All three of these areas had been recontoured and seeded in 1996-97, and there was a thick growth of grasses and clovers at the time the shrubs were planted in 2000. To determine if this thick growth interfered with the survival of the newly planted shrubs, the grasses and clover were first removed from one-half of each of the test plots.

Six years after the shrubs were planted, it appears that black spruce and Alaska birch are the most successful species transplanted on the north-facing site, trembling aspen and Alaska birch the most successful on the south-facing site, and dwarf birch, prickly rose and trembling aspen the most successful on the nearly level site. The planting of willow stem cuttings was not successful.

After six years, the previously cleared half of each plot was once again covered with a thick growth of seeded and naturally occurring plant species. The clearing of vegetation before the transplanting of shrubs does not appear to have much of an effect on the ultimate survival and growth of the transplanted shrubs.