

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Ahnert, 1980-2004

Last Update: 04-Jan-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: 24 Pup: a tributary of Hunker

Map Sheet(s): 1150/15

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Elizabeth Ahnert	1980/01/01	2003/12/31	
Gerald Ahnert	1980/01/01	2003/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Elizabeth Ahnert	1980/01/01	2003/12/31	
Gerald Ahnert	1980/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

This property is located 2500 feet up 24 Pup, a small steep left limit tributary to the right fork of Hunker Creek that has been mined in the downstream direction. 24 Pup joins the right fork of Hunker Creek approximately 2000 feet upstream of the confluence of the Hunker forks. In 2002-2003, the operation was moved upstream to where the Ahnerts started hand mining on 24 Pup, twenty years ago.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2003/01/01	63	54	48	138	54	31		
2002/01/01	63	53	0	138	46	0		
1995/01/01	63	53	0	138	56	0		
1993/01/01	63	53	0	138	56	0		
1991/01/01	63	53	0	138	56	0		
1989/01/01	63	54	0	138	54	0		
1985/01/01	63	54	0	138	55	0		
1983/01/01	63	54	0	138	54	0		2,500
1980/01/01	63	55	0	138	54	0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM00-178	
PM95-033	
PM89-068	
PM90-068	
PM92-020	

Work History

In 1980, hand mining began at this site using a wooden sluice. A shaft 9 metres (30 feet) deep was excavated. Similar work was done in 1981 and 1982.

In 1983 and 1984 mining progressed at this property at a rate of one cubic yard per day, using a pick and shovel and a small wooden rail car.

In 1985, Mr. Ahnert mined the property by hand, while Mrs. Ahnert supplied camp support. The pay gravel was

picked and shovelled to the sluice at a rate of one cubic yard per day. No monitoring was done in this season.

1986- Most of the season's work was devoted to testing work rather than mining. Testing consisted of drilling ten 1 1/8 inch holes to bedrock with a "Californian" rock drill, sinking on 10 foot shaft to bedrock, and pit work. For shafting, cold water under hydraulic head pressure from a reservoir above was directed through a 1 inch plastic hose and a 1 inch steam point nozzle. The pit work consisted of hand digging a series of three to four foot deep pits in previously stripped ground.

1989- Gerry and Elizabeth Ahnert sluiced less than 500 cubic yards.

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1991- A cut approximately 350 by 9 feet was sluiced, about 500 cubic yards.

1992- A cut approximately 75 by 30 feet was sluiced, about 300 cubic yards.

1993 - Gerald and Elizabeth Ahnert continued to mine on 24 Pup, a left limit tributary of the Right Fork of Hunker Creek. The mining was done in a downstream direction from the last cut in 1992.

1995- Gerald and Elizabeth continued to mine downstream from where they previously mined. A cut 60 feet long by 20 feet wide was mined.

1996- A smaller cut measuring 50 feet by 15 feet was mined. The pay streak made an abrupt turn towards the right limit which made it difficult to mine because the ground thawed slower than usual due to cooler temperatures that year. Gerald continued to use his metal detector for checking tailings, mapping the pay zone and to see whether enough black bedrock had been excavated. A 2 1/2 ounce nugget was found while scanning the bedrock.

1997- A similar cut, measuring 50 feet by 15 feet was mined.

1998-2001- This operation has mined at a small scale with a single piece of equipment and considerable hand work. Difficult sections of overburden that contain large blocky bedrock have been encountered as the mining progressed downstream. Some pay gravels were reached in 1998 and stockpiled for sluicing in 1999. During 1999, a 14 foot shaft was dug to try and locate the pay streak and a 160 foot long cut was stripped to within 5 feet of paydirt for sluicing in 2000. 2000 was very dry and only a small amount of sluicing was done in the spring due to the lack of water. 2001 was much wetter than normal and water was available throughout the season. A single cut 75 feet long by 15 feet wide was processed in 2001. Gerald Ahnert has successfully used a metal detector to check the bedrock and washed tailings for nuggets.

2002 - Mining continued on a small scale working upstream. A cut 50 feet long by 10 feet wide was processed and preparation for next year occurred.

2003 - Gerry Ahnert mined at the top of the gulch where mining began approximately 20 years ago. Very little work was done that season.

Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1992	Unknown	300 cubic yards
1991	Unknown	500 cubic yards
1990	Unknown	500 cubic yards
1989	Unknown	500 cubic yards

Equipment

In 1980 to 1982, mining was done by hand using a small wooden sluice box.

In 1983, material for sluicing was loaded by hand into a small wooden rail car, and was winched out of the pit along 100 feet of 22 inch gauge spruce rail line to a sluice set up outside the pit, and 18 feet above it. Water for sluicing was fed by gravity from a 1,500 gallon reservoir upstream along the creek.

In 1984, some stripping was done with a monitor equipped with a 5/8 inch diameter nozzle using gravity-fed water. Material for sluicing was shovelled into the box, which was set up in the pit along the right limit of the cut. The sluice run was 12 inches wide and 8 feet long, and was lined by a 1 1/2 inch angle iron, expanded metal and coco matting. Water at a head of approximately 15 feet was gravity-fed to the head of the box by a 3 1/2 inch

diameter hose. Flow rate was controlled with a valve at the sluice. The sluice was set at a steep gradient. Mining rates were reported to be 1 cubic yard per day.

In 1986, a limited amount of stripping was done with a John Deere 400 loader, in preparation for the following season. A John Deere 400 loader/backhoe was used for stripping, stockpiling pay, and feeding the sluice box.

In 1991/1992 the same heavy equipment was used as in previous years. A 1/2 cubic yard dump box fed a single run sluice. Expanded metal, 1-inch angle iron riffles, and Nomad matting were used in the sluice run. A 3 by 3 inch Honda pump supplied the 125 igpm needed to sluice approximately 3 cubic yards an hour. 24 Pup supplies only 5 to 10 igpm at mid-summer, so a system of recycle ponds was to hold the water. Water was pumped from the holding ponds/settling ponds to a water box. When the box was full, a gate was opened and a steady flow of water passed through the sluice plant and returned to the recycle ponds.

A .5 cubic yard dump box fed a single run sluice box in 1993. Eight feet of expanded metal and eight feet of one inch riffles covered Nomad matting. A wet screen shaker was added for the 1994 season. The 3-foot by 6-foot screen classified the pay to two inch minus before feeding it through the sluice run. A 3 inch Honda pump supplied the 125 igpm needed for sluicing in 1993. A second 3-inch Honda pump was added in 1994 to supply the extra 175 igpm needed to operate the wet screen shaker. Production increased from three cubic yards per hour in 1993 to 10 cubic yards per hour in 1994. 24 Pup is almost dry for most of the summer so total recirculation was required. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir to the sluice plant. The effluent was settled in a pre-settling pond and returned to the instream reservoir.

In 1995, a 1969 John Deere 400 rubber tired loader/backhoe was used for stripping, stockpiling pay, feeding the sluice plant and leveling tailings. A 3-foot by 8 foot wet screen shaker was used to classify the pay to 2 inch minus. The classified material was washed in a single run sluice, lined with expanded metal and 1 inch Hungarian riffles. A 3 inch Honda pump, powered by an 8 horsepower engine, supplied the 250 igpm needed to process a maximum of 10 cubic yards per hour. 24 Pup is steep, and narrow and has relatively short drainage. Throughout most of a typical summer there is no surface runoff and all water used for sluicing is captured from small sources of ground water exposed during mining. The water is contained in out-of-stream ponds and then fully recycled.

In 1998-2001, the same equipment and wash plant was used as in previous years. In 1998, 1999 and 2000, the processing rate was approximately 20 cubic yards per hour; however, the processing rate dropped to approximately 8 cubic yards per hour in 2001. 24 Pup is a steep valley with a small watershed. Water has been a limiting factor for sluicing. In 2000, very little rain fell and sluicing was limited to a period in the spring. In past seasons, small springs have provided water through out the summer but they disappeared in 1999 and 2000. A spring reappeared in 2001 and, along with the heavier than normal rainfall, water was available for sluicing. Some hydraulic stripping was done by monitor when water was available. An out of stream full recycle system was used.

Landforms

Landform

Comments

Gulch

Surficial Geology

In 1980, the deposits were 4.5 to 10 metres (15 to 33 feet) of organic-rich muck, overlying 1.8 to 4.6 metres (6 to 15 feet) of laminated, clay-rich muck, and 1 metre (3 feet) or less of gravel. The presence of old underground working suggested that the gravel horizon may originally have been thicker, but that the gravel has been removed from drifts, which have since collapsed. Exposure was very poor.

In 1983 the section consisted of 16 feet of black muck overlying 2 feet of gravel.

In 1993, the stratigraphic section averaged 15 feet, with 13 feet of frozen black muck and two feet of gravel. All of the gravel and up to two feet of bedrock were sluiced. The bedrock tended to vary from hard and blocky to decomposed. The valley profile differed in 1994. The frozen black muck layer was only eight feet deep, and six feet of reddish gravel was found underneath. Bedrock was hard and solid. All of the gravel and up to two feet of the bedrock were sluiced. Coarse gold was found in pockets throughout the gravel layer.

In 1995, the stratigraphic section was composed of approximately 12 feet of peat muck overlying 5 feet of pay

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gravel. The bedrock varied from highly rotted and decomposed to solid and blocky along short sections of the creek. As in past seasons, all of the gravel and up to 2 feet of the bedrock was sluiced.

In 1998, the stratigraphic section was composed of approximately 17 feet of muck that contains large blocky bedrock overlying 5 feet of gold bearing gravels. Bedrock has been found to vary from solid and blocky to fully decomposed. As in the past several years all of the gravels and 1 foot of the bedrock was sluiced.

Bedrock Geology

Decomposed schist and hard slabby quartzite.

Gold Comments

This creek produces several types of gold, including dendritic, wire and crystalline gold. Some nuggets weighing as much as 2 1/3 ounces were reported, with 60% of the gold larger than 1/4 dwt. Fineness ranges from 827 to 845. Since the gold was coarse and was deposited in pockets a metal detector proved useful in locating the pay streak.

This tributary of Hunker Creek continues to produce interesting and varied types of gold. Both crystalline and dendritic gold is recovered. The gold is typically coarse and nuggets up to 2½ ounces have been recovered. Large pieces of soapstone suitable for carving are found in the gravels near the top of the mined portion of 24 Pup.

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Pictures

Title: Gerald Ahnert

Notes:

Gerald and Elizabeth Ahnert's operation on 24 Pup, Hunker Creek.

