

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Paine/McGee, 1991-1997, 1998-2000

Last Update: 09-Jan-2005

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Upper Bonanza: a tributary of Bonanza

Map Sheet(s): 1150/14

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Operators

| Name | From (Date) | To (Date) | Comment |
|--------------|-------------|------------|--|
| Chesla McGee | 1999/01/01 | 2000/12/31 | The operation and water license was transferred from Paine to McGee in 1999. |
| Nancy Paine | 1991/01/01 | 1998/08/31 | |
| Ted Paine | 1991/01/01 | 1998/08/31 | |

Owners

| Name | From (Date) | To (Date) | Comment |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chesla McGee | 1999/01/01 | 2003/12/31 | |
| Chesla McGee | 1999/01/01 | 2000/12/31 | The operation and water license was |
| Nancy Paine | 1991/01/01 | 1998/08/31 | |
| Ted Paine | 1991/01/01 | 1998/08/31 | |

General Location

The property was located on Upper Bonanza Creek, just upstream from Carmacks Fork, and just above the Parks Canada Historical Reserve. The mining cut was located near the right limit of the valley bottom which was approximately 100 feet wide.

Location Details

| Date: | Latitude Deg : Min : Sec | Longitude Deg : Min : Sec | Elevation (feet) | Distance from Mouth (feet) |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2000/01/01 | 63 54 35 | 139 9 4 | | |
| 1998/01/01 | 63 54 0 | 139 8 0 | | |
| 1995/01/01 | 63 54 0 | 139 8 0 | | |
| 1993/01/01 | 63 54 0 | 139 7 48 | 2,000 | |
| 1991/01/01 | 63 54 0 | 139 8 0 | | |

Water Licence(s)

| Number | Comments |
|----------|---------------------|
| PM00-175 | |
| PM96-013 | Expires: 2005/10/30 |
| PM89-158 | |
| PM93-006 | |

Work History

In 1991-1992, Ted Paine ran a 1-person operation on upper Bonanza Creek clearing and excavating an area approximately 50 feet by 50 feet. During 1993-1994, one cut, approximately 25 feet wide by 100 feet long, produced 850 cubic yards per season. Another cut, 25 feet wide by 100 feet long produced approximately 850 cubic yards per season. In 1995, Ted and Nancy Paine continued their family operation. The mining cut was increased to about 60 feet by 90 feet by a D8 bulldozer on contract. The following years, mining continued deeper into the same cut, processing approximately 300 to 500 cubic yards per season. In 1998-2000, this was a one person operation. One main mining cut near the centre of the valley bottom was increased from about 60 feet by

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100 feet in 1998 to about 100 feet square in 1999 by stripping overburden and waste gravels. Pay gravel had been excavated and sluiced at a rate of approximately 500 cubic yards per season. There was no evidence of any old mine workings to date at this site.

Production

| Year | Stripped | Sluiced |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2000 | Unknown | 500 cubic yards |
| 1999 | Unknown | 500 cubic yards |
| 1998 | Unknown | 500 cubic yards |
| 1997 | Unknown | 400 cubic yards |
| 1996 | Unknown | 400 cubic yards |
| 1995 | Unknown | 400 cubic yards |
| 1994 | Unknown | 850 cubic yards |
| 1993 | Unknown | 850 cubic yards |

Equipment

In 1991, stripping of overburden and removal of waste gravel was done with leased Caterpillar D8 and D9 bulldozers. A John Deere 350-B track loader with a 3/4-yard bucket was used to dig pay gravel, feed the wash plant, and remove and stack tailings. A 4-foot by 8-foot dump box fed a 3-foot by 5-foot screen deck, which classified down to minus 5/8 inch. The undersize passed over a single sluice run 21 inches wide by 12 feet long with expanded metal riffles on Astroturf matting, sloped at 2 inches per foot. Approximately 10 cubic yards per hour were processed using 60 igpm of water supplied by a 3 inch Gorman Rupp pump. Water was recycled 100% in an out-of-stream settling pond 80 feet wide by 80 feet long. This pond was located 90 feet away from the creek channel with seepage discharge only. In 1995, a John Deere 250 track loader with a 3/4 yard bucket was used to dig pay, feed the wash plant, remove tailings and to build and maintain water use structures. Pay gravels were loaded into a 4-foot by 8-foot dump box, which feed to a 3 by 5 foot shaking screen deck with 3/4-inch holes. Undersize pay flowed over a single sluice run, 21 inches wide by 12 feet long, with expanded metal riffles over Astroturf matting, sloped at 2 1/4 inches per foot. The processing rate was around 10 cubic yards per hour using about 100 igpm supplied by a Gorman Rupp 3 inch pump, powered by a Wisconsin 16 HP gasoline engine. A small gravity ditch supplied water from Bonanza Creek to the pump pond. Wastewater was settled in two out-of-stream settling ponds, approximately 60 by 40 feet and 100 by 20 feet before discharging back into Bonanza Creek. In 1999 and 2000, a Caterpillar D9 bulldozer was leased to enlarge the mining cut by stripping overburden and waste gravel. A John Deere 350 track loader with 3/4 yard bucket was used to excavate pay gravel, feed the wash plant, remove tailings and maintain settling ponds. A 4 feet by 8 feet dump box with water spray bar fed onto a 3 feet by 5 feet shaking screen deck which classified down to 3/4 inch. This was followed by a single sluice run, 21 inches wide by 12 feet long, with expanded metal riffles over Astroturf mat. A Gorman-Rupp 3 inch water pump, powered by a Wisconsin 16 horsepower gasoline engine, supplied 100 igpm which were used to process about 10 cubic yards per hour. Pay gravel was excavated and sluiced at a rate of about 500 cubic yards per season. Make up water was supplied from Bonanza Creek via a short gravity ditch to an out of stream recycle pond with seepage discharge only.

Surficial Geology

In 1991, approximately 2 feet of organic overburden overlaid an estimated 12 feet of gravel; bedrock was not reached. In 1993, approximately 2 feet of black muck overburden covered seamed layers of frozen fine and coarse gravel to a depth of about 15 ft near the middle of the valley bottom. No shafts or drifts were encountered. In 1995, about 2 feet of black muck overburden lay on top of frozen gravels with a total depth to bedrock from 16 to 20 feet. Gravels were rounded and sorted with no large boulders and the gravel layers were seamed with black muck. There was no evidence of old workings. The bottom 2 feet of gravel plus 2 to 4 feet of bedrock was sluiced.

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In 1998, frozen overburden was 4 to 6 feet deep on top of 16 feet to 20 feet of sandy gravel layers mixed with mud and silt layers. The bottom 4 feet of gravel plus up to 3 feet of decomposed bedrock were sluiced.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock was flat, decomposed Klondike Schist.

Gold Comments

The gold was flat and smooth, with 40% larger than 10 mesh. Fineness was 800.

In 1995, the gold was coarse, flat and brightly coloured with quartz attached. Fineness was around 790.

In 1998, gold recovered was coarse with some quartz attached and flat flakes that had a fineness around 790.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 49

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Pictures

Title: McGee Operation in 1999

Notes:

Small track-loader and wash plant used by Chesla McGee on Upper Bonanza Creek.

