

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



**Field Name:** Nicholson, 1974-77, 1980-84, 1989-2003

**Last Update:** 05-Jan-2005

**Status:** Active Producer

**Stream:** Lovett Gulch: a tributary of Bonanza

**Map Sheet(s):** 116B/3

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## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Robert Nicholson	1995/01/01	1995/12/31	
Clive Nicholson	1989/01/01	2003/12/31	
Robert Nicholson	1988/01/01	1994/12/31	
Clive Nicholson	1980/01/01	1984/12/31	Mr. Nicholson took over a property mined on by S. Berg.
Clive Nicholson	1974/01/01	1977/12/31	

## Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Robert Nicholson	1995/01/01	1995/12/31	
Clive Nicholson	1989/01/01	2003/12/31	
Robert Nicholson	1988/01/01	1994/12/31	
Clive Nicholson	1980/01/01	1984/12/31	Mr. Nicholson took over a property
Clive Nicholson	1974/01/01	1977/12/31	

## General Location

In 1978, the property was located on Trail Hill, a right limit bench of Bonanza Creek. In 1979, the property was situated on Lovett Hill, a high level right limit bench of Bonanza Creek near its mouth. In 1980, Mr. Nicholson began work on a high level bench on Bonanza Creek previously mined by Mr. Berg. In 1981, Mr. Nicholson began working on a property situated on a high level right limit bench of Bonanza Creek, just downstream from Pure Gold Gulch. In 1993, this operation was located at the mouth of Lovett Gulch, a right limit tributary to lower Bonanza Creek. In 1983, one property was located on Ophir Hill, a high level bench along the right limit of Bonanza Creek, just downstream from the mouth of Pure Gold Gulch. A second property was located on Sourdough Hill, immediately downstream from the mouth of Sourdough Gulch. In 1991, the operation was located on Bonanza Creek at the mouth of Lovett Gulch, a right limit tributary, near the base of Lovette Hill. During 1998-2003, Nicholson continued his three-person operation on the first tier bench of Lovett Gulch.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2003/01/01	64	1	12	139	22	8		
1991/01/01	64	1	0	139	22	0		
1989/01/01	64	1	0	139	22	0		
1983/01/01	64	0	0	139	22	0		
1981/01/02	64	0	0	139	21	0		
1981/01/01	64	0	0	139	22	0		
1974/01/01	64	2	0	139	23	0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM01-226	Expires: 2006/11/30

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**Water Licence(s)**

Number	Comments
PM97-037	
PM89-007	
PM91-028	

**Work History**

1974-75 - Nicholson mined cuts that totalled approximately 4,000 bedrock square feet.  
 1976 - Nicholson mined approximately 9,000 bedrock square feet.  
 1977 - Mining occurred on Claim No. 86. The cut had an amphitheatre form, facing Bonanza Creek with the gravel section up to 30 feet thick on the high side. The bottom 5 feet of gravel and top 1 to 2 feet of bedrock was sluiced. He stripped 35,000 cubic yards of gravel, but no gold recovery figures were given.  
 1980- Mr. Nicholson moved to the property previously mined by S. Berg. He stripped and mined two cuts of approximately 1,800 square metres (19,500 square feet) each.  
 1981- Mr. Nicholson continued to mine on the property previously mined by Mr. Berg. He began work on this property situated on the high level right limit bench. He mainly did preparation work for the following season.  
 1982- Mr. Nicholson did some mining and sluicing on both properties.  
 1983-1984- On Ophir Hill and Sourdough Hill, Mr. Nicholson actively mined.  
 1989- A pump was used to continuously pump out an abandoned (1987) cut. A section of approximately 300 by 50 feet was mined.  
 1990- A section of about 300 by 75 feet was mined. Tailing gravel was used to backfill the old pit.  
 1991- This was a one person operation. One cut approximately 30 feet wide by 300 feet long was taken,  
 1992- A cut approximately 200 feet by 150 feet was removed.  
 1993- Clive Nicholson ran a three person operation. Mining occurred on the first tier bench level of Lovett Hill. Mining has progressed from the base of Lovett Hill up to the first tier bench level. One cut approximately 100 feet by 200 feet by 60 feet deep was excavated each year. Water was recycled from large, flooded mining cuts in the valley bottom. These ponds were separated from Bonanza Creek by the public access road.  
 1995-97 One cut per year were mined, each averaging 200 feet by 200 feet. He ran a 3 person operation. Mining processed from the base of Lovett Hill up to the first tier bench level the depth increased from about 60 feet up to 100 feet deep.  
 1998 and 1999, about 200 feet by 200 feet were mined. In 2000 and 2001, larger cuts, about 400 feet by 200 feet were mined each season. Between 30,000 and 40,000 cubic yards were sluiced each season and from 130,000 to 150,000 yards of overburden were stripped each year. A larger excavation was made in 2002, 400 by 200 feet, totalling 250,000 cubic yards of material being stripped and sluiced. Stripping and stockpiling continued through the 2003 season.

**Production**

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
2002	250000 cubic yards	2500000 cubic yards
2001	140000 cubic yards	35000 cubic yards
2000	140000 cubic yards	35000 cubic yards
1977	35000 cubic yards	Unknown
1976	9000 bedrock square feet	Unknown
1975	2000 cubic yards	Unknown
1974	2000 bedrock square feet	Unknown

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### **Equipment**

1974-77, a D9 Caterpillar and a 920 loader were used. In 1979, water for sluicing was pumped through 60 vertical metres (200 feet) from Bonanza Creek and stored in a reservoir. It was pumped a further 15 vertical metres (50 feet) for sluicing. Water from sluicing was returned to the reservoir for recirculation. In 1981, a D8G Caterpillar bulldozer was used to mine and push gravel to a stockpile, and a 920 loader to feed the sluice box. A dry grizzly above the box removed all clasts larger than 20 cm (8 inches) in diameter from the material to be sluiced. In 1983 a Caterpillar D6-9U bulldozer was used to strip the ground, and a Caterpillar 920 loader was used to feed the sluicing plant. The sluicing plant consisted of a dry grizzly, and a single run sluice box. Water for sluicing was gravity fed at a rate of 2,000 igpm by way of an 8 inch diameter pipeline from a large holding pond. A trommel 7 feet in diameter and 40 feet long fed a single sluice run 4 feet wide by 15 feet long lined with expanded metal riffles over Nomad mat. Approximately 100 cubic yards per hour were processed using about 1500 igpm of water supplied by a Paramount 6 by 5 inch pump, powered by a Caterpillar 3304 diesel.

In 1989, the same equipment as in previous years. The sluice plant had a dry grizzly feeding a single sluice run which was 36 inches by 20 feet with standard riffles followed by a section which was 48 inches by 15 feet with expanded metal over Nomad and Coco matting. A 6 by 5 inch high pressure pump powered by a 3304 Cat diesel engine delivered about 1000 gallons per minute which was used to process approximately 50 cubic yards per hour. In 1991, one D9 Caterpillar bulldozer with ripper was used to strip overburden and dig pay gravels. A Cat 920 front-end loader fed the wash plant and removed tailings. The wash plant consisted of a dry grizzly screen, which fed a single sluice run 3 feet wide by 20 feet long containing 1 inch angle iron riffles. This was followed by a second sluice run 4 feet wide by 15 feet long, with expanded metal riffles over Nomad matting. About 50 loose yards per hour were processed, using 1000 gallons per minute supplied by a Paramount 6X5 inch pump, powered by a Cat 3304 diesel.

In 1995-97, one Caterpillar D9 bulldozer and two belly scrapper buggies were used to strip overburden and to dig and stockpile pay gravel. One caterpillar 920 front end loader was used to feed the wash plant and remove tailings. A 7 foot diameter trommel, 40 feet long, fed a single sluice run, 4 feet wide by 15 feet long, with expanded metal riffles over Nomad mat. One 6 by 5 inch Paramount pump, powered by a Caterpillar 3304 diesel, delivered about 1500 igpm which was used to process approximately 100 cubic yards per hour. Water was pumped from old mining cuts in the valley bottom which have flooded with groundwater. Waste water and tailings were discharged into these same old cuts.

1998-2003 - A Caterpillar D9 bulldozer was used to strip overburden and excavate pay gravel. Two Caterpillar 627 belly scrapers were used to strip and stack overburden and waste gravel. One Caterpillar 920 loader was used to feed the wash plant. A large steel trommel, 7 feet in diameter by 40 feet long, fed a single sluice run, 4 feet wide by 30 feet long, with expanded metal riffles over Nomad matting. A 5-inch by 6-inch Paramount water pump, powered by a Caterpillar 3304 diesel engine, provided 800 or 900 igpm which was used to sluice up to 100 cubic yards per hour, which was reduced to 60 cubic yards per hour in 2002. Water was recycled out-of-stream, within two abandoned mining cuts which filled with seepage water.

### **Environmental Work**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reclamation Work</b>
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1992	Water was recycled 100% from a large old mining pit, separated from the creek by the public road. Tailings, gravel, and overburden were also discharged into this old cut. Groundwater seepage into the pit was the only water supply.
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### **Landforms**

<b>Landform</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Alluvial Valley	

### **Surficial Geology**

On the 1981 property, deposits consisted of brown gravel and silt. A 4.5 metre (15 feet) thick horizon of matrix supported gravel with silty to earthy matrix and only 15% clasts overlies a 1.5 metre (5 feet) thick layer of

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interlaminated silt, clay, and sand, and a 2 metre (6 feet) thick horizon of clast supported gravel with sandy to gritty matrix. On the 1993 property, frozen organic overburden 45 to 50 feet deep was mechanically stripped from a gravel layer 10 to 15 feet deep. The bottom six feet of gravel plus up to three feet of bedrock were sluiced.

Tailings were used to backfill large flooded mining cuts in the valley bottom. On Ophir Hill deposits at the site are 26 to 30 feet thick, and consist of 15 to 19 feet of gravel with silt to earthy matrix, and only 15% clasts, overlying 5 feet of silt, clay and sand, and 6 feet of sandy brown gravel. The deposits are unlike the White Channel deposits found on nearby benches, and occur at an elevation slightly higher than that at which the White Channel deposits occur. On Sourdough Hill, deposits are up to 40 feet thick, and consists of sandy White Channel gravel.

In 1989 roughly 40 feet of overburden were removed mechanically from on top of about 10 feet of orangy-brown gravel. All 10 feet of gravel plus up to 5 feet of fractured bedrock were processed.

In 1991, forty to fifty feet of frozen black muck was stripped from about 8 feet of orange-reddish gravel. All gravel and about 5 feet of decomposed bedrock were sluiced.

1998-2002 - White Channel tailings from the upper bench, up to 60 feet deep, were first stripped from on top of original frozen overburden, 35 feet to 45 feet deep. Frozen pay gravel was 6 to 10 feet deep which was sluiced along with 3 to 4 feet of bedrock. Mammoth tusks and bones were found in overburden and in frozen gravel.

### **Bedrock Geology**

The bedrock is a chloritic-quartzite schist.

### **Gold Comments**

1989 - The gold was all less than 60 mesh with a fineness of 797.

1991- The gold was very fine (minus 10 to plus 60 mesh, dull and flat, with very few nuggets.) Fineness was 795.

1995-2003 - The gold was flat and dull with fineness around 795.

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### **Pictures**

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**Title:** Clive Nicholson operation, 1998-2002, Bonanza Cree

**Notes:**

Large trommel and dump box used by Clive Nicholson, set up among White Channel gravel tailings, near Lovett Gulch on Bonanza Creek.

