

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Fowler, 1992-1999

Last Update: 17-Feb-2005

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Matson: a tributary of Sixtymile

Map Sheet(s): 115N/10, 115N/7

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Gene Fowler	1992/01/01	1999/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Gene Fowler	1992/01/01	1999/12/31	

General Location

The property was located on Matson Creek, just downstream from an unnamed right limit tributary, near the area known as Val D'Or. Cuts in 1993 and 1994 were in the valley centre below John Matson's grave. Gene Fowler continued to mine near the area locally known as Val D'Or in 1995 and 1997. During the 1996 season the operation worked at the mouth of Bow Pup, a right limit tributary of Matson Creek near the Goldmark/Orbanski camp and airport.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 29 54	140 36 29		
1999/01/01	63 29 0	140 35 0		
1995/01/01	63 29 0	140 35 0		
1993/01/01	63 30 20	140 34 48	1,700	
1992/01/01	63 29 0	140 35 0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM94-089	
PM91-041	

Work History

Mr. Fowler moved his operation from Australian Hill on Hunker Creek to Matson Creek in 1991. A Sixtymile River Road was completed to gain access to the property.

In 1992 testing was done at the mouth of an unnamed right tributary, near the area known as Val D'Or. A crew of four miners worked for Mr. Fowler in 1992.

A crew of 5 mined the site in a single 12 hour shift. A single cut measuring 300 feet by 400 feet was mined during 1993. Cuts 200 feet by 300 feet and 250 feet by 400 feet were mined in 1994.

A cut 300 feet by 300 feet and a second cut 300 feet by 450 feet were sluiced during the 1995 season.

A single larger cut 350 feet by 600 feet was sluiced during the 1996 season.

A cut 250 feet by 700 feet, a cut 250 feet by 300 feet and a cut 250 feet by 360 feet were mined during the 1997 season. A crew of five miners ran the operation in 1995 and 1996. An additional miner was added for the 1997 season.

A large cut 400 feet wide by 1200 feet long by 30 feet deep and a smaller cut 200 by 300 by 30 feet was mined in the creek valley during 1998. Two more cuts measuring 300 by 600 by 25 feet, and 100 by 300 by 25 feet deep were mined in 1999. The operation was shut down in 2000 and the restoration and removal of equipment was done.

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Equipment

In 1992, a double deck screener was used. A 6 inch by 8 inch pump delivered the 1000 igpm needed to sluice up to 125 cubic yards per hour. The water was pumped from an instream depression in Matson Creek. Effluent was treated in two settling ponds before discharging onto swamps on the left limit of the creek. No discharge back to the creek could be located.

In 1993, two D9G Caterpillar bulldozers were used to strip the ground and stockpile pay gravels. The sluice plant was fed by an Insley hoe with a 1.25 cubic yard bucket. A 72-71 Terex handled tailings. The sluice plant consisted of a grizzly over a hopper box that lead onto a conveyor feed. The pay was fed at a constant rate through two screening decks. The classified pay was sluiced in two oscillating sluice runs. Oversize tailings were stacked away from the plant with a conveyor. A 6 inch Cornell pump supplied the 1000 igpm needed for sluicing approximately 100 cubic yards per hour. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir on Matson Creek. Settling occurred in the out-of-stream mined-out cuts. No discharge back to Matson Creek occurred. Water was pumped from the settling pond into the reservoir during periods of low flow in Matson Creek. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir on Matson Creek. Settling occurred in the out-of-stream mined-out cuts. No discharge back to Matson Creek occurred. Water was pumped from the settling pond into the reservoir during periods of low flow in Matson Creek.

Three Caterpillar D9G bulldozers were used for stripping the cuts and a Terex 92B loader hauled the pay gravels to the wash plant in 1995 and 1996. The Terex loader was replaced by three Caterpillar 621 scrapers for the 1997 season. A 350 Bucyrus Erie excavator fed the wash plant and was used to dig trenches/drains. A Hough 90 loader was used for miscellaneous yard work. The wash plant consisted of a grizzly over a hopper which fed the pay gravels onto a 30 inch wide conveyor. The pay gravels were fed at a constant rate onto a double deck screen plant. The classified gravels were washed through a single sluice run which then splits into two oscillating sluice runs. The oversize material was carried off by a 36 inch conveyor stacker. A 6 inch Cornell pump powered by a Duetz engine supplied the 1000 igpm that was required to process between 150 and 250 cubic yards per hour. Water from Matson Creek was used to fill out of stream ponds that were constructed from old mine pits. The water was then pumped to the wash plant and the effluent flowed back into the old mine pits and was recycled 100%. Make-up water from Matson Creek was used.

The same equipment and wash plant remained the same as previous years. Water from Matson Creek was used to fill out of stream ponds that were constructed from old mine pits. The water was then pumped to the wash plant and the effluent flowed back into the old mine pits and was recycled 100%. Make-up water from Matson Creek was used.

Environmental Work

Year Reclamation Work

1992 Effluent was treated in two settling ponds before discharging onto swamps on the left limit of the creek. No discharge back to the creek could be located.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Valley	

Surficial Geology

1992- The ground was shallow with approximately 1 foot of vegetative material and 4 feet of gravel on bedrock.

1993- The cuts averaged 30 feet in depth with 20 feet of frozen black muck and 10 feet of gravel. The lower one foot of gravel and the first three feet of bedrock were sluiced.

1995-1997- The ground averaged 32 feet deep with 30 feet of frozen black muck overlying a shallow layer of gravel 1 to 3 feet deep. The bedrock was fully decomposed. The bottom foot of gravels and approximately 3 feet of the bedrock was sluiced. It was found that almost all of the gold was contained in the bedrock and very little in the gravels.

1998-1999- The ground mined in 1998 had an average of 25 feet of silt/muck overlying 5 feet of gravels. The cuts

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mined in 1999 upstream along the left limit averaged 25 feet deep with 20 to 23 feet of muck and approximately 2 feet of gravels. The bottom foot of gravel and from 2 to 5 feet of bedrock was sluiced. Almost all of the gold was contained in the bedrock and very little in the gravels.

Bedrock Geology

1998- Bedrock tended to be hard and solid.

1999- Bedrock varied from solid to decomposed.

The upper portion of Matson Creek is underlain by rocks of the Yukon group, chiefly sericitic and chloritic schists and granite gneiss. Below the junction of Marion Creek and Matson Creek, Tertiary volcanics and sediments appear.

Gold Comments

1992- Most of the gold recovered was minus 10 mesh with no nuggets. The gold was rounded and coarse, with a fineness of 880.

1993- The rounded and rough gold was primarily finer than 12 mesh. Fineness was 890.

1995 and 1996 - The gold was reported to be rounded and rough with most of the gold -8 mesh.

1997- The gold became more coarse with approximately 20% +10 mesh. Up to 3/4 ounce nuggets were recovered, and the purity averaged 895 fine.

1998- The gold recovered in the creek bottom near Val D'Or in 1998 was reported to be mainly coarse. The gold from the left limit bench tended to be mainly fine and flat. The purity of the gold was approximately 890.

References

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Pictures

Title: Gene Fowler's operation on Matson Creek

Notes:

