

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Grew Creek Ventures Ltd., 1990-2003

Last Update: 04-Jan-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Hunker: a tributary of Klondike

Map Sheet(s): 1150/15

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## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Grew Creek Ventures Ltd	1999/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dave Marsters	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	
Sharon Erickson	1990/01/01	1997/12/31	
John Erickson	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	

## Owners

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Grew Creek Ventures Ltd	1999/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dave Marsters	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	
Sharon Erickson	1990/01/01	1997/12/31	
John Erickson	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	
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## General Location

The property was located on Hunker Creek in the Mint Gulch area. All work was done on creek ground, except for one bench cut that was sluiced in 1994. The bench cut was immediately upstream of 6 Below Pup along the right limit of Hunker Creek. In 1998, most of the mining was done along the left limit of side pay. In 1999, the mining started on Hunker Creek at the mouth of Rogers Gulch and worked upstream on Hunker Creek. In 2003, the operation was located at the mouth of Mint Gulch along the right limit.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 55 59	138 54 30		
2003/01/01	63 57 0	138 54 0		
1999/01/01	63 57 0	138 54 0		
1998/01/01	63 57 0	138 53 0		
1998/01/01	63 57 0	138 53 0		
1995/01/01	63 57 0	138 53 0		
1993/01/01	63 55 44	138 52 48	1,500	
1991/01/01	63 56 0	138 53 0		
1990/01/01	63 52 0	138 53 0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM00-198	Expires: 2006/04/30.
PM97-066	Expired: October 2, 2002.
PM96-082	
PM89-059	
PM91-090	

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In 1990 two miners and one other person worked one 12 hour shift. All gravels plus one foot of bedrock were sluiced at a rate of 100 cubic yards an hour.

In 1991 2 cuts with an average size of 300 by 20 feet were sluiced with about 6000 cubic yards of dredge tailings. The lower 3 feet of gravel was sluiced with 1 foot of bedrock.

In 1992 one cut measuring 1000 feet by 25 feet was sluiced. All the gravel was sluiced with up to 3 feet of bedrock. John and Sharon Erickson mined this area. An estimated 15,000 cubic yards of dredge tailings were sluiced in 1993. Due to the depth and decreasing pay values the bench cut was not considered viable for further mining. A cut measuring 550 feet long by 30 feet wide was also sluiced along the left limit of Hunker Creek upstream of Mint Gulch in 1994.

A right limit bench cut 600 feet long by 100 feet wide was mined in the first half of 1994. Old workings and bedrock were sluiced.

1995- John and Sharon continued to mine on this property. Most of the mining was done on the left limit although some dredge tailings were processed. A 500-foot by 60-foot wide cut was mined.

1996- A 500-foot by 60-foot wide was mined along with dredge tailings.

1997- The operation made a jump upstream to a new piece of land but poor results were obtained. A small left limit cut downstream of Mint gulch was mined late in the season.

1998- A single cut measuring 250 feet long by 100 feet wide by 25 feet deep was mined in 1998. Mining activity during 1999, 2000 and 2001 is documented in the Grew Creek Ventures Ltd. summary. as it was sold at the end of the 1998 season. Erickson continued to operate under Grew Creek Ventures.

1999-2001- A crew of four miners ran a single 12 hour shift. Five cuts (150 feet by 500 feet/50 feet by 450 feet/200 feet by 400 feet/50 feet by 50 feet/30 feet by 200 feet) on Hunker Creek were mined in 1999. Three cuts (300 feet by 40 feet/350 feet by 60 feet/275 feet by 25 feet) were sluiced in 2000 on Hunker Creek. A narrow cut approximately 2500 feet long was sluiced on Mint Gulch in 2001. Dave Marsters received the Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Placer Mining Reclamation Practices in 2000 for his reclamation of 1.2 km. of Hunker Creek. No mining occurred under this license in 2002 but a small scale operation continued at the mouth of Mint Gulch in 2003.

**Production**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Stripped</b>	<b>Sluiced</b>
1993	Unknown	15000 cubic yards

**Equipment**

In 1990 one Cat D8 bulldozer for stripping, a Cat 966 loader to feed the sluice box and a Cat 988 loader for tailing removal. The wash plant consisted of a dump box and a single run sluice.

In 1991 a 235 Cat hoe was added to the operation. A dump box feeding into a conventional single run sluice box was used. The 3-foot by 24-foot sluice run was lined with Nomad matting and 1 1/2 inch angle iron riffles. A 10 by 12 inch Dayton Dowd pump supplied the 1800 igpm needed to sluice 70 cubic yards per hour. Hunker Creek did not provide enough water without setting up a partial recirculation system. A pre-settling pond was used to lengthen the life of the settling ponds. Two large settling ponds were used with outflow back to Hunker Creek. Water was pumped from the settling ponds to the sluice plant, and up to 65% of the water was recycled.

In 1992 the Cat 966 was used instead of the 235 hoe. It was the same set up as in 1991 except that an 8 by 8 inch high-pressure pump supplied the 1800 igpm needed to sluice 50 cubic yards per hour, instead of the Dayton Dowd. In 1993 a D8 Caterpillar bulldozer was used for stripping and stockpiling the pay gravels for sluicing. Either a 988 Caterpillar loader or a 966 loader fed the sluice plant and handled tailings. A dump box fed a conventional single run sluice box 3 feet wide by 20 feet long. Nomad matting and 1.5 inch angle iron riffles were used. A screening plant was used on the right limit bench of Hunker Creek. Fifty to 60 cubic yards per hour could be sluiced. A 10 by 12 inch Dayton pump supplied the 1500 igpm needed for sluicing. An 8 by 8 inch Perkins pump was also used for

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sluicing on the bench. Water from instream reservoirs on Hunker Creek was used for sluicing and monitoring. Water that was pumped onto the right limit bench was recirculated. No direct discharge to Hunker Creek occurred from the bench operation. Effluent from mining in the creek bottom was treated in several out-of-stream settling ponds.

1995-1997: A Caterpillar D8 bulldozer was available for stripping and stockpiling pay gravels for sluicing. A Caterpillar 988 loader and a Caterpillar 966 loader were used for feeding the sluice plant and handling tailings. Monitors were used to strip and wash the side pay cuts. A 10-foot by 12-foot dump box fed into a conventional single run sluice box 3 feet wide by 20 feet long. Nomad matting and 1 1/2 inch angle iron riffles lined the sluice run. A 10 by 12 inch Dayton pump powered by a Caterpillar engine supplied the 2000 igpm needed to process approximately 60 cubic yards per hour. Water is generally pumped from Hunker Creek or from reservoirs built in Hunker Creek. The water is then used for monitoring or sluicing and then treated in a series of out-of-stream settling ponds. During periods of low flows the water is recycled near the sluice plant.

In 1998 the same equipment and wash plant used in 1995, was used. Water was pumped directly from a reservoir in Hunker Creek to the sluice box or to the monitors. The water was then treated in out of stream settling ponds before being discharged back to Hunker Creek. Recycling of water was often necessary.

In 1999-2001, Grew Creek Ventures used the same equipment and washplant that Erickson used. Water was recycled in an out of stream settling pond/recycle pond system in 1999. Due to the higher rainfall in 2000 a recycle set-up was not required. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir to the sluice plant and then was settled in an out of stream location. Due to the narrow valley and steep gradient on Mint Gulch the pay was hauled to the mouth of Mint Gulch and sluiced using Hunker Creek water and out of stream settling in old mine pits along Hunker Creek. Dave Marsters received the Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Placer Mining Reclamation Practices in 2000 for his reclamation of 1.2 km. of Hunker Creek.

### **Environmental Work**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Reclamation Work</b>
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2003	Stream channel was stable and full site clean-up was done completed for final decommissioning.
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2002	The property was largely cleaned up and reclaimed.
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### **Landforms**

<b>Landform</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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Gulch	
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Tailings	
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### **Surficial Geology**

The stratigraphic section in 1990 consisted of 12 feet of frozen black muck over 4 feet of gravel with decomposed schist bedrock.

1991/1992- Several different sections were mined so the total depth varied. An average cut had a narrow vegetative layer with 10 to 15 feet of black muck beneath. A layer of creek gravels 4 to 6 feet thick was found above bedrock. The lower 3 feet of gravel was sluiced with 1 foot of bedrock.

Most of 1993 was spent mining coarse dredge tailings and gravel excavated from the left limit drain immediately above Mint Gulch. Dredged ground does not generally show the original strata. A cut from the left limit of Hunker had approximately 20 feet of frozen black muck and four feet of creek gravel. The total depth increased as the cut worked into the hillside. The lower 2 to 3 feet of gravel and two feet of bedrock were sluiced.

1995- Most of the ground mined was side pay left along the left limit of Hunker Creek. An average of 20 feet of black muck, ice lenses and peat type vegetation overlies an average of 4 feet of gravel. Bedrock is usually solid and rises away from the creek. The overburden was washed away with monitors and all remaining gravels and up to 2 feet of the bedrock was sluiced.

In 1998, most of the ground mined was along the left limit of Hunker Creek. An average of 25 feet of frozen black muck overlies a layer of gravel 6 feet thick. The overburden was washed away with monitors and all the remaining gravels and a small amount of the bedrock was sluiced.

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In 1999, the Hunker claims varied in depth depending on whether side pay was being mined. An average of 10 to 15 feet of frozen black muck covers 10 feet of sand and from 4 to 6 feet of gravel. The ground on Mint Gulch varied in depth with 6 to 40 feet of frozen black muck overlying 3 feet of gravel. The bedrock was usually solid and slabby. All of the gravels and from 2 to 4 feet of the bedrock was sluiced.

### **Bedrock Geology**

1995- Decomposed schist bedrock

1998- Bedrock typically is solid and rises away from the creek.

1999- The bedrock was typically decomposed.

### **Gold Comments**

Gold recovered from the dredge tailings ranged from an average of 30 mesh to a maximum of three ounces. Gold from the bench was very fine. Some of the gold was porous and rough. Up to 2 ounce nuggets were recovered from the left limit cut upstream of Mint Gulch. Fineness from all locations was 820.

In 1995, most of the gold recovered from the side pay cuts tended to be smaller than 10 mesh. The fineness was consistent at 830.

In 1998, the gold recovered was reported to be primarily fine with a lot of black sand. The purity was 830 fine. In 1999, the gold recovered from Hunker Creek was reported to be both smooth and rough with a purity of 834 fine. Most of the gold from Mint Gulch was rough with a purity of 835 fine. Numerous nuggets up to 4 ounces were found.

### **References**

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### **Pictures**

**Title:** Grew Creek Ventures on Mint Gulch, Hunker Creek

**Notes:**



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**Title:** John Erickson on Hunker Creek

**Notes:**

Monitor being used to thaw black muck to expose side pay.



**Title:** Hunker Creek, 2000

**Notes:**

Contoured tailings at Hunker Creek are covered with black muck to enhance natural revegetation.

This operation received the Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Place Mining Reclamation Practices in 2000; presented to Dave Marstarts of Grew Creek Ventures Ltd.

