

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Henry Gulch Placers, 1995-1996, 1998-2000

Last Update: 23-Feb-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
Marty Knutson	1998/01/01	2000/12/31	
John Alton	1998/01/01	2000/12/31	
Marty Knutson	1995/01/01	1996/12/31	
John Alton	1995/01/01	1996/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Marty Knutson	1998/01/01	2000/12/31	
John Alton	1998/01/01	2000/12/31	
Marty Knutson	1995/01/01	1996/12/31	
John Alton	1995/01/01	1996/12/31	

General Location

This operation was located on the left limit of Upper Bonanza Creek, downstream from O'Neil Gulch, a left limit tributary.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2000/01/01	63 54 32	139 14 23		
1998/01/01	63 55 0	139 16 0		
1995/01/01	63 55 0	139 16 0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM95-057	Expires: 2005/04/30

Work History

During the 1995 to 1996 seasons, one cut about 500 feet long by 60 feet wide was worked. In 1998 to 2000, along the left limit of the Bonanza Creek Valley, one cut along the right limit rim was 60 feet wide by 20 feet deep and was mined for a total length of about 3500 feet. Within O'Neil Gulch, one cut about 800 feet long by 75 feet wide was stripped in 1998 and 1999, and then the bottom 600 feet by 75 feet were sluiced in 2000. Old tools like shovels and picks and other evidence of early mining as well as frozen buffalo bones were found.

Equipment

In 1995 and 1996, a Caterpillar D9H bulldozer with ripper was used for stripping overburden and stockpiling pay gravels. A 631B scraper was used to haul pay to the wash plant and a 235 excavator was used to load the scraper. A 225 excavator was used to feed the wash plant and one 980B front end loader was used for tailings removal. A 10 by 20 foot derocker was used to classify gravels to 2 inch minus, followed by 2 oscillating sluice runs, 4 feet wide each, with expanded metal over Nomad matting. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir in Bonanza Creek and was settled in out-of-stream settling ponds with a creek bypass channel around the settling ponds. From 1998 to 2000, one Caterpillar 235 excavator was used to strip overburden, dig pay gravel and feed the wash plant. A Caterpillar D9G bulldozer was used for stripping, and two Caterpillar D350 haul trucks were used to carry pay gravel to the wash plant. A Caterpillar 980B loader was used for removing tailings. A shaker deck classified

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to 3/4 inch and fed into a 4 feet by 10 feet sluice run with angle iron riffles and then into three 4 feet wide oscillating sluice runs with 1 inch expanded metal riffles over Nomad matting. Water was supplied from an instream reservoir and was settled in out of stream ponds with a creek bypass channel on Bonanza Creek.

Environmental Work

Year	Reclamation Work
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2002	Restoration progressed on tailing piles at the mouth of O'Neill Gulch.
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Landforms

Landform	Comments
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Alluvial Valley	
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Tailings	
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Surficial Geology

The left limit of the Bonanza Creek Valley had up to 20 feet of frozen black muck on top of 4 to 6 feet of gravel. Broken boulders and old shafts were encountered within the gravels. Bedrock varied, with best pay found on top of orange-coloured broken bedrock.

In 1998, the Bonanza Creek Valley bottom was covered with dredge tailing piles, but the right limit below O'Neil Gulch had 12 to 14 feet of thawed muck overburden on top of 6 to 8 feet of gravel which contained some large quartz boulders close to bedrock. The bottom 4 feet of gravel plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. Within O'Neil Gulch there was frozen organic overburden up to 12 feet deep on top of gravel layers up to 10 feet deep.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock was fissile sericite-chlorite schist with some chlorite-quartz schist. Bedrock in the valley bottom was ridged, wavy, decomposed and shattered.

Gold Comments

Gold recovered here was mostly fine grained, and was cleaned up with a jig and a gold wheel. Fineness was around 800. Within O'Neil Gulch, some small crystalline nuggets and a few nuggets with quartz attached were recovered. Approximately 55% of fine gold was smaller than 14 mesh, 40% was between 6 and 12 mesh and less than 5% was larger than 4 mesh.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 47

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1998-2002. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2003.: p.54-55

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 52

Pictures

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Notes:

Looking upstream on O'Niel Gulch at Henry Gulch Placers using an excavator to dig pay gravel and feed the wash plant.

