

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Henry Gulch Placers, 2000-2003

Last Update: 17-Feb-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Last Chance: a tributary of Hunker

Map Sheet(s): 116B/3

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Mary Knutson	2000/01/01	2002/12/31	
John Alton	2000/01/01	2003/12/31	
Henry Gulch Placers	2000/01/01	2003/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Mary Knutson	2000/01/01	2002/12/31	
John Alton	2000/01/01	2003/12/31	
Henry Gulch Placers	2000/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

This operation was located on Last Chance Creek approximately 1500 feet upstream from the mouth.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2003/01/01	64	0	21	139	6	6		
2003/01/01	64	1	0	139	6	0		
2001/01/01	64	1	0	139	7	0		
2000/01/01	64	0	0	139	7	0		1,500

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM99-139	Expires: 2005/04/30
PM00-206	

Work History

A crew of four miners ran a single 12 hour shift in 2000 mining a left limit rim cut and a creek cut. An area 600 feet long by 300 feet wide by 2 1/2 feet deep was sluiced on the rim; and 400 feet by 150 feet by approximately 40 feet deep on the creek. Three cuts (302 feet by 323 feet by 40 feet deep/250 feet by 300 feet by 50 feet deep/140 feet by 130 feet by 52 feet deep) were stripped and sluiced during 2001 by a crew of six miners working 12 hour shifts. Dredge limits were located through the work done in 2001. Operation continued in 2002 The operators excavated already mined ground to a depth of 30-40 feet to access old channel gravels which oldtimers found too onerous to mine. The excavated material was hauled by truck and will be used to fill pits and overburden was being preserved for later contouring and re-sloping. The sluice section was 2 to 4 feet of underlying gravels and bedrock. In 2003, ground was stripped upstream from where mining finished in 2002, and also along the left limit of Last Chance Creek. Final mining and reclamation of this property is scheduled for completion in 2004.

Equipment

Two cuts were stripped and sluiced during 2000 using a Caterpillar D9G and a D9H bulldozer, a Caterpillar 225 and 245 excavator, two Caterpillar D350 dump trucks, a Caterpillar 980B loader and a Caterpillar 631B scraper. A Caterpillar 235 excavator, a third Caterpillar D350 dump truck and a Caterpillar 621 scraper was added for stripping and sluicing in 2001. A two deck screening plant was used in 2000. The pay was classified to 1/2 inch minus before being sluiced through a sluice run 7 feet wide using hydraulic riffles. The washed pay gravels were

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then run through a 4-foot section of oscillating riffles. A single deck screen plant was used in 2001, which classified the pay gravels to 3/4 inch minus before being sluiced in runs utilizing expanded metal and Nomad matting. Two boil boxes captured any coarse gold before being sluiced through a section of sluice run using hydraulic riffles, expanded metal and nomad matting. An 8-inch by 10 inch Fairbanks-Morris pump powered by a 371 GM engine supplied the 2000 igpm needed to process approximately 70 cubic yards per hour in 2000 and 115 cubic yards in 2001. Jigs and wheels were used for the final clean ups. An out-of-stream flow by pond was used to provide water for sluicing in 2000 on the left limit rim of Last Chance Creek. Two 100 foot by 150 foot by 12 foot deep out-of-stream settling ponds provided effluent treatment. A recycle system back to the creek was used for the first part of 2001 with settling occurring in an old mine pit along the right limit of Last Chance Creek. After the first cut was processed it was used for a full recycle system for the remainder of 2001 and 2002. In 2003, the operation continued using a full recycle pond system built from mined out cuts for sluicing where no surface discharge occurred.

Environmental Work**Year Reclamation Work**

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2003 | Waste dumps and previously mined cuts on the left limit were contoured and covered with overburden. Final reclamation of this property will be completed in 2004. |
| 2002 | Reclamation was ongoing where mining was completed. A short diversion to control the creek erosion was constructed. |

Landforms**Landform Comments**

Tailings

Surficial Geology

A left limit rim cut of Last Chance Creek was mined during the first part of 2000. The cut had a thin band of White Channel gravel overlying decomposed bedrock. The creek ground mined for the last part of 2000 consisted of between 20 to 30 feet of old hydraulic White Channel gravels washed off the rim overlying 15 feet of black mud and 6 feet of gravels. The creek cuts mined during 2001 varied considerably with between 30 and 50 feet of hydraulic White Channel tailings, 8 to 20 feet of black mud and from 3 to 7 feet of gravel. All of the gravels and 1 foot of bedrock was mined on the rim cut. The creek cuts processed between 3 and 5 feet of the lower gravel and from 2 to 6 feet of bedrock. The large old-timer tailing dumps were sluiced as they proved to be economic when encountered. Virgin ground was found which had very good gold values on bedrock.

In 2002, the pit immediately upstream of camp was an interesting mixture of volcanic andesite and sedimentary black shales.

Bedrock Geology

A band of quartz-drift extends up Last Chance Creek, following the left limit, to No. 15 pup, a distance of two and a half miles, and is fairly rich in places. Tufaceous beds, usually andesitic in character occur, usually interbanded with the shales and sandstone of the Tertiary series. A small area of hornblende andesite borders the Tertiary area at the mouth of the creek. The andesite here is coarser-grained than usual and is badly decomposed.

Gold Comments

The gold recovered was reported to be primarily flat and fine with 96% -14 mesh with a purity of 735 fine. Mercury was recovered in areas and was common in old timers tailings.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1998-2002. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2003.: p. 66-68

Nowosad, M. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2003. Client Services and Inspections Division, Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, 2004.: p. 56-57

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References

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 51

Pictures

Title: Henry Gulch Placers on Last Chance Creek

Notes:

Marty Knutson and John Alton mined on the mouth from 2000-2002.

