

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



**Field Name: Erickson, 1989-2000**

**Last Update: 21-Feb-2005**

**Status: Recent Producer 1978-present**

**Stream: Discovery Pup: a tributary of Last Chance**

**Map Sheet(s): 1150/11, 1150/14, 116B/3**

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## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Favron Enterprises Ltd.	2000/01/01	2000/12/31	Favron Enterprises Ltd. did the reclamation work.
Lee Bolster	1999/01/01	1999/12/31	
Peter Erickson	1989/01/01	1998/12/31	

## Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Lee Bolster	2000/01/01	2000/12/31	
Favron Enterprises Ltd.	2000/01/01	2000/12/31	Favron Enterprises Ltd. did the reclamation work.
Lee Bolster	1999/01/01	1999/12/31	
Peter Erickson	1989/01/01	1998/12/31	

## General Location

This operation was located near the confluence of Discovery Pup and Last Chance Creek.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
1998/01/01	63	59	35	139	6	30		
1995/01/01	63	59	0	139	5	0		
1993/01/01	63	39	20	139	4	48	1,500	
1991/01/01	63	59	0	139	5	0		
1989/01/01	64	0	0	139	7	0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM95-043	
PM89-110	
PM92-027	

## Work History

In 1989, Pete Erickson ran this operation with his wife. Two cuts, for an average of 10,000 bedrock square feet, were sluiced.

In 1990, two cuts totalling 8,000 square feet were sluiced.

During the 1991 and 1992 seasons, two miners worked 8 hour to 10 hour shifts per day. In 1991, a cut approximately 4000 square feet was mined, and ground was prepared for 1992.

In 1992, one cut 200 feet by 100 feet was mined and approximately 220 cubic yards were sluiced

In 1993, a cut with surface dimensions of 300 feet by 50 feet was mined.

A similar cut was taken in 1994.

In 1995, two miners usually worked 8 hours per day, but sometimes up to 10 hours. One cut 300 feet by 60 feet was mined. This cut had been mined by oldtimers and had 2 to 3 feet of ice on bedrock. Most of the gold recovered was in the bedrock.

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The 1996 season saw two miners usually working 8 hours per day, but sometimes up to 10 hours. Two students were hired to help. One cut 250 feet by 7- feet was mined. The cut was on the right limit of Discovery Pup. A small area at the end of the cut (about 50 feet by 25 feet) was missed by the oldtimers.

Two students were hired to help again in 1997. One cut was mined and another stripped in preparation for 1998. In 1998, Pete Erikson reprocessed some of the ground he had previously mined above the Last Chance Creek access road.

Lee Bolster worked at the site in 1999. His cut was 100 feet by 100 feet in area. Only reclamation by Favron Enterprises work was done in 2000.

### **Production**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Stripped</b>	<b>Sluiced</b>
1992	Unknown	220 cubic yards
1991	Unknown	4000 bedrock square feet
1990	Unknown	8000 bedrock square feet
1989	Unknown	10000 bedrock square feet

### **Equipment**

In 1989, equipment consisted of a D7 Cat bulldozer, a D6 Cat bulldozer and a D4 Cat bulldozer. The D7 was used for moving overburden and pay, while the D6 was used for feeding the sluice plant and clearing tailings. The D4 was used for chores while a hoe was brought in as needed for mucking the ponds.

The sluice plant consisted of a 7 foot by 20-foot dump box lined with punch plate and Coco matting. It was attached to a single sluice run 30 inches by 25 feet, which was lined with 2-inch angle iron riffles, 1/2-inch punch plate, and Coco matting. Approximately 35 to 40 cubic yards per hour were processed using 1000 to 1200 igpm water. An 8 in by 8 in pump and an 8-inch by 6-inch pump were coupled. Effluent was settled in instream ponds on Last Chance in 1989, and in 1990 out-of-stream settling ponds using recirculation were constructed at the mouth of Discovery Pup.

In 1993 and 1994, A D8 Caterpillar bulldozer and a D6 bulldozer were used to mine this site. A Caterpillar excavator was hired for sluicing. A 6-inch Worthington pump powered by a GMC supplied 1000 igpm of water to a Ross type sluice box, which processed 45 yards per hour. Water was pumped from an instream recycle pond in Last Chance Creek. Effluent was settled in a long U-shaped settling pond with a retention time of approximately two hours. Effluent leaving the settling pond is carried by ditch to the recycle pond.

In 1995, a D8 Caterpillar bulldozer with a ripper was used for stripping overburden and a D6 caterpillar bulldozer was used for sluicing. An excavator with a 1 yards bucket was hired as needed. In 1996, a D9 Cat dozer with a bull blade and ripper was hired to strip. A D6C Caterpillar bulldozer with a straight blade was used for pushing up pay dirt. An excavator was hired to feed the sluice box. In 1997, the bulldozer was used and the jobs they performed were the same as in 1996. This operator used a 30-foot trommel including a 15-foot scrubbing section and a 15-foot screen. The sluice run fitted on the trommel is 12 feet long and from 3 to 5 feet wide. The sluice run is fitted with punch plate and expanded metal. In 1996, the operator went back to using a regular sluice box for half of the cut due to the presence of wood and large rocks. Once the wood and rocks were through, the trommel was used. The wash plant was supplied with 1000 igpm of water using a Worthington 8 inch by 6-inch pump powered by a 4-53 GM engine. The process rate was 60 loose yards per hour. In 1995, water for the operation was obtained from an instream pump pond on Last Chance Creek and by pipeline 300 to 400 feet up Discovery Pup to the sluicing operation. Waste was treated in an out-of-stream pond on the left limit of Last Chance Creek prior to discharging to the pump pond. This allowed an estimated 50% recirculation rate. In 1997, water was pumped from the end of the settling pond allowing 100% recirculation.

In 1998, a D8 Caterpillar bulldozer with a ripper was used for stripping overburden and a D6 Caterpillar bulldozer was used for sluicing. In 1999, Lee Bolster used two Caterpillar bulldozers, models D8 and D6, and a Caterpillar 225 excavator with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  -yard bucket. During both 1998 and 1999, the operators used either a 30-foot trommel or a

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standard sluice box depending on the material being processed. This was the same equipment used in 1996 and 1997. The process rate was 60 yards per hour. Water for the operation was obtained from an instream pump pond, in the same way as the 1995 and 1996 seasons. Water was again treated using the out-of-stream settling pond system employed in previous years thus allowing for a 50% recycle rate. The cut mined at the mouth of Discovery Pup recycled process water in a pond adjacent to the sluice set-up.

### **Surficial Geology**

The stratigraphic section at this site consisted of 35 to 40 feet of frozen black overburden on broken bedrock. The bedrock was sluiced.

In 1995 the stratigraphic section in Discovery Pup was 30 to 40 feet of frozen black muck on bedrock. The bedrock varied from hard to soft gumbo clay. A cut in the Last Chance Valley at the mouth of Discovery Pup had overburden that was shallow in places and full of oldtimers logs. The sluice section in 1995 was 3 feet, in 1996 it was 2 to 3 feet and in 1997 it was 3 to 4 feet.

### **Bedrock Geology**

The bedrock in this area is slate.

### **Gold Comments**

Gold recovered in 1991 was 75% fine/25% coarse, with small nuggets up to 6 pennyweights found. In 1992 about 10% of the gold was coarse, most was granular, with a 1/4 ounce nugget found. Some quartz was attached. The fineness was 700.

In 1995 gold recovered was about 80% fine grained and about 20% coarse. In 1996 only about 10% of the gold was coarse and in 1997 about half was fine and half was coarse. Fineness varied from 690 to 700.

Fineness of gold recovered in 1998 and 1999 was once again 690 to 700.

### **References**

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