

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Smith, 1996-1998

Last Update: 11-Jan-2005

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Black Hills: a tributary of Stewart

Map Sheet(s): 1150/10

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Dean Smith	1996/01/01	1998/12/31	
Rod Smith	1996/01/01	1998/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Rod Smith	1996/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dean Smith	1996/01/01	1998/12/31	
Rod Smith	1996/01/01	1998/12/31	

General Location

This operation was located near the top of Black Hills Creek. The active mining continued in an upstream direction from where previous operators had finished at the mouth of a large unnamed tributary of Black Hills Creek.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
1998/01/01	63 31 31	138 56 1		
1997/01/01	63 31 0	138 57 0		
1996/01/01	63 31 0	138 57 0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM96-075	Expired: 2002/05/01

Work History

Between 1996-1997, Rod Smith and one employee ran this operation, and occasionally Rod's brother, Dean, would help out. The ground was tested for a portion of the 1995 season and mining began in 1996, with one large cut measuring 90 by 210 feet. In 1997, four cuts, 250 by 60 feet, 150 by 40 feet, 100 by 40 feet and 150 by 150 feet, were stripped. Half of one cut could not be sluiced before cold weather arrived in the fall. The following year, Rod Smith and a single employee continued mining near the top of Black Hills Creek, and a single cut was enlarged along the left limit.

Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1997	197500 square feet	194500 square feet
1996	Unknown	18900 cubic yards

Equipment

In 1996 and 1997, a Caterpillar D8H Bulldozer was used for stripping and stockpiling the pay gravels. A Caterpillar 225 excavator fed the sluice plant and built/maintained the settling ponds. A scrubber style trommel 4 feet in diameter by 32 feet long was used to classify the pay gravels. Two sections of screen were used. The first section of screen classified the gravels to minus 3/8-inches and the lower section of riffles classified the gravels to

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minus 3/4-inches. The classified gravels from each section of screen were sluiced through separate sluice runs. The minus 3/8-inch material was washed through a 4 foot wide by 10 foot long run. The first 4 feet of the run were lined with Nomad matting and hydraulic riffles. The next 4 feet were lined with Nomad matting and modified (1/2-inch top by 1-inch side) angle iron riffles. The last 2 feet of the run was lined with Nomad matting and expanded metal. The minus 3/4-inch material was also washed through a 4 foot wide by 10 foot long sluice run. The first two feet of the run was lined with Nomad matting and hydraulic riffles. The next 6 feet of the run used Nomad matting and modified angle iron riffles. The last two feet was lined Nomad matting and expanded metal. This wash plant was built by Rod Smith and was capable of processing approximately 50 to 60 cubic yards per hour. A 6-inch by 6 inch Monarch pump supplied the 1000 igpm needed for sluicing. Water was captured in an instream reservoir on Black Hills Creek and then pumped to the sluice plant. The effluent was treated in a series of out of stream settling ponds downstream from the operation before being discharged back into Black Hills Creek. Up until 1998, the same equipment and wash plant was used as in previous years. Water was captured from Black Hills Creek and an unnamed right limit tributary of Black Hills Creek in an in-stream reservoir and then pumped to the wash plant. The effluent was treated in the same settling ponds as in 1996 and 1997.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Valley	

Surficial Geology

The ground varied in depth considerably between the center and the sides of the creek. An average cut encountered 8 to 12 feet of frozen muck overlying 8 feet of gravel. Most of the gravel and up to 1 foot of the bedrock was sluiced.

Bedrock Geology

The bedrock was usually fully decomposed although some boulders were encountered.

Gold Comments

A wide variety of gold was recovered from this site although most of the gold was flat, round and usually 12 mesh in size. Occasional nuggets as large as 1/3 ounce and some wire gold were recovered. The purity was 680 fine.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 125-126

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Nowosad, M. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2003. Client Services and Inspections Division, Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, 2004.: p. 109

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Pictures

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Title: Rod Smith's operation, 1998, Black Hills Creek

Notes:

Excavator feeding pay material to Rod Smith's 4-foot by 32-inch trommel on Blackhills Creek.

