

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Schmidt, 1993-2003

Last Update: 21-Mar-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Thistle: a tributary of Yukon

Map Sheet(s): 1150/3

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Stuart Schmidt	1993/01/01	2003/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Stuart Schmidt	1993/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

Several areas on Thistle Creek were worked downstream of the airstrip in 1993. In 1995-97, mining took place in several different locations over the mining seasons.

In 1998-2003 Schmidt's operation concentrated on sluicing the main valley bottom and hydraulic stripping of Edas Bench.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 3 51	139 21 47		
2002/01/01	63 3 0	139 27 0		
1998/01/01	63 3 0	139 27 0		
1993/01/01	63 5 8	139 25 12	2,000	

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM02-292	
PM97-070	Expires: 2007/10/31
PM93-095	

Work History

1993-1994- From 3 - 5 miners and 1 cook shared 2 shifts per day each season. In 1993 old-timers' tailings were sluiced on the Saucerman bench. Farther upstream an area measuring 300 feet by 2700 feet was mined in 7 cuts. Hydraulic stripping occurred on the Edas Bench in 1994, and an extensive area on the right limit of Thistle Creek was mechanically stripped in Green Gulch. Mercury was recovered when the old-timers' tailings were sluiced. Extensive timbered shafts were revealed when Green Gulch was stripped in 1994. Mercury was recovered when the old-timers' tailings were sluiced. Extensive timbered shafts were revealed when Green Gulch was stripped in 1994.

1995-97- Stuart Schmidt had a crew of five miners working two 12 hour shifts. In 1995 five cuts below green Gulch measuring 300 feet by 400 feet were mined. In 1996 four cuts below Green Gulch measuring 300 feet by 400 feet were processed. Two cuts at the mouth of green gulch measuring 300 feet by 400 feet along with one long continuous cut on Elis bench which measured 300 feet by 600 feet were mined in 1997.

1998-2003 - One to five miners and one to three camp personnel mined Thistle Creek. Sluicing in the main valley bottom and hydraulic stripping of Edas bench took place in 1998, 2001, 2002 and 2003. During 1999 and 2000 sluicing did not occur, only stripping of Edas bench.

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Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1997	Unknown	420000 square feet
1996	Unknown	480000 square feet
1995	Unknown	600000 square feet

Equipment

A D10N Caterpillar bulldozer was used for all mining activities, including stripping, constructing berms and settling ponds, stockpiling pay, feeding the sluice box, and removing tailings. Fairly extensive testing was done using a mobile auger drill. Pay material was fed at a rate of 225 loose cubic yards per hour into a triple run sluice box. Two spray bars and a monitor washed material in the dump box. The centre run was lined with 3/4 inch punch plate over a four pound expanded metal mesh for the first eight feet, and two inch flat bar riffles set at a 15E angle for the last 12 feet. The two side runs were also lined with 3/4-inch punch plate, expanded metal, and flat bar riffles. The runs were lined with Nomad carpet. Water was pumped at a rate of 3500 igpm using a 10 by 12 inch Morris pump powered by a 3408 Caterpillar engine. Effluent was treated in two large out-of-stream settling ponds below the main workings in 1993, and in smaller out-of-stream ponds on the left limit below the Saucerman bench. In 1994 effluent from the hydraulic stripping operation was treated in the previous seasons mining cuts. In 1995-97, a triple run sluice box was used to process 160 cubic yards of loose material per hour. The center run was used to process material over 3/4 inch and the side runs processed the 3/4-inch minus pay gravels. A Morris 12 by 14-inch pump with a Caterpillar 3408 diesel engine provided 2800 igpm to the sluice box. Effluent was treated in the previous seasons instream mining cuts.

In 1998-2002 a D10 bulldozer was used to strip and push into the processing plant in the 1998, 1999 and 2001 seasons. In 2002, two D10 bulldozers were used to strip and push to an Hitachi EX 700 excavator which fed the processing plant. A pump and monitor were used to hydraulic strip Edas bench during each year. A triple-run sluice box was used in the 1998 and 2001 seasons. In the 2002 season, a screen deck with Z box and a five-run sluice was used to process materials. Water was acquired directly from Thistle Creek by a pump for both the monitor and processing plant. Effluent was treated in a single settling pond prior to discharging back into Thistle Creek.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Terrace	

Surficial Geology

Schmitt Mining is mining intermediate-level gravel on Elis Bench, an intermediate-level gravel terrace located on the left limit of Thistle Creek. The terrace is approximately 10 meters above the present creek level and is incised into muscovite schist and graphitic quartzite. It is capped by 5 meters of sandy fine-cobble gravel that was deposited on the paleo-Thistle Creek Floodplain, which was overlain by 3-4 meters of muck.

In 1993 the total depth was about 18 feet, including 2 to 8 feet of black muck and 2 to 6 feet of light gravel or sands over a band of coarser gravels above bedrock. Lower 4 to 5 feet of gravel and 2 to 3 feet of bedrock sluiced. In 1994 stripping was underway in 2 separate areas, for which no stratigraphic data is available.

In 1995, on Thistle Creek proper, below Green Gulch, the depth to bedrock was approximately 45 feet deep, with the top 15 feet of black muck overlaying mixed sand and gravels to bedrock. Elis Bench was approximately 40 feet in depth with 20 feet of black muck overlaying 20 feet of homogenous gravels to bedrock.

Bedrock Geology

The regional geology includes mainly old schistose rocks with which are associated certain gneissoid types and also crystalline limestone. These are intruded by granitic and related pegmatitic rocks that are probably of Mesozoic age, and are in places quite extensively developed. The granitic rocks at certain points are highly

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garnetiferous.

Gold Comments

Placer gold recovered from gravel is coarse and not as round as in the creek. The gold included smooth, rounded, coarse nuggets up to 2.5 ounces in weight. Forty percent of the gold was between 12 and 16 mesh, 20% between 16 and 20 mesh, and 20% between 20 and 25 mesh. Fineness was 850.

In 1995-97, the gold was described as being smooth and round on Thistle Creek but coarse and not as rounded on Elis Bench. Fineness was 860.

References

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Pictures

Title: Schmidt, Thistle Creek, 1993-2002

Notes:

