

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Shellbrite Placers Ltd., 1996-2003

Last Update: 17-Feb-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Henderson: a tributary of Stewart

Map Sheet(s): 1150/6

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Hayden Cowan	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dave McInroe	1996/01/01	2002/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Hayden Cowan	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dave McInroe	1996/01/01	2002/12/31	
Shellbrite Placers Ltd.	1996/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

The mining was done upstream of Moosehorn Creek, a left limit tributary of Henderson Creek. The mining occurred on Moosehorn Creek as well as several locations on Henderson upstream of Mosehorn between 1998-2002.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2003/01/01	63	25	27	139	11	39		
2003/01/01	63	25	0	139	15	0		
1998/01/01	63	25	0	139	15	0		
1996/01/01	63	23	0	139	15	0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM96-043	Expires: 2005/04/30

Work History

Dave McInroe set up and started a new operation on Henderson Creek in 1996, with a crew of three miners running single 12 hour shifts. Some tailings and bedrock were sluiced during 1996. A continuous cut with a total of 27,000 cubic yards was sluiced in 1996, and three cuts (13,000 square feet/27,000 square feet/105,000 square feet) were sluiced in 1997. During 1998-2002, a crew of one to two miners ran a single 12 hour shift per day. Two cuts measuring 800 feet long by 300 feet wide and 600 by 300 feet were mined on Moosehorn Creek in 1998. Tailings from several sites on Henderson Creek were processed in 1999. Three cuts measuring 720 by 90 feet, 720 by 120 feet, and 300 by 80 feet were mined on Henderson Creek in 2000. Three more cuts measuring 1000 feet by 120 feet, 700 by 90 feet and 450 by 60 feet were mined on Henderson Creek in 2001, and three similar-sized cuts were sluiced in 2002. Hayden Cown took over the entire operation in the 2003 season, and continued stripping and sluicing a section of valley below the forks along the left limit.

Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1997	Unknown	145000 bedrock square feet
1996	Unknown	27000 cubic yards

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Equipment

A Hitachi UH143 excavator was used for stripping, handling tailings and restoration in 1996. A Hitachi UH083 excavator fed the wash plant and dug drains when required. A Komatsu 155 bulldozer was used for stripping and handling tailings in 1997 and the Hitachi Uh 143 was used for feeding the trommel. A typical New Zealand style wash plant was used with a hopper feeding into a 5-foot diameter trommel, which classifies the pay gravels to 1/2 inch minus. The classified material was washed through sluice runs 12 feet wide by 10 feet long that are equipped with hydraulic riffles. The oversize material was carried off and stacked with a 35-foot conveyor. A 4-inch Ajax pump powered by an Isuzu engine supplied the 1000 igpm needed to sluice between 70 and 100 cubic yards per hour. Water was pumped from an instream pump-pond to the wash plant with downstream settling facilities. Some recycling was necessary in 1997. A rotating screen which continually cleaned itself with pressure jets was constructed to prevent floating debris from entering the instream pond. The intake for the pump was contained inside the screened drum.

In 1998, the same equipment and wash plant used in previous years was used. Water from Moosehorn Creek was used for sluicing on Moosehorn Creek. A partial recycle system was used with final effluent treatment in an out-of-stream pond on Henderson Creek. A partial recycle system was also used for the mining on Henderson Creek in 1999 and 2000. Water was not recycled in 2001. Settling was done in out-of-stream dredge tailings or old mine pits on Henderson Creek. Cowan sluiced with both instream and out of stream settling in 2003; the creek was used as a conduit to the final instream settling pond.

Environmental Work

Year	Reclamation Work
2003	Some contouring was done in the fall.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Valley Tailings	

Surficial Geology

The cuts had an average of 2 feet of moss and black muck overlying 3 feet of silt and 4 feet of mixed gravels. The lower 2 feet of gravels and a small amount of the bedrock was sluiced in 1996. The amount of gravel processed was increased in 1997. In 1998, Moosehorn Creek had between 3 and 5 feet of frozen muck overlying 3 feet of gravel. All of the gravels and approximately 1 foot of bedrock was sluiced. Dredge tailings and old bulldozer ramped tailings were sluiced at several locations throughout 1999. The cuts that were mined in 2000 had an average of 3 to 5 feet of frozen muck overlying 3 feet of gravel. As on Moosehorn Creek all of the gravels and approximately 1 foot of the flat slabby bedrock was sluiced. The mining in 2001 occurred along the right limit of Henderson Creek, and an average of 15 feet of frozen muck overlies 2 feet of sand and 4 feet of gravel. The lower 3 feet of gravel and the first foot of bedrock was sluiced.

Bedrock Geology

Henderson Creek's bedrock was flat and slabby. The rocks exposed along the valley consist mainly of granite gneisses and other igneous schists. At the forks 3 miles above the mouth, inliers of white crystalline limestone associated with quartz mica schists and quartzite are noted.

Gold Comments

The gold was reported as being brightly colored and typically flat and smooth with a 780 fineness. In 1998, the gold was reported as primarily fine with a few small nuggets, and the purity ranged from 790 to 800 fine. Gold from Henderson Creek was also fine and ranged from a purity of 730 to 780 fine. It was usually brightly coloured, round and smooth, with a few small nuggets.

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References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 122

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Pictures

Title: Shellbrite Placers on Henderson Creek

Notes:

