

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Star North Placers, 1999-2001

Last Update: 16-Feb-2005

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Eureka: a tributary of Indian

Map Sheet(s): 1150/10

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Hiro Miyahama	2001/01/01	2002/11/15	
John Loveless	1999/01/01	2000/12/31	
Troy Cahoon	1999/01/01	2002/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Hiro Miyahama	2001/01/01	2002/11/15	
John Loveless	1999/01/01	2000/12/31	
Troy Cahoon	1999/01/01	2002/12/31	
Star North Placers	1999/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

Mining commenced approximately 5 kilometres upstream on Eureka Creek from its confluence with the Indian River and the site of their 1998 operation.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 37 3	138 49 44		
2002/01/01	63 36 0	138 48 0		
1999/01/01	63 36 0	138 48 0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM99-127	Expires: 2009/11/30

Work History

Troy Cahoon and John Loveless acquired this property from Wayne Tatlow and Pamela Nowlin (Sky Dawn) in 1999. It was a short haul to move equipment to this new area and they were able to utilize their existing camps and infrastructure. They employed 5 miners and 2 camp personnel and worked two 12 hour shifts for 1999 and 2000. In 2001, John and family did not return to the site. Troy Cahoon continued to operate with a new partner Hiro Miyahama and sluiced into early November regardless of the icicles. Only 2 miners and 4 camp personnel were employed. In 1999 and 2000, 4 huge pits measuring 400 by 400 feet were mined basically from the right limit to the bench grounds moving over 300,000 cubic yards of material. This was cut back to 5 cuts in 2001 approximately 100 by 75 feet in size and concentrating on side pay only. Reclamation by this operation has been progressive in nature, using the material from the next mine cut to backfill pits and re-contouring tailings as they are created. No work was done at this site throughout 2002 and 2003; operation was for sale. Cahoon and Miyahama used this camp while working upstream on another tributary of Eureka Creek under their license.

Equipment

Two D10 and two D9L Caterpillar bulldozers were used for stripping and stockpiling pay gravels. The bulldozers were equipped with U-blades and single shank rippers. An EL300 Caterpillar excavator fed the sluice plant and dug ditches as required. To stack tailings and perform yard work, a Caterpillar 980C loader was employed. All equipment was used at various times for the purpose of restoration and reclamation. In 2001, however, the

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operation downsized considerably and only one D9H was employed for all works. A 5 by 16 foot El Russ incline shaker plant fed via a hopper screened material to minus 3/4 inch. Four 4 by 16 foot sluice runs were lined with unbacked Nomad matting and expanded metal. Half way down the length of each sluice run, a short 4 foot section of 1 inch Hungarian riffles were installed. Powered by a Caterpillar 3306 diesel engine, the Morris 10 by 8 inch pump was capable of pumping 2000 igpm. The operation processed around 200 yards per hour. Final clean ups were dealt with using a 2 hutch jig and portable Long Tom. In 2001, Troy and Hiro used a conventional triple run sluice with a Morris 10 by 10 inch pump, powered by a Caterpillar 3406 diesel engine capable of 2000 igpm. With this equipment they were able to process about 75 to 100 yards per hour. Final clean ups were actually done off site by Don and Rose Kenzie at their facility in Callison Industrial subdivision using jigs and a vibrating table. This operation utilized out of stream settling ponds. An old mining cut near the mouth of Eureka was the final settling facility. Sending effluent down a right limit drain proved problematic as the flow tended to pick up mud and sediment from the bank. Diverting Eureka to the left limit within a kilometer of that facility soon corrected the problem and the operator has suggested a new location for the final restoration channel for the creek.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Valley	

Surficial Geology

During 1999 and 2000, Eureka was diverted to the right limit of the valley and the creek and bench area mined. This turned out to be very deep ground where the overburden varied from 75 feet of frozen black muck to 25 feet. The pay gravels once accessed also were divergent, measuring at times 5 feet, while other areas yielded a 15 foot layer for sluicing. The 2001 season saw Troy and Hiro mining the side pay only to avoid the overburden depths previously encountered. Consequently, the sluice section was between 5 and 10 feet of gravels and the waste section was a maximum of 25 feet.

Bedrock Geology

The rocks on Eureka Creek consist of slates, slaty quartzites, dark micaceous schists and green schists, dipping at high angles and striking in an easterly direction. These are the same rocks found on the Yukon River below Indian River and on the lower part of the Indian River and referred to as the Indian River series. They are older than the Klondike schists which they border on the north and are probably of Cambrian age. These rocks belong to an entirely different group from those cut by the principal auriferous creeks, and the fact that they are gold bearing greatly widens the area of possible discoveries.

Gold Comments

The gold recovered tended to be a mixture of coarse and fine particles with some nuggets; purity averaged around 730.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1998-2002. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2003.: p. 97-98

Nowosad, M. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2003. Client Services and Inspections Division, Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, 2004.: p. 111-112

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 95

Pictures

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Notes:

Late fall sluicing by Troy Cahoon.

