

Yukon Placer Database

Stream Report



Stream: Upper Bonanza

Last Update: 18-Feb-2007

Tributary: Bonanza

Mining District: Dawson

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General Comments

Upper Bonanza is the headwaters of Bonanza Creek.

General Gold

The gold found on this creek had a fineness of 750-850.

Operations

Field Name	Latitude Deg:Min:Sec	Longitude Deg:Min:Sec	Status	Date
6077 Yukon Ltd., 1990-2009	63:54:1	139:8:19	Active Producer	1/1/2009
McGee, 2009	63:54:32	139:8:56	Exploratory	1/1/2009
Knutson, 2005-2006	63:55:7	139:16:8	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/2006
Maller, 2006	63:54:34	139:9:9	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/2006
Paine/McGee, 1991-1997, 1998-2000	63:54:35	139:9:4	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/2000
Henry Gulch Placers, 1995-1996, 1998-2000	63:54:32	139:14:23	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/2000
Schmidt, 1996	63:55:0	139:17:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1996
Hamilton, 1993-1994	63:55:0	139:18:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1994
Coomes, 1974-1992	63:53:0	139:8:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1991
Mask Mining, 1991-1992	63:55:0	139:16:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1991
Hinneke, 1980-1984, 1990	63:55:0	139:18:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1990
Carson Gold, 1989-1990	63:55:0	139:18:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1989
Conklin, 1988	63:55:0	139:9:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1988
Busch, 1985	63:54:0	139:9:0	Exploratory	1/1/1985
Mac-Bry Mines, 1983	63:55:0	139:17:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1983
Prince Albert Mines Ltd., 1981-1983	63:55:0	139:15:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1983
Beyer, 1983	63:55:0	139:15:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1983
Bonar and Young Mining Co.,	63:54:0	139:8:0	Recent Producer	1/1/1980

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Operations

Field Name	Latitude Deg:Min:Sec	Longitude Deg:Min:Sec	Status	Date
1980			1978-present	
Northwest Consolidated Industries Ltd., 1980	63:55:0	139:9:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1980
Chapil, 1979-1980	63:55:0	139:13:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1979
Klondike Mining Company, 1979-1980	63:55:0	139:14:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1979
Conway, 1978-1979	63:55:0	139:9:0	Recent Producer 1978-present	1/1/1978
Perret, 1969-1975	63:55:0	139:13:0	Historical Producer	1/1/1969

Work History

1969,1970 - Perret began repairing equipment and stripping 30,000 bedrock square feet of ground. No production values were reported for either of these years. 1971-1972- Continued stripping and a small amount sluicing. 1973 - Mr. Perret mined on upper Bonanza Creek below the mouth of Victoria Gulch. 1974 - 5,000 bedrock square feet were mined. 1975 - Continued to mine on Claim No. 40 on Upper Bonanza. 1976 - No sluicing was done this season.1978-1979- Mr. Conway did stripping on the property. 1979- Klondike Mining began work on the property. 1980 - Mining continued, but no production figures were given.1979- Mr. Chapil mined a small cut approximately 300 metres (1,000 feet) upstream from the mouth of McKay Gulch. 1980- Mr. Chapil continued to work, but no production figures were given.1981- Prince Albert Mines Limited took over the property.1980- Mr. Conditt did stripping and preparation for future mining.1980 - Northwest Consolidated Industries Ltd. did test work and mined the downstream half of the property.1980- Mr. Hinnek and Mr. Berger began work on the creek. A cut was stripped, and a bedrock drain was dug. 1981- Work continued at the cut made on the left limit of the creek, but no production figures were given. 1982- Mr. Hinnek worked alone. He mined a cut along the right limit of the creek. 1983- Mr. Hinnek and three helpers mined on the property. 1984- Mr. Hinnek and three helpers stripped approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material. 1989-1990- Pay gravel was excavated from the base of the left limit hillside. Total dimensions of the mining cut at the end of the 1990 season were approximately 200 feet long by 50 feet wide, with an average depth of approximately 12 feet.1981-83 Prince Albert Mines Ltd. took over property previously mined by Mr. Chapil. They mined one large cut at the site of Mr. Chapil's former workings, and began work at a second site just above the mouth of McKay Gulch.1983- Mr. Beyer worked at this location for part of the season. He worked with Mr. Roberts on a Homestake Gulch property for the 1984 season.1983- Mac-Bry Mines mined on the property.1985- Busch mined on claim P 0652 nine rotary drill holes totalling 115 feet were drilled.1988- Conklin sluiced five cuts were for a total of approximately 90,000 cubic yards.1989 and 1990, Carson Gold subcontracted the operation from Erich Raguth.1974-1992 - Mr. Coomes staked six claims altogether on the creek and three claims on Ready Bullion Gulch, just up from the mouth.1991-92 - Mask Mining mined a cut 50 feet wide by 600 feet long taken from the centre of O'Neil Gulch just upstream from its confluence with Bonanza Creek.1993-94 - George Hamilton and 3 other miners operated this mine. Activity was limited to testing in 1993. A cut approximately 200 feet long by 30 feet wide was mined along the right limit of the valley bottom in 1994.1996- This was a 6 person operation under ownership of Stuart Schmidt. Two cuts were completed.1995-96, 1998-2000 - Henry Gulch Placers. In 1998 to 2000, along the left limit of the Bonanza Creek valley, one cut along the right limit rim was 60 feet wide by 20 feet deep and was mined for a total length of about 3500 feet. Within O'Neil Gulch, one cut about 800 feet long by 75 feet wide was stripped in 1998 and 1999, and then the bottom 600 feet by 75 feet were sluiced in 2000.1990-2003 - 6077 Yukon Ltd. Mr. Trainer moved to this property from Victoria Gulch in 1990. Don Trainer continued the operation that Vern Trainer began in 1990. This operation has

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progressed steadily upstream each year. In 2005 and 2006, Marty Knutson ran an operation located between Homestake Gulch and Gauvin Gulch on Upper Bonanza Creek. Here, Knutson began mining on the right limit of the creek and in 2006 a cut was completed downstream on the left limit. In 2006, Allen Maller started operations just upstream of Carmack Fork where he worked with his wife, Anita, sluicing material for 4 to 6 hours every day.

Production

Year	Quantity (oz.)
2008	51.08
2007	79.19
2006	660.84
2005	564.92
2004	28.04
2003	274.29
2002	11.68
2001	11.14
2000	114.35
1999	37.00
1998	113.00
1997	74.00
1996	48.00
1995	168.00
1994	71.00
1993	20.00
1990	256.00
1989	923.00
1982	272.00
1981	278.00
1980	1,563.00
1979	960.00
1978	103.00
Total Production	6,681.53

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Terrace	
Tailings	
Alluvial Valley	

Glacial Limits

Unglaciaded

General Stratigraphy

In 1982, deposits being mined were narrow strips along the right and left limits between dredge tailings and the valley walls. A section along the right limit consisted of 1.5 to 4.5 meters (5 to 15 feet) of layered colluviums with

organic-rich and silty to earthy matrix and angular bedrock fragments overlying 1.5 meters (5 feet) of black muck with abundant organic detritus and 1.2 meters (4 feet) of gravel with sandy matrix. The deposit was frozen. Mr. Hinnek believed the dredge was prevented from mining the area along the right limit by a rib of ice occupying old underground workings, which ran along the margin of the dredge tailings. In 1989, the stratigraphic section consisted of 4 feet of black muck on top of a mixed layer of muck, gravel, rock and ice over a gravel layer, which was up to 5 feet thick on top of the bedrock. All of the gravel plus the mixed layer were processed, but none of the bedrock. Deposits at the property located between Homestake and McKay Gulches consisted of tailings from old dredge mining operations in the centre of the valley, and previously unmined ground along valley margins. Drill testing done during 1982 and 1983 indicated that deposits on the property were up to 90 feet thick and the 1,200 foot long face of an old hydraulic cut, and 72 feet thick 400 feet back from the face. The 72 foot thick section consisted of 22 feet of silty overburden over 50 feet of quartz-rich White Channel gravel. Depth of frozen black muck varied from a minimum of 4 to 6 feet up to a maximum of 30 feet on the hillside. Nearer the valley centre, the gravel layer varied from 8 to 25 feet. The gravel layer becomes progressively thinner upslope. The bottom 8 feet of gravel plus from 3 feet to as much as 7 or 8 feet of bedrock were sluiced. Approximately 5 feet of pay gravels overlain by 10 to 12 feet of "mixed dirt and rock". All gravel plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. Deposits present consist of .9 to 2.4 meters (3 to 8 feet) of colluviums with gravel lenses overlying 0 to .9 meters (0 to 3 feet) of gravel, and .6 to 1.5 meters (2 to 5 feet) of broken bedrock. Tailings from early bulldozer mining operations including those of A. and A. Coulombe between 1954 and 1956 extend approximately 1,500 meters (5,000 feet) upstream along Ready Bullion Gulch from its mouth. Tailings from hand mining operations extend even further upstream. The stratigraphic section in 1989 consisted of 6 feet of frozen black muck over a layer of gravel from 4 to 6 feet deep. Depth and composition varied considerably due to many old slides plus ridges in the bedrock. In 1990, a frozen overburden layer up to 6 feet deep was removed from the middle of Ready Bullion Gulch immediately above the confluence, and from the valley bottom and left limit of Bonanza Creek immediately below the confluence. Gravels varied from a few feet to 6 feet deep. Slide bedrock was mixed in with the side pay, and bedrock in the valley bottom was ridged and wavy. On the bottom claim in O'Neil Gulch the frozen overburden was up to 6 feet deep over 8 feet of gravel. In the Bonanza Creek Valley on the left limit, frozen overburden increased to 14 feet as the cut progressed about 20 feet into the hillside. Gravel was about 6 feet deep. The bottom 4 feet of gravel and about 2 feet of decomposed bedrock from each location were sluiced. Overburden, gravel, slide bedrock, and old-timers' tailings were all mixed together. The total depth was 12 to 15 feet. All materials plus 1 to 2 feet bedrock sluiced. Historical dredge tailings in the valley were 12 to 18 feet deep on top of 4 to 8 feet of slickings and muck. The bottom layer of muck and about 4 feet of ripped bedrock were sluiced. The left limit of the Bonanza Creek Valley had up to 20 feet of frozen black muck on top of 4 to 6 feet of gravel. Broken boulders and old shafts were encountered within the gravels. Bedrock varied with best pay found over orange coloured broken bedrock. In 1998, the Bonanza Creek Valley bottom was covered with dredge tailing piles but the right limit below O'Neil Gulch had 12 to 14 feet of thawed muck overburden on top of 6 to 8 feet of gravel which contained some large quartz boulders close to bedrock. The bottom 4 feet of gravel plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. Within O'Neil Gulch there was frozen organic overburden up to 12 feet deep on top of gravel layers up to 10 feet deep. In 1991, approximately 2 feet of organic overburden overlies an estimated 12 feet of gravel. Bedrock has not been reached. In 1993, approximately 2 feet of black muck overburden covered seamed layers of frozen fine and coarse gravel to a depth of about 15 ft near the middle of the valley bottom. No shafts or drifts were encountered. Bedrock was flat and decomposed. In 1995, about 2 feet of black muck overburden lay on top of frozen gravels with a total depth to bedrock from 16 to 20 feet. Gravels were rounded and sorted with no large boulders. Gravel layers were seamed with black muck. There was no evidence of old workings. The bottom 2 feet of gravel plus 2 to 4 feet of bedrock was sluiced. In 1998, frozen overburden was 4 to 6 feet deep on top of 16 feet to 20 feet of sandy gravel layers mixed with mud and silt layers. The bottom 4 feet of gravel plus up to 3 feet of decomposed bedrock were sluiced. In 1990, it was found that frozen black muck up to 30 feet deep lay over 1 to 2 feet of gravel. Victoria Gulch was previously mined and very little overburden remained in the valley bottom. The gravel was five feet deep near the middle and thinner on the sides. One foot of bedrock was sluiced along with all gravel. The organic

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overburden layer got progressively thinner as mining moved upstream. In 1993 and 1994, 15 feet of black muck was mechanically stripped from the valley bottom and stockpiled on the right limit valley wall. Gravel layers up to six feet deep were sluiced without bedrock. 1995- Frozen organic overburden varied from 10 to 15 feet deep in the valley bottom. Gravel layers were up to 6 feet deep. 1998- Frozen organic overburden, 15 to 20 feet deep, was stripped from on top of the gravel layer which averaged 6 to 8 feet deep.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock was fissile sericite-chlorite schist with some chlorite-quartz schist. Bedrock in the valley bottom was ridged, wavy, decomposed and shattered.

References

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