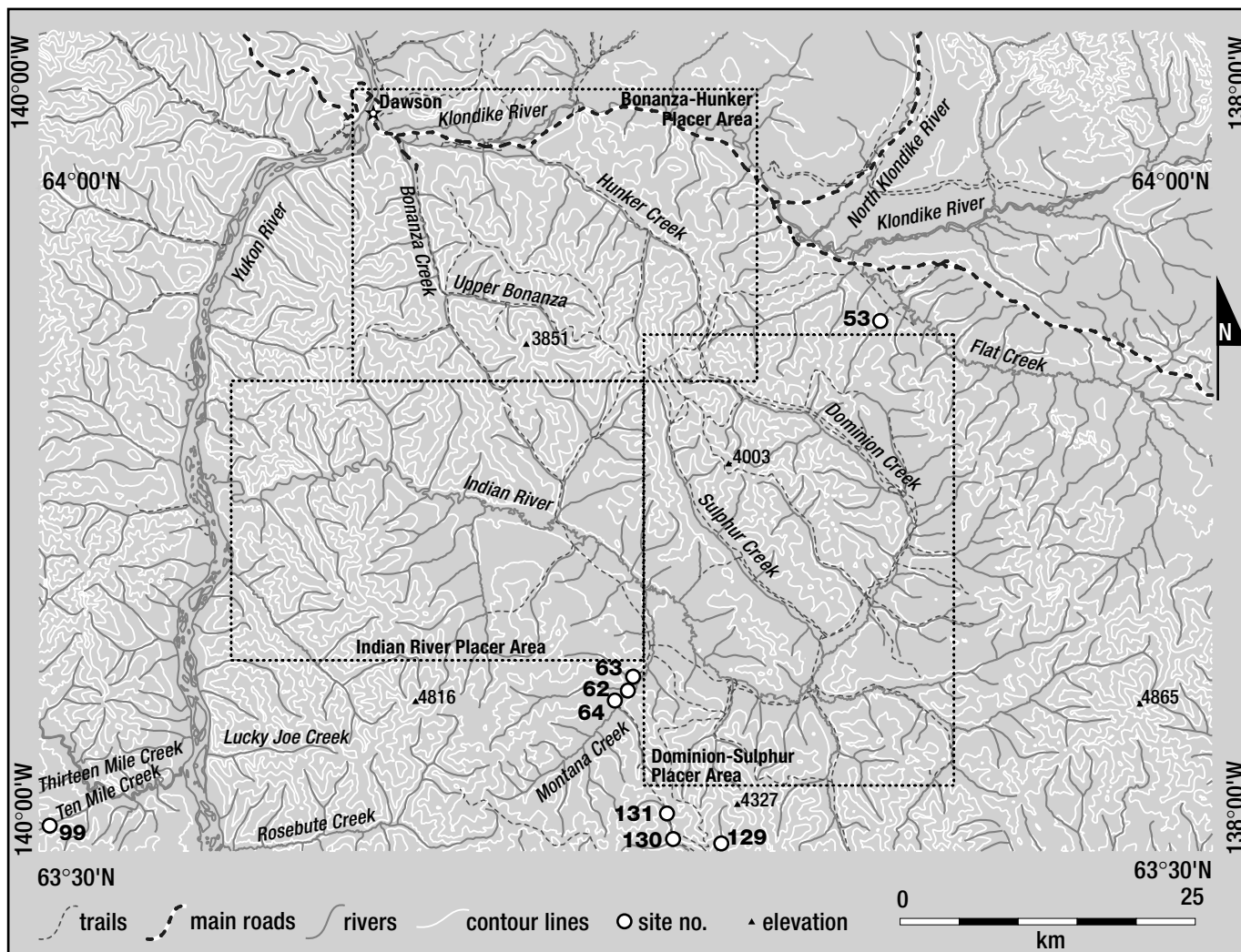


# KLONDIKE PLACER AREA

**SITES**  
53, 62-64,  
99, 129-131



## LEGEND

- 53..... John Wheelton, Minnie Bell Creek
- 62..... Donald MacDonald, Stowe Creek
- 63..... Richard Allen, Stowe/Montana Creek
- 64..... Vern Matkovich, Montana Creek
- 99..... Jonathan Ganter, Ten Mile Creek
- 129..... David Laurenson, Childs Gulch
- 130..... Paydirt Holdings Ltd., Black Hills Creek
- 131..... Rod Smith, Black Hills Creek

**MINNIE BELL CREEK****116B/3**

John M. Wheelton 63°54'N 138°35'W  
 Water Licence: PM99-091 1998, 2000, 2002  
 Klondike Placer Area **Site no. 53**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** This property is located south of the Klondike Highway on a left limit tributary to Flat Creek and is still very much in its exploration stage. In the last five years, testing has been done by drilling various locations along the creek.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** Drilling was performed using a 6-inch augur drill mounted on a Bombardier Muskeg Carrier.

**WASH PLANT** Test sluicing was accomplished with a long tom and small pump.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** The drill holes in 1998 were all done within the first kilometre of the mouth of Minnie Bell Creek. The downstream hole revealed thawed gravels, with some black muck combined with sand encountered at 10 feet and bedrock at 18 feet. The second hole was 25 feet to a purple-coloured bedrock overlain by wet and thawed gravels and muck, some of which was frozen, while the third drill hole not far away contained no gravels, just 18 feet of muck. The 2000 drill program consisted of seven drill holes moving upstream which included drilling a hole on the left limit bench at the location of a small tributary, which consisted of 8 feet of gravel over 4 feet of thawed muck covering a further 6 feet of gravel. Bedrock was soft enough at this point to drill a further 5 feet. Depths to bedrock ranged from 13 feet to 28 feet at the other locations and there was an infinite combination of gravels, soft clay and black muck which varied in thickness. In 2002, in a series of six drill holes, depths of up to 40 feet of black muck, 3 feet of unconsolidated slide bedrock and 5 feet of soft bedrock were encountered. The operator indicated he thought the material at 2000-foot elevation was probably formed during the Pliocene era. The creek ground was between 1600 and 1700 feet asl.

**MINING CUTS** No mining cuts were made during this period.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** The small amount of water required for testing was acquired from the creek with no return or discharge.

**GOLD** Drilling has not obtained a sufficient quantity or quality to describe.

**COMMENTS** Mr. Wheelton noted that he believes the creek to be on the edge of a glacial front and accordingly the let down pay streaks will be difficult to locate. Mr. Wheelton has also tested areas on Vancouver Creek and the Little South Klondike River.

**STOWE CREEK****115O/10**

Donald Macdonald 63°40'N 138°57'W  
 Water Licence: PM98-070 1999, 2000  
 Klondike Placer Area **Site no. 62**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Donald MacDonald ran a 2-person operation in 1999 and 2000 along the left limit of Montana Creek, immediately upstream from the left limit tributary Stowe Creek, and on Stowe Creek.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** A Caterpillar D9H bulldozer was used to strip overburden, stockpile pay gravels and to remove tailings. A Caterpillar 235 excavator was used to feed the wash plant.

**WASH PLANT** A 5-foot by 10-foot oscillating screen deck classified the pay gravels to ¾ inch minus. A single sluice run had expanded metal on Nomad mat as well as 1-inch riffles on Nomad mat. A Peabody Barnes 6-inch water pump supplied about 1000 igpm which was used to process approximately 80 cubic yards per hour.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** A 12-foot to 15-foot layer of frozen black muck overburden overlays 15 to 22 feet of gravel layers. Seams of fine, sandy gravel were interspersed with coarse gravel layers containing boulders up to 2 feet in diameter. Gold seemed to be carried in the coarser gravels.

**MINING CUTS** Three cuts were mined in 1999: 100 feet by 130 feet, 100 feet by 200 feet, 100 feet by 150 feet. Sluicing along the right limit on both Montana Creek and Stowe Creek occurred between 1999 and 2000.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** Water was pumped from Stowe Creek and was recycled in an out-of-stream settling pond for the mining at both locations. Discharge was to Stowe Creek or to the swamps in the Montana Creek valley.



*Aerial view of Donald MacDonald's operation on Stowe Creek.*

**GOLD** The gold was reported to be fine-grained with approximately 10% -10+20 mesh, 30% -20+30 mesh, 40% -30+40 mesh and 10% -40 mesh. The purity of the gold was 770 fine.

**COMMENTS** This water licence was transferred from Lokey Mining Service in 1998 and was transferred to Richard Allen in 2001.

### MONTANA CREEK AND STOWE CREEK

115O/10/11

Richard Allen 63°40'N 138°57'W  
Water Licence: PM98-070 2001,2002  
Klondike Placer Area **Site no. 63**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Mr. Allen moved to this site in 2001 from Eureka Creek with his longtime partner, Don Marino, and one camp person. They were joined by Kieran Daunt in the 2002 season and worked late into the fall on a stripping program.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** Most of the equipment was brought from the Eureka Creek site including one Caterpillar D9G and a Caterpillar D8H bulldozer. All were equipped with rippers and were used to strip cuts and prepare settling facilities, along with ramping tailings. The sluice plant was fed by a Caterpillar 235 excavator.

**WASH PLANT** The wash plant was a converted Clinton Creek screen deck, built by Tom Nichol, measuring 5 feet by 11 feet and screening to ¾ inch minus. The original sluice trays were reconfigured in the 2002 season to two 6-foot long by 2-foot wide runs lined with metal riffles and Nomad matting. The plant was run using a Morris pump powered by a Caterpillar 3406 engine and capable of 2000 igpm processing from 100 to 150 cubic yards per hour. The sluice rate on Montana Creek was roughly 100 loose yards per hour (2001) and only 80 loose yards per hour on Stowe Creek.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** The ground, opened up on the left limit bench of Montana Creek in 2001, was composed of 1 foot of muck over 2 feet of gravels, which deepened to about 20 feet as mining moved further from the creek. Fifteen feet of black muck overlay about 5 feet of frozen, coarse, well-washed gravels intermixed with fine, sandy material. The sluice section varied in the amount of gravels while 2 to 3 feet of the soft bedrock was consistently sluiced. Mining on Stowe Creek proved to be a thicker layer of overburden ranging from 15 to 30 feet deep over 1.5 feet to cobbles and gravels, all of which were sluiced together with 2 to 3 feet of bedrock. Bedrock was a sandy decomposed granite which crumbled to sand size particles when travelled on. Cobbles were commonly 6 inches in diameter and very smooth and flat. A certain percentage of the cobbles derived from conglomerate material.

**MINING CUTS** Over the period of the 2 seasons, 2 cuts were completed on Montana Creek, measuring 120 by 120 by 15 feet deep and 120 by 300 by 18 feet deep. On Stowe Creek, an area 100 by 300 by 35 feet deep was tested and a stripping program of 1000 feet long by 100 feet wide by 10 to 20 feet deep was started.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** Water was acquired from reservoir ponds and effluent was settled in a series of two ponds on Montana Creek, which increased to three by the end of the season.

**GOLD** Gold recovered from both of these creeks tended to be fine-grained with a purity of 770.

### MONTANA CREEK

115O/10,11

Vern Matkovich 63°40'N 138°57'W  
Water Licence: PM96-081 1998  
Klondike Placer Area **Site no. 64**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Vern Matkovich and a single helper ran a small bulk test along the left limit of Montana Creek for a portion of the 1998 season. The operation was located near the mouth of Bismark Creek.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** A Caterpillar D8 bulldozer was used to push pay material up for sluicing and for tailings.

**WASH PLANT** An old push in box leading into a single sluice run was used. The sluice run was lined with expanded metal and matting. A 6-inch pump supplied water for washing the pay gravels that had been pushed into the box. Very little sluicing was done at any given time.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** The ground that was being bulk tested was on a left limit bench of Montana Creek and the depth increased away from the front of the bench. The total depth varied from 3 feet at the front to 15 feet at the back of the cut. The back of the cut had approximately 3 feet of frozen black muck overlying 12 feet of gravel. Bedrock tended to be decomposed graphitic schist. The gold was found on bedrock and only the lower 1 to 2 feet of gravels and 1 foot of bedrock was sluiced.

**MINING CUTS** The ground that was bulk tested in 1998 had been previously stripped. Approximately 100 cubic yards of gravel was sluiced.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** Water was pumped from a depression in the bench and the water was recycled. No discharge to Montana Creek occurred.

**GOLD** The gold was reported to be almost entirely fine-grained, flat and very thin. The purity of the gold was 789 fine.

**TEN MILE CREEK****1150/12**

Jonathan M. Ganter

63°32'N 140°00'W

Water Licence: PM96-074

1998, 1999, 2002

Klondike Placer Area

**Site no. 99**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** After 1998, Mr. Ganter did not actively sluice any gravels but prepared ground for future mining at better market prices. Instead, he exposed ground for thawing and intended to begin in the 2003 season.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** A D9H Caterpillar tractor, operated by David Bray of Dawson Creek, B.C., was used to strip the vegetation and black muck.

**WASH PLANT** No wash plant was used during the period of this report.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** As this is a continuation of other mining on Ten Mile Creek, the ground evinces the same variations as previously discovered. Toward the upstream end of Ten Mile Creek the ground averages 10 feet of frozen black muck with 6 feet of gravels. The bedrock tends to be soft and wavy throughout. At the mouth, overburden ranged from 6 to 25 feet deep. The stripping program occurred about mid-creek, just downstream of Flume Creek.

**MINING CUTS** In 1999, an area 2500 feet long by 125 feet wide and averaging about 3 feet in depth was stripped by Mr. Bray. In 2002, some additional stripping was done just upstream from the camp.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** The licence allows for in-stream reservoirs out of which recycling is conducted. Effluent is treated in either in-stream or out-of-stream settling ponds generally comprised of old mining cuts.

**GOLD** Gold recovered to date on Ten Mile Creek has covered a variety of sizes. The purity of the gold runs around 830.

**CHILDS GULCH****1150/7,10**

David Laurenson

63°30'N 138°51'W

Water Licence: PM99-020

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

Klondike Placer Area

**Site no. 129**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Dave and Sarah Laurenson mined from 1999 through 2002 on Childs Gulch, a left limit tributary of Black Hills Creek. The operation was located toward the top of the watershed, upstream of where Dorados Development had finished mining in the early 1990s. The operation shut down on Childs Gulch in the fall of 2002 and relocated to Black Hills Creek.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** A Caterpillar D8H bulldozer equipped with a ripper and U-blade was used for stripping, preparing pay gravels, clearing tailings and reclamation. A Terex 72-51 loader fed the sluice plant and did miscellaneous jobs.



David Laurenson, Childs Gulch. Note the bulldozer pushing aside oversized tailings.

**WASH PLANT** A 10-yard hopper fed into a 4-foot wide by 14-foot long double deck screening plant. The top deck screened the pay gravels to -2 inches and the lower deck screened to -3/8 inch for 10 feet and to -3/4 inch for 4 feet. The classified gravels were then washed through three sluice runs totalling 7 feet wide by 21 feet long. A combination of 1/4 inch angle iron riffles, expanded metal and matting was used. A 4-inch by 5-inch pump powered by a Ford engine supplied approximately 1200 igpm, needed to sluice between 50 and 60 cubic yards per hour.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** The operation moved upstream on Childs Gulch and the depth varied from 16 feet in 1999 to 30 feet by 2001. Generally a frozen black muck layer 8 feet deep overlies a mixture of boulders, logs and layers of silt, clay and frozen black muck. The ground "looks like it was just turned upside down." Bedrock tended to be decomposed with lots of blue clay. The lower 2 feet of gravels and up to 3 feet of bedrock were sluiced.

**MINING CUTS** A couple of small cuts and side pay were prepared and sluiced in 1999 and 2000. A cut 100 feet long by 40 feet wide by 30 feet deep was stripped and partially sluiced in 2001. The cut was finished in 2002. A small amount of sluicing was done on Black Hills Creek late in the fall of 2002.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** Water from Childs Gulch was captured in recycle ponds near the sluice plant. A partial recycle system was used, with effluent being discharged back to Childs Gulch. Downstream settling ponds provided the final effluent treatment.

**GOLD** Most of the gold was reported to be rough and flat. The purity varied from 740 to 750 fine.

**BLACK HILLS CREEK****1150/7**

Paydirt Holdings

63°30'N 138°52'W

Water Licence: PM99-118

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001

Klondike Placer Area

**Site no. 130**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Paydirt Holdings have been mining on Black Hills Creek since the mid 1980s. From 1998 to 2000 there were three miners and one camp worker working a single 12-hour shift. In 2001, the number of mine workers was reduced to two and the operation was scaled down. As in past seasons, the operation has continued working upstream on Black Hills Creek.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** Three Caterpillar D9H bulldozers were used to strip overburden and to stockpile the pay gravels. A Caterpillar 235 excavator was used to feed the wash plant and a Caterpillar 980C loader was used to remove and stack tailings.

**WASH PLANT** A 6-foot by 8-foot dump box fed into a 10-foot long Derocker. A single sluice run, 3 feet wide by 40 feet long, was lined with expanded metal riffles over Nomad mat. A 10-inch Cornell water pump powered by a Caterpillar 3208 diesel engine supplied 2500 igpm of water, which was used to process approximately 100 cubic yards per hour.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** A 10- to 15-foot layer of frozen muck overlays 2 to 3 feet of coarse gravel and then a layer of finer gravel with clay on top of decomposed bedrock. The bottom 2 to 4 feet of gravel plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. Trees and stumps were found in the lower gravels.

**MINING CUTS** In 1998, 4 mining cuts, approximately 200 feet on each side, were processed. About the same amount was mined in 1999 and 2000. One cut, approximately 225 feet wide by 325 feet long, was stripped and sluiced in 2001. No sluicing was done in 2002 although people were on-site and no ground preparation occurred.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** Water was pumped from an in-stream reservoir and was treated in several out-of-stream settling ponds built from mined-out cuts along the left limit of Black Hills Creek.

**GOLD** The gold was cleaned up using a jig, a gold wheel and by hand panning. The gold tended to be flat, although a mixture of several types of gold was recovered. The purity varied from 660 to 680 fine.



*Paydirt Holdings Ltd., Blackhills Creek.*

**BLACK HILLS CREEK****1150/10**

Rod Smith

63°31'N 138°57'W

Water Licence: PM96-075

1998

Klondike Placer Area

**Site no. 131**

**OPERATION/LOCATION** Rod Smith and one employee continued mining through 1998 near the top of Black Hills Creek. A small cut, previously mined along the left limit of Black Hills Creek, was increased in size.

**EQUIPMENT/FUNCTION** 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.

**WASH PLANT** 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  $-\frac{3}{8}$  inches and the lower section classified the gravels to  $-\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The classified gravels from each section of screen were sluiced through separate sluice runs. The  $-\frac{3}{8}$  inch material was washed through a 4-foot wide by 10-foot long run. The first 4 feet of the run was lined with Nomad matting and hydraulic riffles. The next 4 feet was lined with Nomad matting and modified (1½ 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  $-\frac{3}{4}$  inch material was also washed through a 4-foot wide by

10-foot long sluice run. The first 2 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 2 feet was lined with Nomad matting and expanded metal. The wash plant was built by Rod Smith and was capable of processing approximately 50 cubic yards per hour. A 6-inch by 6-inch Monarch pump supplied the 1000 igpm needed for sluicing.

**GROUND DESCRIPTION** The cut that was increased in size during 1998 was approximately 25 feet deep with 12 to 15 feet of frozen muck overlying 10 to 13 feet of gravel. Bedrock was decomposed. Most of the gravel and up to 1 foot of bedrock was sluiced.

**MINING CUTS** A single cut was enlarged along the left limit of Black Hills Creek.

**WATER SUPPLY AND TREATMENT** 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 a series of out-of-stream settling ponds downstream from the operation before being discharged back into Black Hills Creek.

**GOLD** A variety of gold was recovered from this site although most of the gold was flat, round and about 12 mesh size. An occasional nugget as large as 1/3 ounce was recovered and some wire gold showed up. The purity was 680 fine.



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