

NAME OF PROPERTY McCONNELL CREEK

OBJECT LOCATED

UNCERTAINTY IN METRES Lat. 56°50' Long. 126°27'

Mining Division Omineca District Cassiar

County Township or Parish

Lot Concession or Range

Sec Tp. R.

OWNER OR OPERATOR

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

The deposit lies along McConnell Creek which flows southeast into Ingenika River. For about 2½ miles from its mouth the river flows through a narrow rock canyon, and for the remainder of its course meanders over the terraced gravel floor of a rock-walled trench some 2,000 feet wide and 200 to 300 feet deep. Throughout most of its course it flows near the contact between granodiorite on the west and schistose and gneissic phases of volcanic rocks on the east. The unconsolidated materials are mainly granitic with a small portion of andesite and a few boulders of conglomerate. The gravel rests on indurated silt of unknown depth. The gravel averages 9 feet thick on the flats, 15 to 50 feet thick on the lower benches, and 50 to 75 feet thick on the higher benches. It consists of a poorly sorted mixture of well-rounded boulders, cobbles, pebbles, and sand interspersed with layers and lenses of sand. The gold is erratically but widely distributed in various layers from the surface down to the silt but, so far as can be ascertained, does not occur in the silt. It occurs as small rounded grains or as larger generally flattened nuggets. Platinum is also present in the creek gravels.

Associated minerals or products

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Gold was discovered at the mouth of McConnell creek by Mr. P. Jensen of Hazelton in 1899. Returning in 1906, he located the Discovery claim 3¼ miles above the mouth of the creek. This led to a rush of staking in 1907-8. In 1931 Brown and Associates of Tulsa, Oklahoma, staked several claims. Rumors of their finding coarse gold in bedrock started another rush in 1932. Only Jensen remained to work his claims almost continuously from 1906 until about 1944.

In 1964 Columbia Placers Ltd. acquired the property bordering the entire 7½ mile length of the McConnell creek valley from McConnell Lake southward to the Ingenika River, a one-mile length of the Ingenika River below the mouth of McConnell Creek and ½ mile length of Snowslide creek east of its entrance into the valley. During 1960 & 1961 sampling of the lower benches by backhoe pits and panning indicated 7,820,000 cubic yards yielding an average \$1.35 per cubic yard. Sampling of the gravels is being continued to determine the grade and quantity that will be mineable. A preliminary estimate is 29,000,000 cubic yards at an average grade of \$1.00 per cubic yard. Seismic testing is to be done in 1964 to determine depth to bedrock.

During 1965 churn drilling totalling 1,025 feet was done in 42 holes, with much of the work being done on the Jensen and Dahl benches; some testing was also done on the Leedy bench and the Ingenika fan. To supplement and check the drilling, test pits were sunk over the upper parts of 23 of the drill holes. The results of this work demonstrated conclusively that most of the gold lies in the upper few feet of the deposits and that the deeper gravels down to the bedrock are essentially barren. On the Dahl bench there are now indicated only some 200,000 cubic yards 6 feet deep having an average value of 61.6 cents per cubic yard. The indications on the Jensen bench point to 300,000 cubic yards 12 feet deep averaging 28.9 cents per cubic yard while those on the Leedy bench point to 200,000 cubic yards 12 feet deep averaging 43.0 cents per cubic yard. As the three benches tested are representative of the others in the valley the company concluded that the deposits are uneconomic under present conditions. In March 1968 Columbia Placers Limited abandoned the properties which it held under lease in the Province of British Columbia.

## HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

Mr. P. Jensen produced the bulk of the gold taken from the creek. There is no record of the gold he mined prior to 1931. In the period 1931 to 1941 there is official record of 1,100 ounces having been produced.

## REFERENCES

Annual Reports, Dept. of Mines, B.C.; 1908, pp. 67, 81-82; 1961, pp. 128-129; 1965, p. 250.

Mineral Policy Sector; Corporation File: "Columbia Placers Ltd."

Lay, D.; Report on McConnell Creek Placer Area, Bulletin No. 2, 1932, Dept. of Mines, B.C.

Lord, C.S.; McConnell Creek Map-Area; Mem. 251, pp. 56-58, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1948.

Holland, S.S.; Placer Gold Production of British Columbia; Bulletin 28, 1950, pp. 43, 45, Dept. of Mines, B.C.

## MAP REFERENCES

Map 962 A, McConnell Creek, (Geol.), Sc. 1":4 miles - accomp. Mem. 251.

## REMARKS

Comp./Rev. By							
Date	6-64	9-66	4-74				