

Prospecting for 1992

92-038

Brian Prokopy

Aug. 11

Spent part of the day panning in the creek down at the mouth. The Creek here is about 20ft wide and is fairly deep. I had no trouble getting the boat in last night. Panning in the top gravels, I have gotten only a small amount of black sands mixed with very fine pieces of quartz. There are a number of gravel bars just up stream. I have spent the rest of the day panning in them. I have noticed that there are a number of trees that have been cut along the creek. By the size of some of them there could be an old cabin around here some place. Will take some time and look for it tomorrow.

Aug. 12

Started today by looking for the cabin and watching to see if I could find an old claim post. I have been unable to find either. I have come to the conclusion that the trees that have been cut were more than likely cut for the steam boats. Since I have seen no sign of any being cut other than along the creek and down close to the river, ~~is~~ As for the claim post if there is one it is possible that I could have missed it in the thick under brush.

The levee is approx. a mile in length with a good stand of spruce and poplar on it with a few birch mixed in. From the river to the main valley it is close to 2500ft in width. The creek wanders back and forth with a large number of old channels which do not have water

running in them.

Aug. 13

3

Went up the valley about a mile today. Panned at a couple of sand bars. Didn't find any gold. Did get a lot of black sands.

I am surprised at the size and by the amount of water in the creek.

So far the valley has been fairly constant in grade and in width.

Have been staying to the right limmet of the creek. Because of the amount of water getting across is next to impossible without getting soaked. I have not seen any sign of old workings so far on this side of the creek. Just up stream from where the creek enters the valley

there is an out crop that is about 25 to 30 feet in height and a 100 ft long.

The rock appears to be mostly a quartz mica schist.

Farther up stream there has been a large slide come down. The slide rock is of a quartz mica blend also.

I have marked out a few spots to put in shafts. And have headed back to camp. It looks like it is going to rain again.

Aug. 14

Got up this morning to the sound of heavy rain.

✓

4

Went to check on the boat. It had to be hauled out and pulled up a little higher.

Went and stripped shafts today. Have stripped 4 of them in the first mile and a half. Spent most of the day digging in what I called #1 it is on what I think to be a small bench. I hadn't planned on the first three shafts. But then again it is hard to tell just from a map, exactly what the ground looks like.

I have found the digging to be better than I had planned on except for the tree roots slowing things down some I have found no frost yet. Now if it would just quit raining.

Aug. 15

✓

5

Stopped digging on what I thought was a bench. The gravel and sand stopped and I had run into mass and organics all over again with roots in it. I believe what it was is just a spot where the ice and water deposited sand and gravel during high water. I have spent a few hours panning the gravel from this pit and have found it to contain very little heavy's at all. All in all I have dug down 3 ft 8 in. in this pit. It ~~measures~~ is $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ ft.

Aug. 16

✓

6

Found three sets of moose horns today. From the looks of it two of them had been fighting. The third set look like that is just where the fell off. Two of the biggest sets were still joined in the middle.

Spent the day diggind in pits 2 and 3. when I would get tired of digging in one I would go and dig in the other. Digging is still going well I haven't found frost in either pit.

Aug. 17

✓

7

Was a nice sunny day today. I haven't seen the sun for as long I can't remember when the last time was.

Have had to give up on pit #2. I have been flooded out. Tried to stay ahead of the water but was unable. Would have needed another person or a small pump. I did manage to get down to 4 ft. ~~as~~ in this one. There was very little overburden to speak of at this one. Only 6 in. of black organics, 1 ft. of sandy gravel and the rest has been coarse gravel and rocks up to a foot in size.

Have panned a bunch of the gravel and found it to have alot of black sand in it with a few small pieces of Bematite in with it.

Aug. 18

✓

8

Spent the day digging in pit #3 digging here is a lot slower. I have run into a lot of rock and the ground is very hard. I had to make the hole bigger so that I could use a pick more easier. I have only gotten down about a foot today.

The pit size is 5ft x 5ft x 2 1/4ft. I haven't panned any of this material as of yet. I am waiting till I am through these larger rocks and into smaller gravel. Before I test it.

Aug. 19

✓

9

Today I was digging in pit #3. I have gotten through the layer of rock and am in gravel with the odd rock up to 8 and 9 inch around in size. There is a lot of ground seepage. I had to bail out the pit quite often today. All in all I have gone down to a depth of just over 5ft. {5'4"3}.

Aug. 20

✓
10

When I got to pit #3 this morning I found it full of water. spent almost 3 hours trying to empty it. I had it half done and the side caved in just under the layer of large rocks. abandoned this pit.

I am giving up on trying to put a shaft down to bedrock for the time being. I will have to wait for a change in the weather. There has just been too much rain. I will pan gravel bars and collect concentrates. I will also climb up the ridges and look at the outcrops that appear to be almost everywhere.

Aug. 21

✓
"

Spent today panning gravel bars 2 1/2 to 3 miles up stream from the mouth of the creek.

I am surprised at the amount and size of quartz rocks that are scattered in the creek bed. The larger gravels have a lot of small rose quartz pebbles in it and a lot of rocks which are of a conglomerate nature which are of a mostly quartz and a quartz mica mix. Found the concentrates to contain a lot of black sand and a few small garnets.

Aug. 22

✓

12

Spent today looking at out crop on the ridge between the mouth of the valley and apex, one mile up stream on the left {south} side of the valley. The outcrop on this slope is mostly a quartz mica schist. There are a number of small quartz veins the largest of these is 11 in. in width and 37 in. in length. The only noticeable mineralisation in this area is a few small pieces of pyrite in the schist.

Aug. 23.

✓

13

Panned in the gravel bars today from 3 to 3 1/2 miles up stream. I am still finding a lot of black sand. There is still lots of quartz in the creek gravels. I am seeing some rocks which appear to be compressed mica that have a rusty tint to them.

Aug 24.

✓

14

Finished panning the gravel bars up to the end of the 3 1/2 miles. I am still finding a lot of black sand in the concentrates. I can see no visible gold in any of the pans taken so far. The valley at this point is still fairly wide. The creek is still

fairly wide approx 10 ft. with an average depth of 1 ft. The valley floor is still not too steep and is covered with mostly willow and poplar with small spruce mixed in.

Aug. 25 Started to pan in the next mile
 I am still finding quite a lot of
 black sand in the gravels. I did
 find one small piece of pyrite in
 one of the pans. The valley from
 where I finished today looked like
 it was going to start to get a little
 wider. Not too far up stream.

Aug. 26 Panned in the next 1/2 mile. I
 noticed that the valley is starting
 to get a little steeper and that
 the creek hasn't gone down in
 water volume too much. There
 is still quite a bit of rose quartz
 in the stream bed and in the
 creek gravels. I still haven't
 found any gold.

- m Aug. 27 I have found about the best place that I have come across yet to try and get down a shaft. There doesn't seem to be a problem with the surface water here like there was down below.
- ✓
 17 I have stripped off the moss and have started to dig through the black mud. I have found the mud to be just froze hard enough to make digging slow.
- title Aug. 28 Spent today digging in my new shaft. I have run into hard frost. I have only been able to get down about a foot. I am still digging through black mud and tree roots.
- ✓
 18
- Aug. 29 Still digging through black mud. the only difference that I have noticed in the digging is that the roots have pretty much run out. Other than that the frost has been getting harder. the pit is 5' x 5' x 2 1/2'
- ✓
 19

Aug. 30

✓

20

Finally started to get through the black mud and am starting to find rocks mixed in with the mud. The rocks that I have found so far are a quartz mica blend or a quartz mica schist.

Aug. 31

✓

21

Got through the organics and am digging in gravel mixed with large rocks. The moss and the black muck is a total of 4' 7" thick. The larger rocks are a schist. The smaller gravel is a combination of quartz and schist.

Sept. 1

✓

22

Have started to use a fire to try and get down. Frost is making digging slow. have only been able to get down 1 1/2 ft in all today. On the way back to camp today I noticed that there were quartz rocks scattered along the south slope around 1 1/2 up stream from the mouth of the creek.

Sept. 2

✓
23

Climbed the ridge to look at the quartz that I saw on the way home last night. Followed the float up to the top of the ridge. When I finally got to the top the out crop was hard to locate at first I thought that most of the rocks came out of a small slide except for the fact that most of the rock in the slide had a pink tint to them and the quartz I noticed looked to be white I almost gave up. I did find the out crop where the quartz come from. The host rock is a quartz mica schist with very small quartz veins running through it. the biggest of these is 6 in wide.

Sept. 3

✓
24

Digging in the shaft today I am down to 7 ft the gravel is still very coarse. I have not yet panned any of the material that I have taken out of this shaft.

Sep. 4

25

Have gone down 8 1/2 ft the gravel has started to get a quite a bit finer. I have noticed a color change in it. The finer sand is getting more of a reddish tint to it. I am piling this separately and will pan it later.

Sept. 6.

26

Have dug through the red colored gravel and have gotten into gravel that is more of a yellowish orange in color. Depth is 11 ft.

Sept. 7

27

Took a break from digging and have spent the day panning some of the material that I have put in piles. I am surprised that I haven't found the large amount of black sands in this material as I did in the gravel bars. I am getting large garnets the biggest being over 1/2 of an inch in size and a few small pieces of hematite. Haven't found any gold.

Sept. 8

28

Got up today to an unwanted surprise. Snow !!! Bummer. The weather has been cold and wet most of the summer but it is to soon for snow.

Digging in the shaft the gravel is getting to be very yellow and fine. Digging is getting slower as my shaft is starting to get funnel shape. I am at a depth of $12\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

Sept. 9

29

Panned some of the yellow gravel and sand. Found a few small garnets and two small pieces of pyrite and no gold. I still haven't found the large quantities of black sands like on the surface.

Sept. 10

30

Have decided to stop digging and spend my time panning the material that I have. Because if the weather doesn't change it is going to make me stop for this year.

Started panning the dirt in the order that it was taken out of the shaft.

In the material that was taken from

the first 6 ft. I found it to have black sands, small garnets and little pieces of haematite.

Sept. 11

Panned in the gravels from the bottom half of the shaft today.

31

Found one piece of pyrite that is almost the size of a sugar cube, a few small garnets, black sands and one very small scissor it is approx. $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch in length and $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch wide. It has a reddish colour to it and it looks like it has been well hammered.

I really wish the weather would change. But the cold is going to chase me out of here for this year but I will be back next year. I will bring in someone to help and I will start earlier.

Sept. 12

Packed camp and have gone down river to Hickman.

32

Summary of Exploration for 1992

The exploration work done on the unnamed right limit tributary of the Yukon River located at $138^{\circ} 35'E$ $62^{\circ} 50'N$. Consisted of digging shafts, panning gravel bars starting at the mouth of the creek and moving up stream. I also collected a few rock and soil samples at various locations where I found interesting looking outcrop. I also took note of the kind and amount of rocks seen in the creek its self.

Panning the gravel bars showed the flood gravels to have a high percentage of black sand and a few small garnets. Also some very small pieces of quartz.

Of the five (5) shafts that I started only the fifth one had gotten close to bedrock.

The #1 shaft was on what I suspected was a bench.

After digging down nearly 5 ft I encountered moss over top of black muck.

I gave up on this shaft when I realized that it was just flood gravel put there by high water and ice.

Shafts # 2,3,4. had to be abandoned do to the amount of water running into it and small cave ins.

Shaft #5 was the only one in which I found any frost. Digging was slow due to frost and large rocks.

A depth of over 11 ft was reached in this shaft which is $5ft \times 5ft$.

Panning in the gravel showed not so much black sand as I had expected to find.

After panning in the gravel bars.

I found the concentrates in shaft #5 to have Black sand, garnets, Schilite, pyrite, and one small piece of gold that measured $3/16"$ x $1/16"$ in size.

One of the garnets found was over $1/2$ of an inch in size. With a lot of mica encrusted on it.

Looking at the outcrops that are exposed on both sides of the valley.

I found that they extended intermittently up the valley far as far as I could see.

Most of the rock was of a mica base with quartz and a green schist mixed in with small pieces of pyrite mixed in.

This creek is in an isolated area and is accessible by boat and air. I found the biggest expense to be in the rent of a boat and motor and also in the rent of an ATV to haul gear.

The expediter at Minto was by far one of the best deals he brought my gas to me and a few odds and ends for the cost of his gas and time.

So as I found out later to cut down on the cost I can have him take everything down river to the creek for under the price of renting.

Results and Recommendations

After panning the gravel bars in this creek, I was unsure as to whether or not this creek would make an economic placer creek.

Although I didn't find any visible gold in any of the gravel bars that I panned.

I was concerned by the quantity of Black sands that were found.

As it makes that type of ground hard to sluice.

Then when I started to put down shafts, I found that the gravels below the surface didn't have the same amount as the bars did. I had forgot to take into account that they had been concentrated by the constant washing of the creek.

I panned in five (5) different areas and collected the concentrates from the pans.

When I finished one stretch I put all of the concentrates together and re-concentrated them down to just one sample.

In the hope of getting an average for that stretch of creek.

As for the shafts, I had a lot of trouble with the amount of surface water that was present. It flooded out three of the first four that I started. The first one I gave up on as I had thought that it was on a bench.

In the fifth one I went down twelve feet. I panned the gravels from this one and found one small piece of gold. There was also pyrite, schelite and garnets present in the concentrates.

I also spent time looking at the outcrop on both sides of the valley.

I found them to contain a fair amount of sulfides (pyrite). And small quartz veins both white and pink (rose). With the rose quartz.

being very fine grained and slightly rusty looking.
I also collected seven soil samples at diverent random sites. In the hope that an ICP multielement analysis would show new targets. Along with the rock samples.

Due to the shortage of funds this season no assays were performed. The samples collected this year will be included and plotted next year along with the new work.

In the future the work should include the use of a rocker box along with panning in order to increase the yardage tested.

Along with the collecting of soil samples along a grid. Also the exploration and sampling of the numerous outcrop in this valley.

Also to keep the cost down I would recommend the use of the expediter at minto. As he is half the cost of renting.

As for mining this creek with the tougher water standards the valley bottom is wide enough to have out of stream settling ponds.

The creek could also be made accessable by road.

By extending an exsisting road that goes into Scroggie creek. If not there is a barge on the river.

Brion Prady

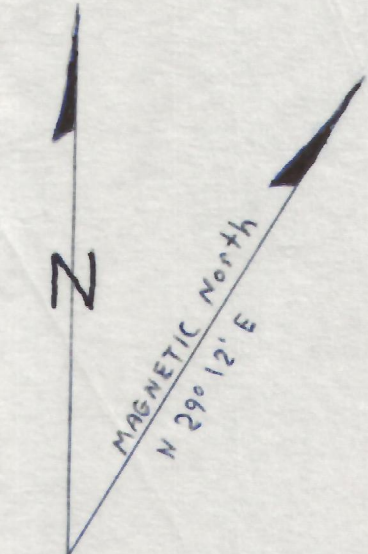
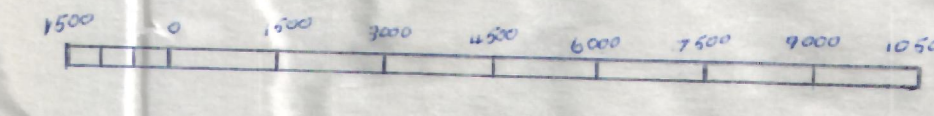
This goes with YMIP 92-038

Prospecting for 1992

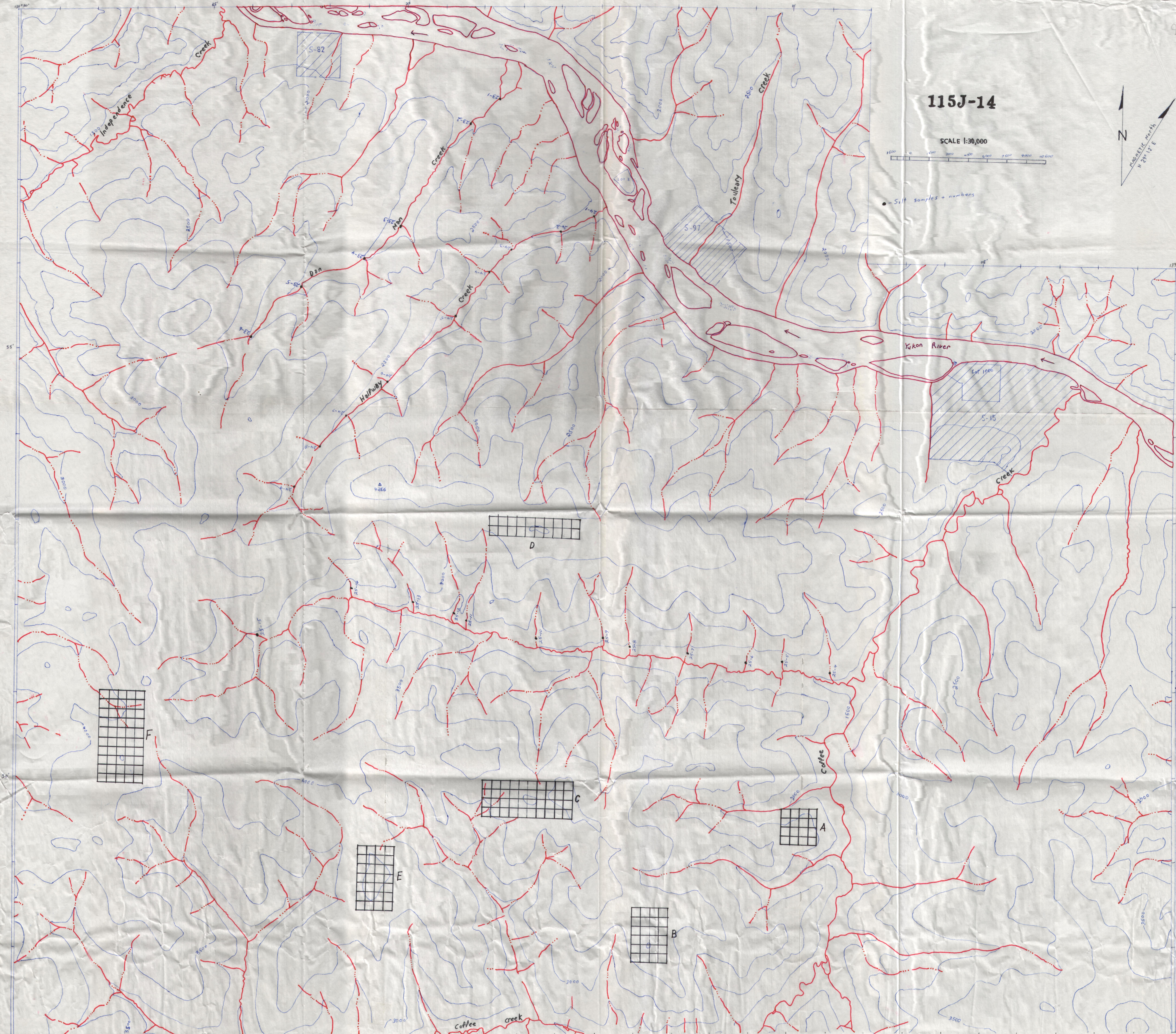
by Brian Prokopetz

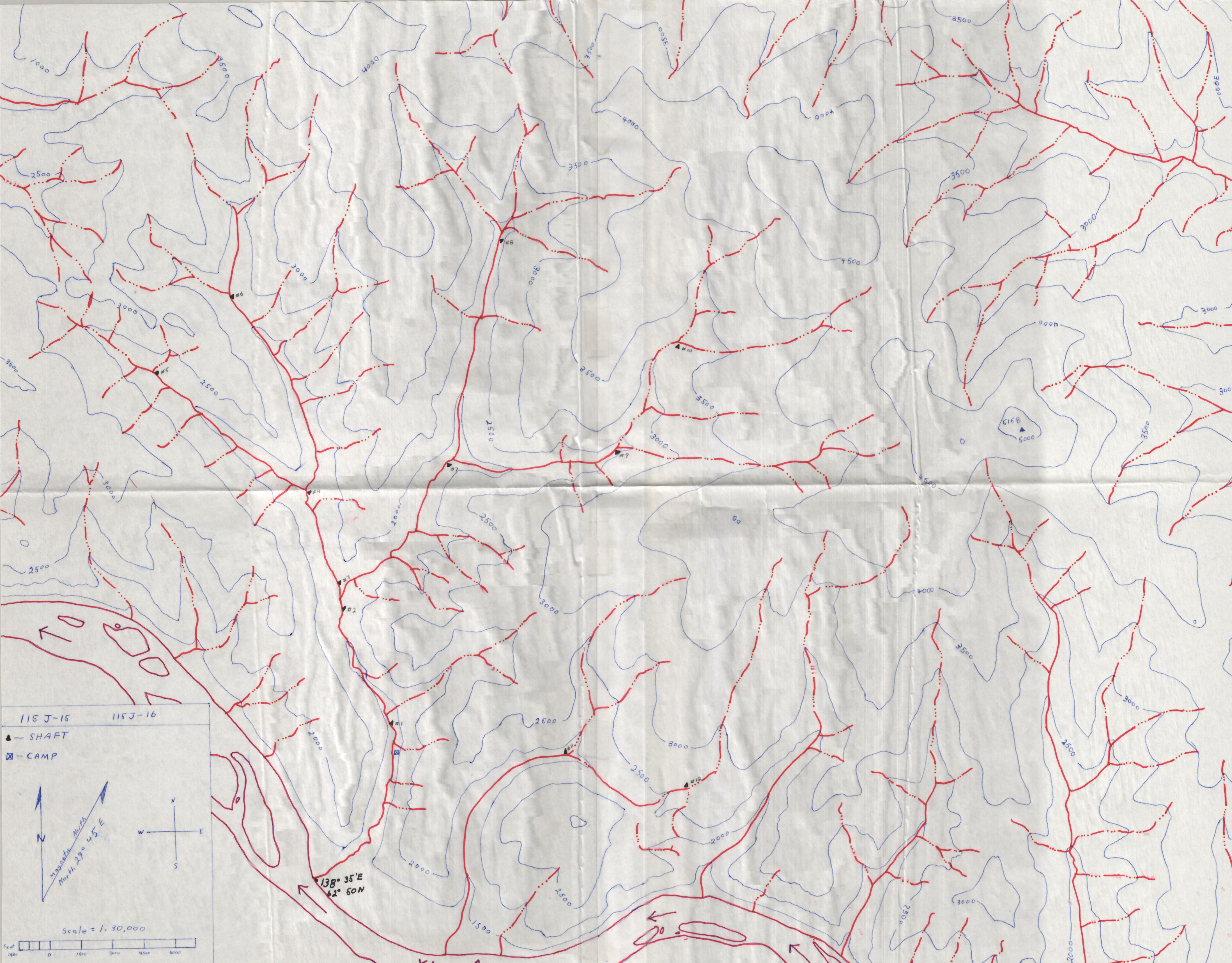
115J-14

SCALE 1:30,000



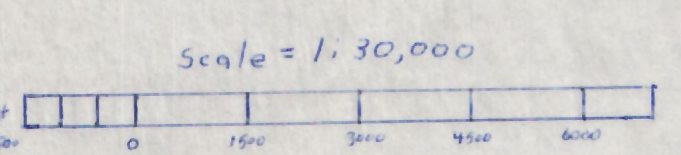
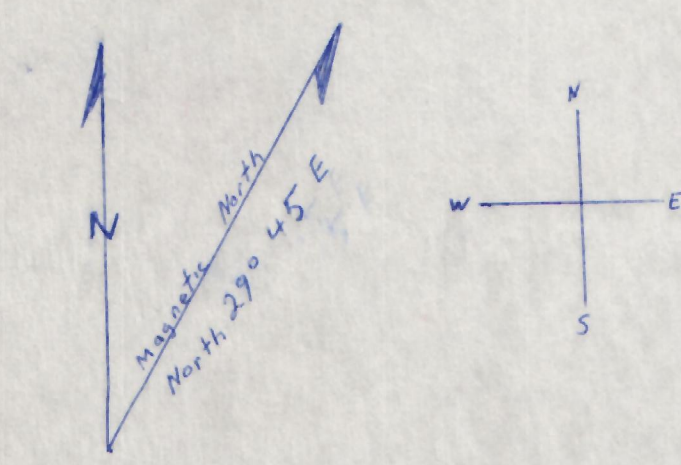
• Silt samples + numbers





115 J-15 115 J-16

▲ - SHAFT
■ - CAMP



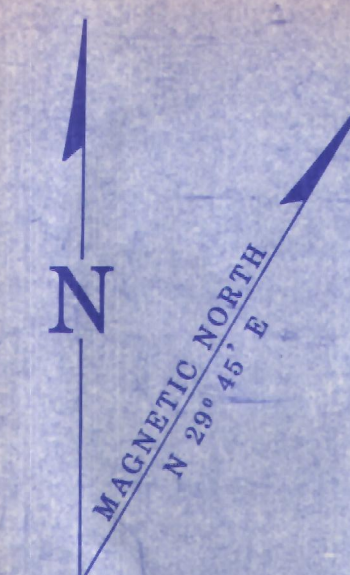
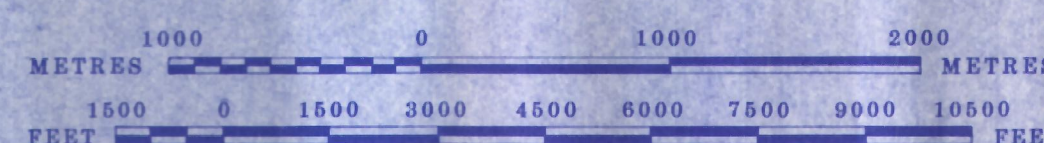
138° 35' E
62° 50' N

115J-15
PLACER

LATITUDE 62° 45' TO 63° 00'
LONGITUDE 138° 45' TO 139° 00'

ISSUED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTER
OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

SCALE 1:30,000



NOTE:

THIS MAP IS ISSUED AS A PRELIMINARY GUIDE
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TOPOGRAPHY COMPILED FROM 1:50,000
NATIONAL TOPOGRAPHIC SERIES.
CONTOUR INTERVAL 500 FEET.
SURVEY INFORMATION COMPILED FROM
LEGAL SURVEYS, BY DRAFTING SERVICES.

Note: Entry on certain land is withdrawn from staking in cross-hatched areas to facilitate the settlement of Native Land Claims without prejudice to Existing Surface and Subsurface Rights.

1150-3	1150-2	1150-1
115J-14	115J-15	115J-16
115J-11	115J-10	115J-9

FOR QUARTZ SEE 115J-15

