

# Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

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*Mining Lands, Energy Mines and Resources*

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## QUARTZ RECLAMATION

### SELWYN RESOURCES LTD.

Selwyn Resources Ltd. focused significant attention on reclamation at its active Selwyn lead-zinc project (Howard's Pass) in eastern Yukon, in 2008. The aggressive bio-engineering of slopes has been extended to many more areas of the property. The company has stabilized roads, creek banks and the airstrip by transplanting live willow from the property in an innovative manner that is proving very successful (Fig. 1). In addition, the completion of numerous baseline studies has allowed the company to make informed decisions on issues with potential environmental impacts.



**Figure 1.** Bio-engineering in the Don Valley: live willows are being planted to stabilize the banks of the road.

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Selwyn's commitment to local communities and the ongoing education of youth in environmental studies demonstrates how the company's progressive environmental and socio-economic policies and practices are incorporated into its operations. Selwyn truly demonstrates excellence in environmental stewardship, social responsibility, leadership and innovation, which encompasses all that this award stands for.

**HONOURABLE MENTION:** International KRL Resources Corporation has been operating on the NOR property, located 395 km northeast of Dawson City. The company has consistently adhered to best management practices, and works cooperatively with the district Natural Resource Officer to surpass the requirements of its permit.

International KRL identified and removed an old site abandoned in the 1970s. Site reclamation included burning tent frames and removing fuel drums and barrels (Fig. 2). The company demonstrates a genuine desire to take responsibility for past practices of others, expending time and money to do so.



**Figure 2.** Reclamation and restoration of an abandoned camp site from the 1970s. Black areas show where tent frames were burned. All that remains on-site is core (core boxes are shown in middle of photo).



## PLACER RECLAMATION

### ROSS MINING LTD.

Ross Mining Limited continues to carry out exceptional restoration work on its Dominion Creek claims, the largest placer mining operation in Yukon. Extensive use of topsoil has allowed for rapid re-vegetation of parts of the property. Mined areas have been transformed into a rich-living ecosystem with newly created ponds and waterways that form a haven for moose, fox, geese, ducks and swans (Fig. 3).

Jon Rudolf, president of Ross Mining Ltd., has introduced the idea of ethical gold to Yukon. His company Mammoth Tusk Gold offers the Ethical Gold Certification Program. This certification is rooted in values of sustainability, environmental and social responsibility, and fair practices. The chain of custody must be certified from unearthing, to smelting, to delivery for sale.

Ross Mining demonstrates excellence in environmental stewardship, social responsibility, leadership and innovation. The founding of Mammoth Tusk Gold has opened a new arena where Yukon and placer mining can truly shine.



**Figure 3.** Placer mining continues at the Ross Mining operation next to reclaimed areas. Numbers 1 to 5 represent areas that have been reclaimed or are in the process of being reclaimed. Number 1 is the oldest and number 5 is the youngest.



**HONOURABLE MENTION:** Since 2004, HC Mining Limited has been operating on Moosehorn Creek, a tributary of Henderson Creek, in the Dawson mining district. Hayden Cowan, the owner, is in the process of applying for Ethical Gold Certification.

The restoration measures used by HC Mining Ltd. go beyond 'best practices' in mining reclamation. The very steep overburden piles, which blocked passage across the valley, have been reduced to gentle slopes (Fig. 4). The

creek bank has been armoured along its length, and a settling pond is in place for catchment of any sediment while slopes stabilize. Top soil has been spread to enable entrapment of water and airborne seed, which will encourage rapid re-vegetation.

HC Mining is commended for its efforts in accelerating the re-establishment of this valley for use by wildlife and the public.



**Figure 4.** Re-sloped and contoured overburden piles along the creek allow for safe passage of migrating wildlife.