

Under Surveillance

TKC team travelled to Livingstone District in late September to assess the effects of placer mining in the area

Due to Covid-19, the LRH Department had to postpone some of its planned surveying activity of TKC traditional territory in March, however, the department was able to accompany Yukon Cultural Services on a trip to the Livingstone District in late September. This trip included conducting a high-level baseline reconnaissance of placer mining activity currently taking place within the Livingstone District. This assessment will help inform future trips and further investigation of the effects of placer mining in TKC Traditional Territory. The assessment was done by photo-documenting as many placer leases as possible from the air, while taking geo-referenced notes of unusual features, and noting whether disturbances were old, recent, or ongoing. The goal of this initiative was to facilitate TKC Elders in viewing the level of disturbance, to answer their questions, and discuss any of their concerns. Areas studied included four site specific settlement land parcels: S-193B1, S-66B1, S-15B1, and S-31B1.

Between the period of September 21st and 25th, LRH sent four staff members: Anne-Marie Miller, Shawna Tizya, Hannah Gray, and Nick Howitt to do the assessment. A number of TKC Elders were also flown in and provided invaluable context and guidance on this information gathering mission. With a growing amount of placer mining activity

taking place in the Livingstone District, the information procured from the aerial photos this September will be instrumental in identifying changes to the landscape. LRH staff are better equipped to comment on future water use licenses and operating permit applications. In addition, there is now baseline information that can be used to help hold mining operators accountable to their obligations for reclamation on current and future projects in this area.



TKC's Heritage Technician, Anne-Marie Miller, Wildlife Monitor Shawna Tizya joined Ta'an Kwäch'än Councillor Diane Graham and Elder Bev Miller during site assessments.

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