



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

ANCHORAGE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: | October 20, 2025 |
| EXPIRATION DATE: | November 20, 2025 |
| REFERENCE NUMBER: | POA-1988-00051 |
| WATERWAY: | Basin Creek |

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Carolyn Farmer at 561-785-5634 or by email at Carolyn.h.farmer@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Western Gold Exploration, LLC
Attention: Mr. John Reid
P.O. Box 1124
Nome, AK 99762

LOCATION: The project site is located at Section 28, Township 9 South, Range 33 West, Katel River Meridian, USGS Quadrangle Nome C-1, Latitude 64.684166° North, Longitude - 165.275833° West, Cape Nome Mining District, Basin Creek, near Nome, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to placer mine for gold.

PROPOSED WORK: The permit application is associated with an after-the-fact (ATF) permit action for unauthorized work. The work has been completed, including unauthorized fill previously discharged into approximately 7 acres of freshwater emergent wetlands and the relocation/diversion of 2,000 linear feet of Basin Creek in order to conduct placer mining.

Proposed future work would include reclamation of impacts to WOTUS and Basin Creek. Topsoil and black dirt to be stripped and relocated to stockpile for future reclamation. Non permeable clay layer underneath topsoil to be stripped and used in construction of berms. Overburden is to be pushed to the east onto the toe of the hill. Bucket line dredge will be floated in previously excavated flooded dredge cut isolated from stream. Settlement ponds and mixing zones will be utilized to contain water discharge. As pay streak runs in a south/southwest direction on claims June 3&4, dredge will commence dredging process in that direction. Tailings produced during dredging process will first be pushed up heading east on the south bank of creek continuing a previously disturbed/constructed access road on Ronnie mining claim and poke mining claim. Once access road is complete then produced tailings will be loaded out and relocated to stockpile. Tailings will constantly be moved as to prevent dredge from sanding off. When the mineral resource is no longer economically viable to produce and/or 100% depleted, reclamation will then occur. After mining has occurred, overburden will be backfilled and highwalls of excavated cuts will be contoured to adequate slope for regrowth. After backfilling and contouring excavations, topsoil stockpile will be spread out to create a bed for regrowth of native plants/species. After topsoil is spread out then old vegetation stockpile will then be spread out and regrowth will occur. Permanent creek diversion dyke will be resloped to a more natural slope that is adequate for regrowth. Topsoil and vegetation will be spread on permanent dyke and regrowth of native species will occur. Entirety of deeded private property (patented mining claim) is 100% previously disturbed. Creek has been diverted countless times in the last 100 years and has never sat on a nonerosive sub straight (bedrock) until current diversion which guarantees a permanent location. Basin creek is a non-anadromous creek and does not contain any species of fish. The current regrowth of native grasses and plant species from simply clearing willow bushes has already attracted a significant increase in the moose and muskoxen populations.

All past and future work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-8), dated October 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The applicant has submitted applications for their Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA) number 7116 in 2022.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: Due to the nature of the proposed activity complete avoidance of aquatic resources is not possible. The applicant stated that the site was selected over alternate sites based on historic evidence of rich gold deposits. Because gold deposits are known to occur within the alluvial valley of Basin Creek, where wetlands are common, complete avoidance of waters of the U.S. would be impractical.

b. Minimization: Existing roads will be used to access the mine site, which will limit impacts. The entire work area will be bermed to isolate the mining area from the Basin Creek diversion to prevent erosion and sediment transport. A settling pond will also be used to capture sediment from the water used before the water is returned to the stream.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed no compensatory mitigation because all disturbed areas will be reclaimed after mining of the area is completed.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the area of fill within waters of the U.S.. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Based on data from the ADF&G's Anadromous Waters Catalog, Basin Creek does not contain EFH. Therefore, no impacts to essential fish habitat will occur due to the proposed project.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. If applicable this application will be coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above.

Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

June #1
ms # 2264

Ronnie Mihiga Claim
ms # 2264

Poke Mihiga Claim
ms # 2264

Joak #2
ms # 2264

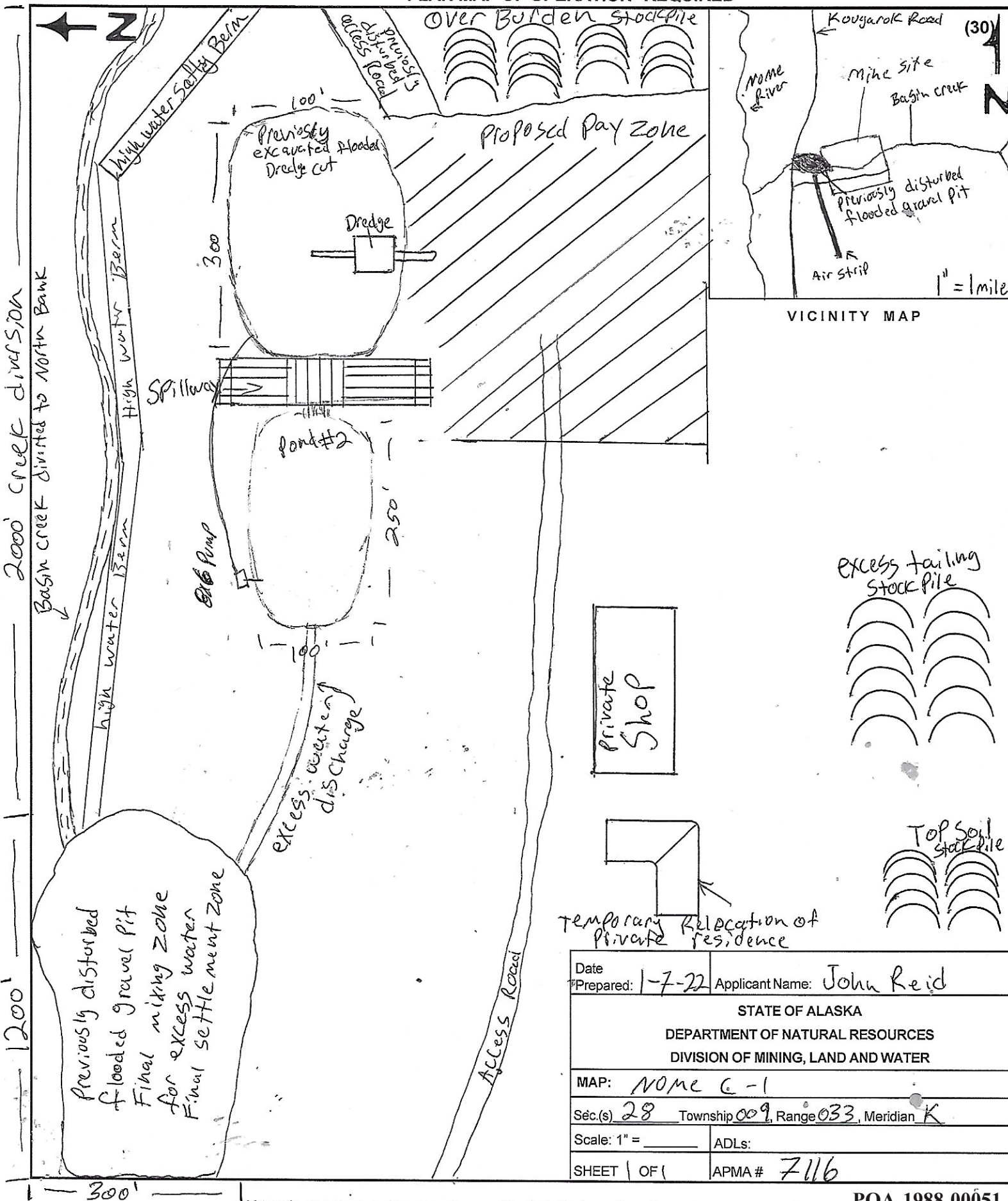
Joak #3
ms # 2264

Joak #4
ms # 2264

Kateel River meridian
T0095 R033W
Section 28

NOME

PLAN MAP OF OPERATION *REQUIRED



Temporary Relocation of Private Residence

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Date Prepared: 1-7-22 | Applicant Name: John Reid |
| STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER | |
| MAP: NOME C-1 | |
| Sec(s) 28 | Township 009, Range 033, Meridian K |
| Scale: 1" = _____ | ADLs: _____ |
| SHEET 1 OF 1 | APMA # 7116 |

(Attach additional sheets, along with detailed explanations as necessary)

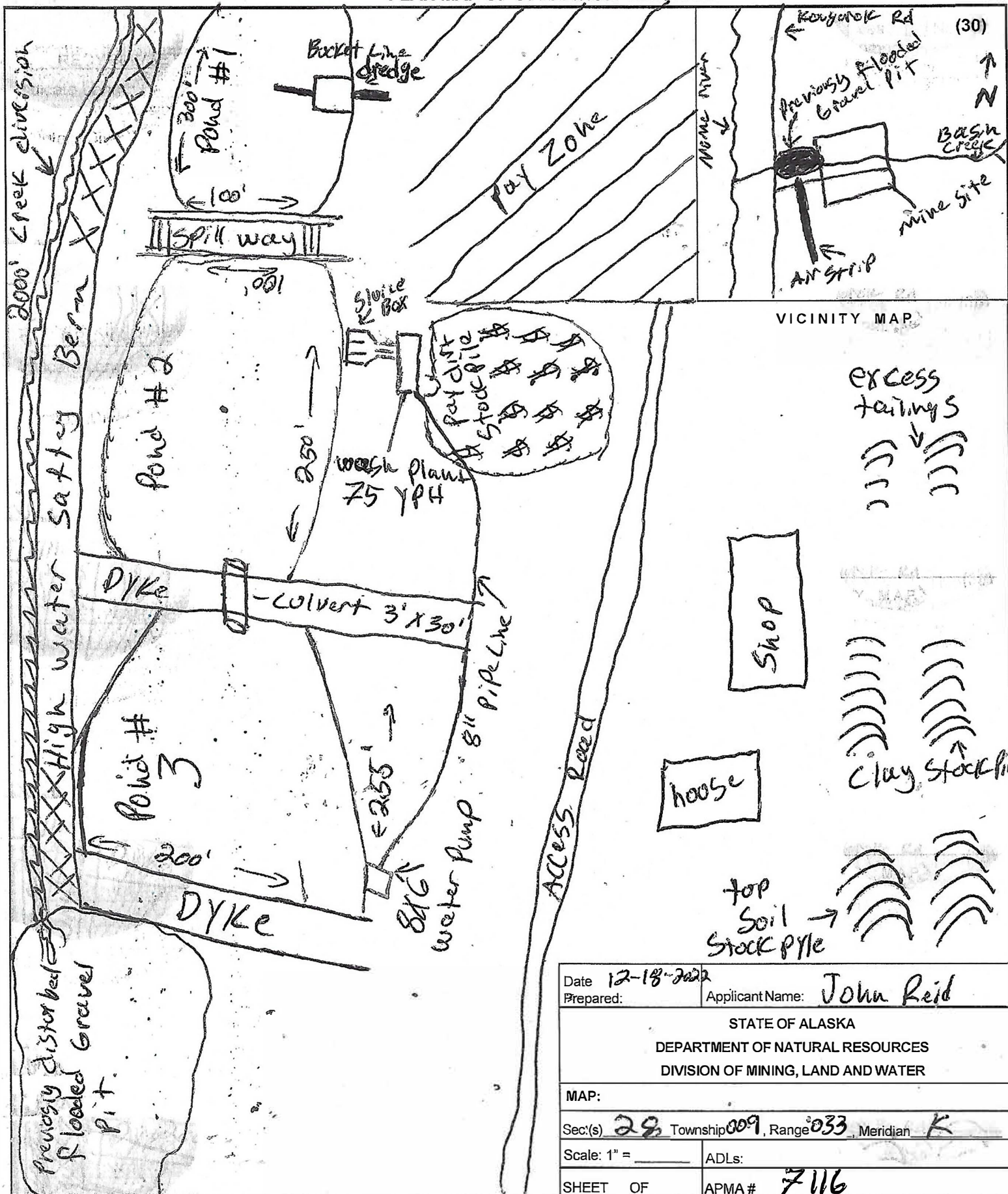
POA-1988-00051

October 2025

Sheet 2 of 9

Form 102-4071 Revised 10/2021

PLAN MAP OF OPERATION *REQUIRED



| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Date | 12-18-2022 |
| Prepared: | Applicant Name: John Reid |
| STATE OF ALASKA | |
| DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | |
| DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER | |
| MAP: | |
| Sec(s) | 29 Township 009, Range 033, Meridian K |
| Scale: 1" = | ADLs: |
| SHEET OF | APMA # 7116 |

(Attach additional sheets, along with detailed explanations as necessary)

POA-1988-00051
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Sheet 3 of 8

Form 102-4071 Revised 9/2022

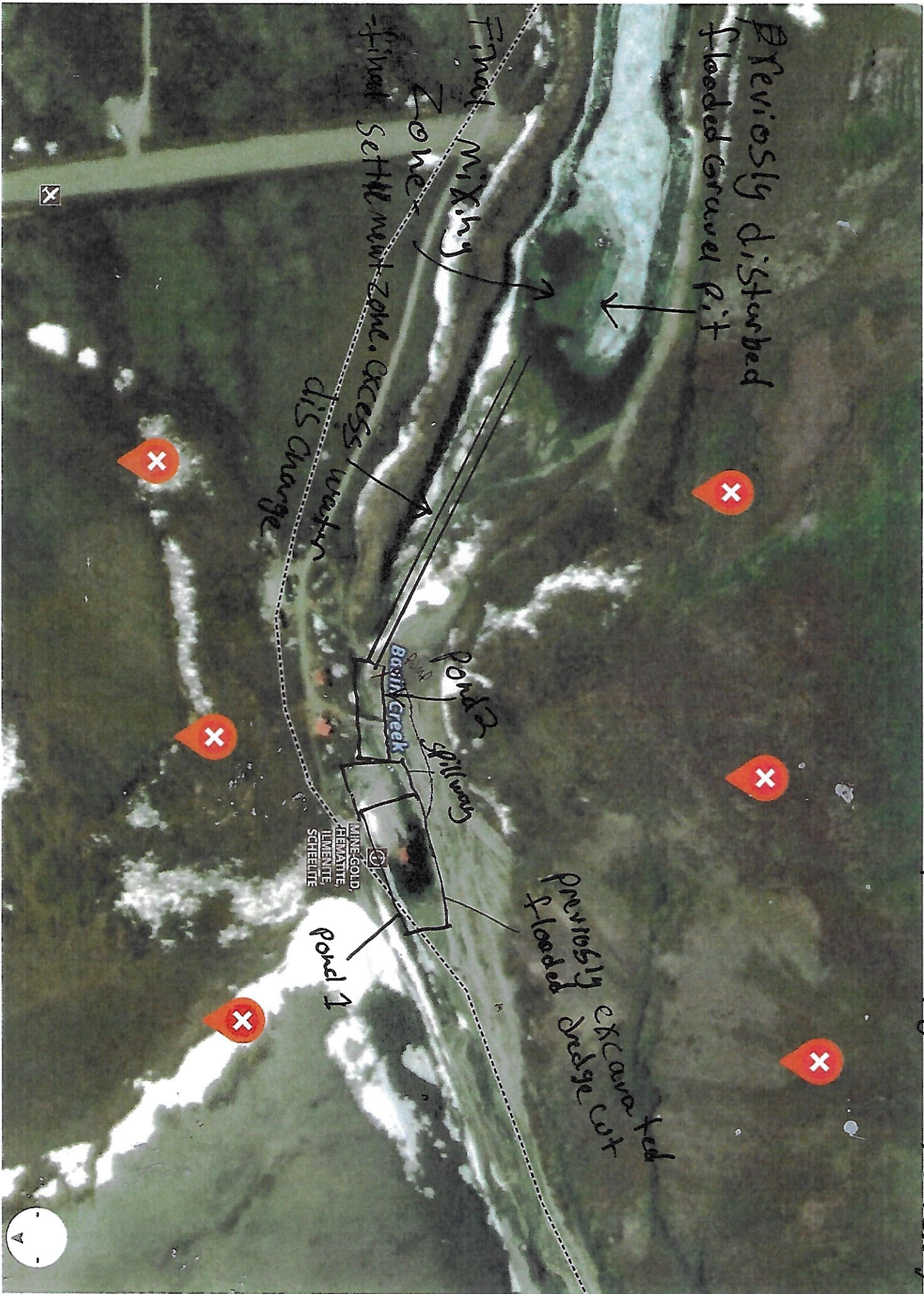


Kateel River median
T0095 R033W

<https://webmap.onxmaps.com/hunt/map>

Canine

Home C-1



N

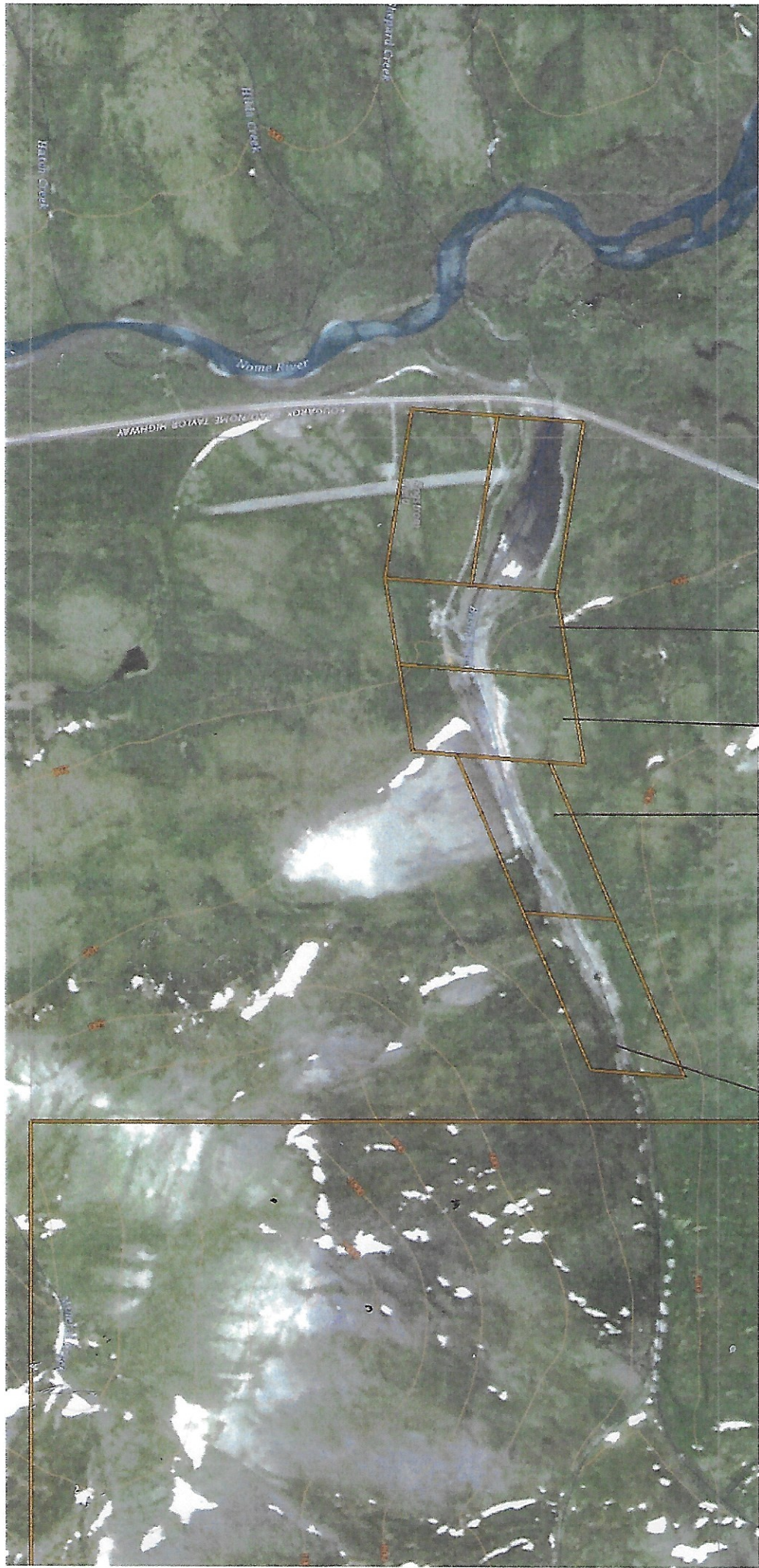
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

June #4

June #3

Ronnie Mining claim

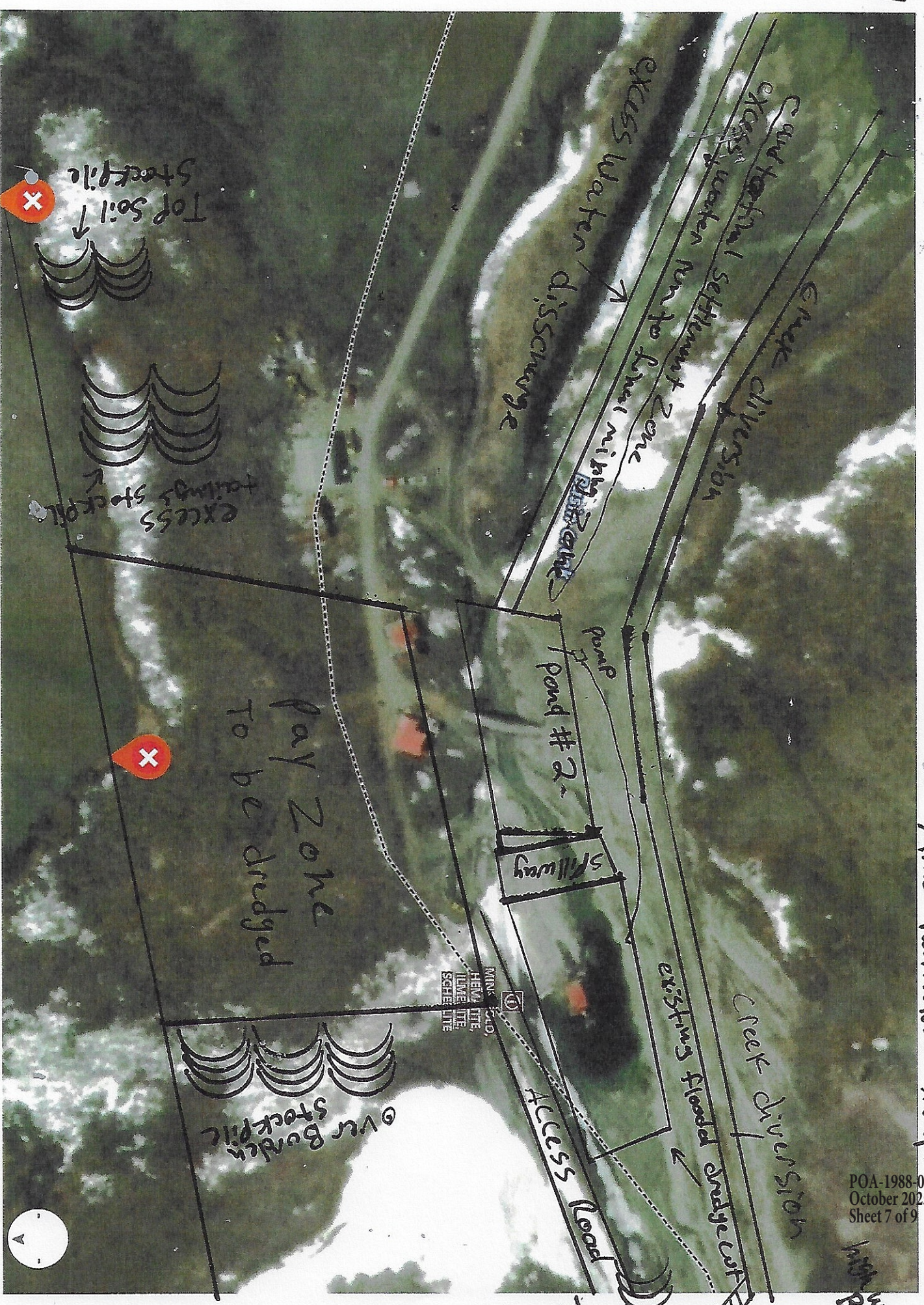
Roxe mining claim



All claims previously
disturbed

Kateel River meridian
T009S R033W
Section 28

NOME C-1



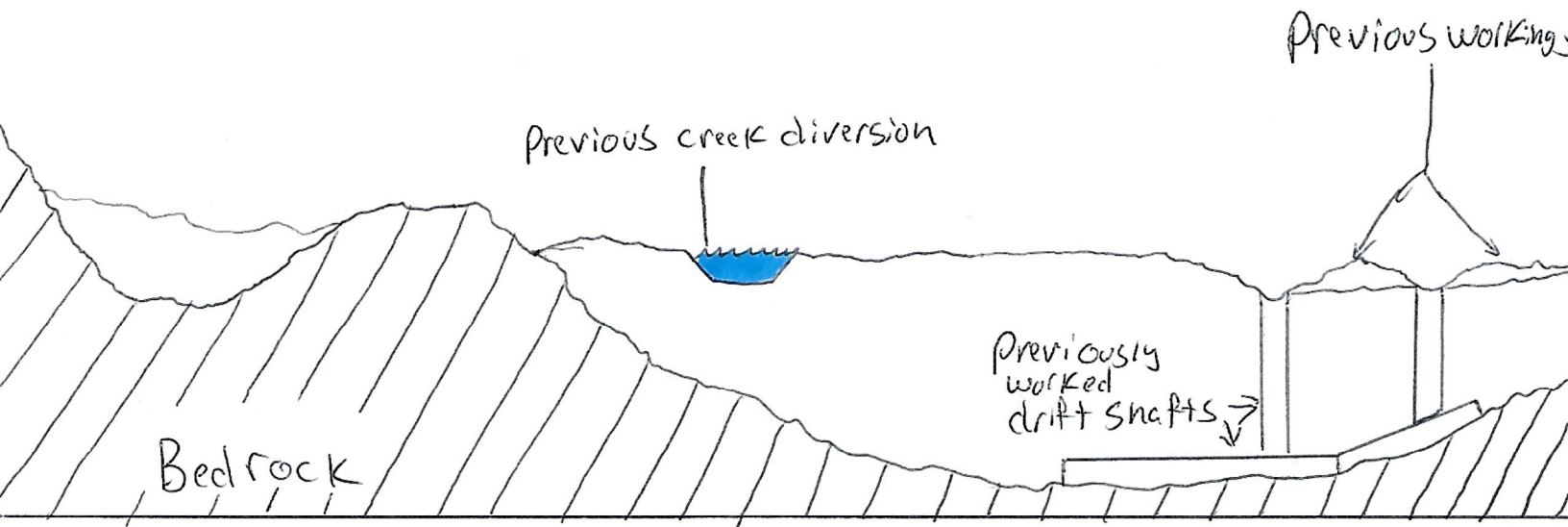
Kateel River meridian
T0095 R033W Section 28

NOME C-1

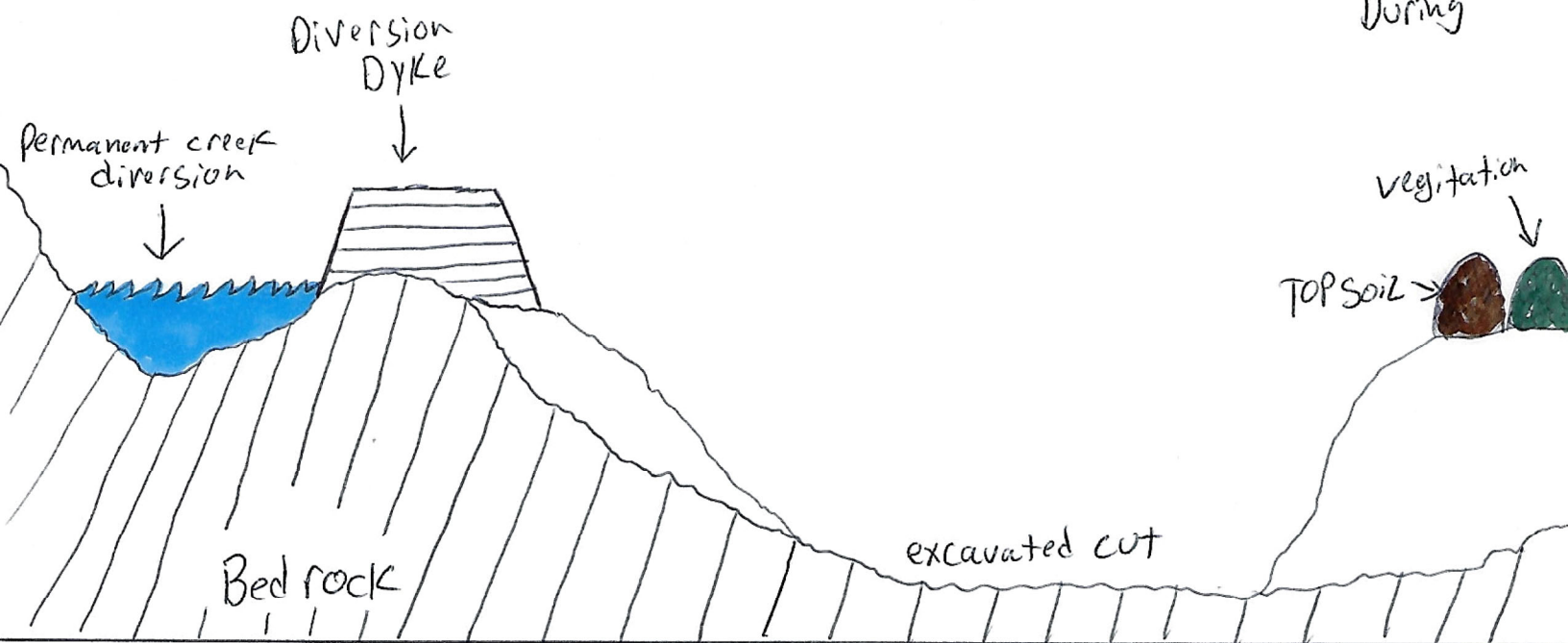
Permanent
Creek
diversion



Before



During



After

