

87 War Eagle Way
Whitehorse ,Yukon
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21st August 2020

Yukon Mineral Development Strategy.
Yukon Water Board
Whitehorse.

Re: Placer Mining in Wetlands

I submit information and opinions on Placer Mining in Wetlands for your attention .

Wetlands are vital for : purification of the water stream
flood mitigation
Carbon storage including Methane
Wildlife habitat and corridors
Human wellbeing .

With the destruction of Wetland by Placer Mining, a Wetland is no longer a highly tuned, balanced natural environment and habitat for fauna and flora, ranging from the tiniest invertebrates to amphibians, fish ,birds and mammals large and small.

With Placer Mining the water of the Wetlands is contaminated with mud, silt and worse ..toxic heavy metals.

How does Placer Mining help us ?

Jobs for a few hardy individuals to obtain a few flakes, or if lucky, a nugget of gold for the benefit of whom ?Certainly NOT the greater public good .

It is hard to understand or believe that driving a backhoe or D-8 Caterpillar through a highly sensitive Wetland is an honourable or even worthwhile proposition, especially in this time of Planetary Disruption and all it's sequelae.

What sort of Planet do we want for ourselves and more importantly for our children and grandchildren?

Toxic streams and rivers ,barren land and loss of Wildlife?

The concept is dismal, is not logical nor sustainable.

Despite all promises to return Wetlands to their former status this would take centuries to achieve ,if ever.

The question arises again and again ...who pays the clean-up bill when the miners are long gone?

Placer Mining in a Wetland is an assault on the vulnerable...our voiceless Wildlife .

We need to be protecting Wetland Habitat and Wildlife at a time of a widely acknowledged Global Extinction Crisis.

We are devaluing Nature when we need Nature most.

Current studies into value pricing of Wetlands estimates that a Wetland is worth \$1.8 million US per Sq.Km of Wetland per year, depending on flood mitigation ,clean water and human wellbeing .

Aldo Leopold discusses the divide of those people who can live without Nature and those who cannot .

For many Nature is a place of Solace and a source of Hope

I am one of those who CANNOT live without Nature .

I hope that the YMDS listens to the people of Yukon and to care for those that cannot speak for themselvesthe Wildlife of Planet Earth and in particular Yukon.

How does the Water Board fit with Placer Mining when its mandate its “to provide for the conservation ,development and utilization of waters for the benefit of all Canadians and for the residents of Yukon populations.”

Surely we can do better.

We must change course to better our prospects on this place we call “Home”..Planet Earth.

Thank you for your attention

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