ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED
1016 – 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Telephone: 604-688-2568 Fax: 604-688-2578

ASSESSMENT REPORT

describing

HERITAGE RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ORTHOPHOTO CREATION AND CONTOUR GENERATION

Field work performed on September 3, 2016

at the

MELOY PROPERTY

Meloy 1-42 YC65705-YC65766

NTS 115G/08 and 115G/09
Latitude 61°29′N; Longitude 138°11′W

in the

Whitehorse Mining District
Yukon Territory

prepared by

Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited

for

STRATEGIC METALS LTD.

by

H. Burrell, P.Geo.

October 2016

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

Statement of Expenditures
Meloy 1-42 Mineral Claims
March 1, 2017

Expenses (including management)

Ecofor Consulting B.C. Ltd.	$10,266.05
Trans North Helicopters – 1.6 hours Bell 206L at $1,485/hr plus fuel	7,010.52
Underhill Geomatics Ltd.	12,346.38
	$29,622.95

APPENDIX I

PHYSICAL COPY OF ECOFOR'S HERITAGE REOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

ECOFOR
natural and cultural resource consultants

Heritage Resource Impact Assessment: Meloy Property Class 3 Quartz Exploration (16-25ASR)

(TO BE INCLUDED IN YESAA MATERIALS – NO SITE SENSITIVE DATA)

Prepared for:
Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited.
(acting as agent for Strategic Metals Ltd.)
41 MacDonald Road
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 4R1

Prepared by:
Ecofor Consulting Ltd.
6B-151 Industrial Road
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2V3

Report also submitted to:
Kluane First Nation
White River First Nation

February 16, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited, working as agents for Strategic Metals Ltd., Ecofor Consulting Ltd. conducted a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) for the Meloy Property Class 3 Quartz Exploration claim. The proposed project involves mineral exploration activities on the Meloy property. There are two priority work locations, including a drilling exploration area located along a ridge connecting three mountain peaks running north-south to northeast-southwest and a proposed camp location in the valley bottom east of the drilling area.

Ecofor staff assessed the proposed priority work areas on September 3, 2016 by helicopter supported pedestrian survey. One Shovel Test Location (STL) was identified and tested during this survey at Alaskite Creek, immediately north of the proposed camp area. No cultural materials were identified during the shovel testing. The remainder of the proposed priority work areas, and all lands within the claim boundary but outside the priority areas, were assessed as having low potential for subsurface archaeological material due to the steeply sloped terrain, which is comprised predominantly of very steep talus slope or undulating rolling hummocks. The associated drainages within the work area are very steep and rocky with no potential identified other than at the STL.

Additionally, the field crew assessed an area associated with a previously identified ice patch (scar #43 as per Yukon Heritage numbering system) by helicopter supported pedestrian survey. However, no cultural materials were identified.

No signs of previous disturbance were identified within the study area with the exception of an existing bulldozer access trail. Two new, small, metal roofed cabins were identified adjacent Rockslide Creek south. These were identified as possible guide outfitter cabins.

Based on these results, **no further heritage resource work is recommended for the entire claim block**. However, if chance finds of heritage resources are made during development all work in the area should cease immediately and they should be reported to the Yukon Government Heritage Resources Unit to obtain further guidance.

CREDITS

Permit Holder:	James Mooney, MA
Report Author:	James Mooney, MA Tim Bennett, MA
Field Crew:	James Mooney, MA (Ecofor) Alex Gunn, BA (Ecofor) Nadaya Johnson (KFN) Glenn Stephen (WRFN)
Report Editing:	Cherie Kenya, MA
Graphics/GIS Technicians:	Margie Massier, BA/BSc

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LIST OF FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited, working as agents for Strategic Metals Ltd., Ecofor Consulting Ltd. conducted a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) for the Meloy Property Class 3 Quartz Exploration claim (Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3). The proposed mineral exploration claim block is located approximately 40 km northeast of Destruction Bay, YT, and is accessible by helicopter. The study area includes several named and unnamed drainages, including Alaskite Creek and tributaries to Rockslide Creek. Alaskite Creek intersects the proposed camp footprint. The claim block is within the traditional territory of the Kluane First Nation and the asserted territory of the White River First Nation.

1.1 Project Overview

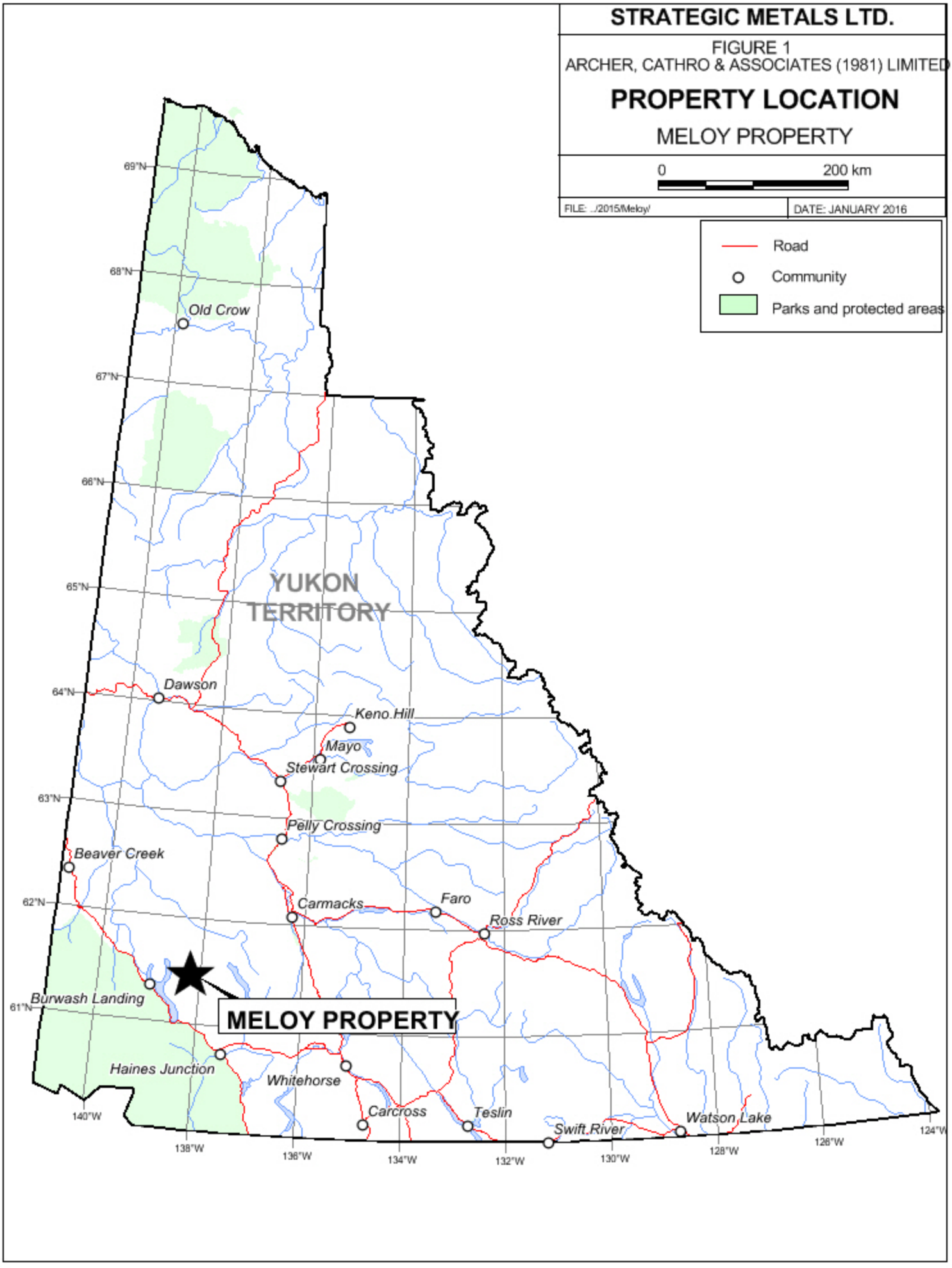
This HRIA focused on two localities within the greater claim block that were specified by the proponent as requiring priority assessment to facilitate their exploration program. These areas include a priority exploration drilling area located along a ridge connecting three mountain peaks and a camp location in the valley bottom to the east of the drilling area. However, the entire claim block was assessed during the field survey.

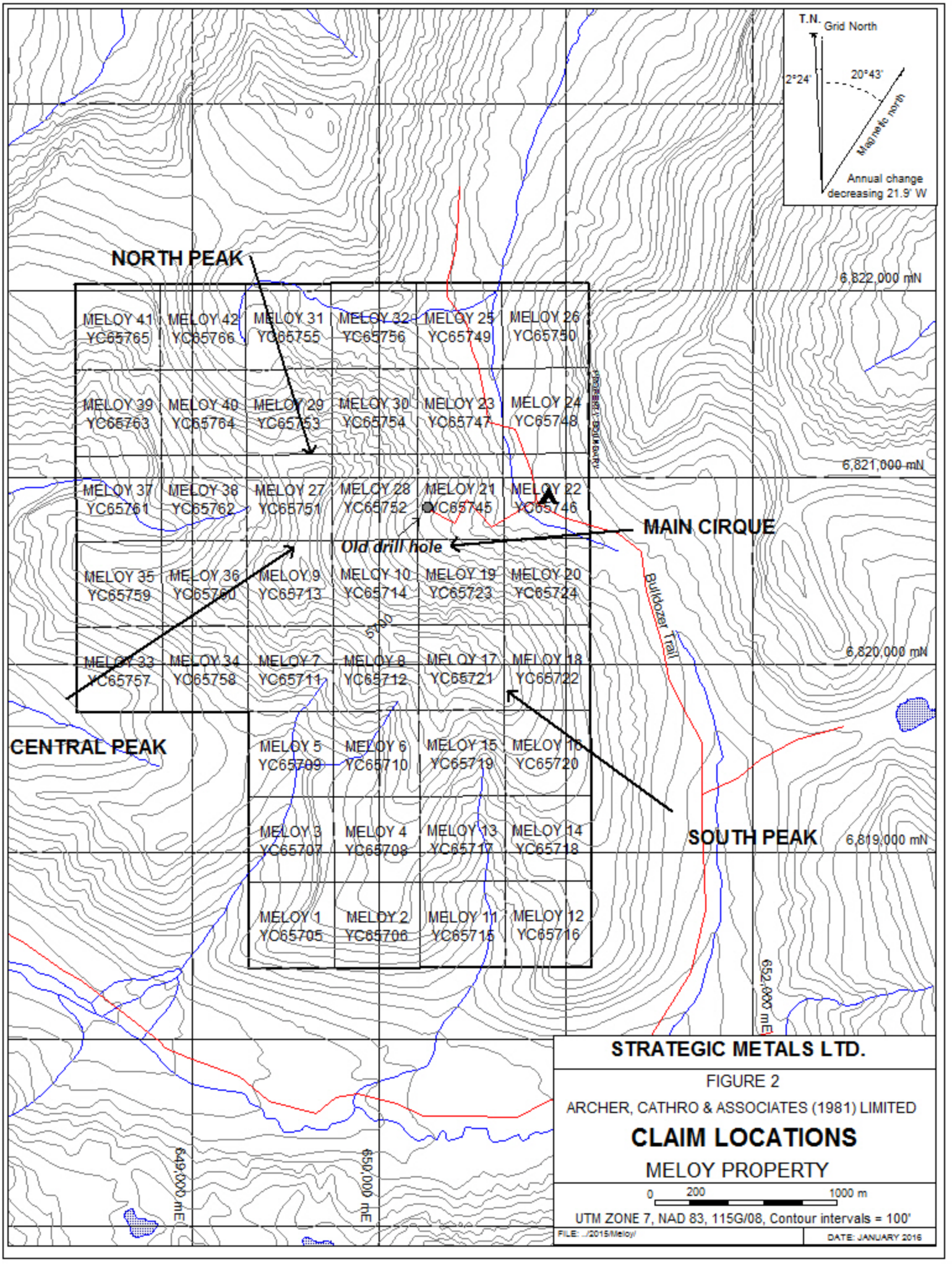
1.2 Personnel

The project area was assessed by Ecofor employees James Mooney (permit holder) and Alex Gunn. First Nations representatives Nadaya Johnson (KFN) and Glenn Stephen (WRFN) also participated in the fieldwork.

1.3 Report Format

Following this introduction in Section 1.0, Section 2.0 provides a discussion of the environmental setting that the study area is located within, Section 3.0 discusses the culture history of the area in which the proposed development is located, Section 4.0 details the methodologies employed in completing this work, Section 5.0 presents the results of this HRIA, Section 6.0 provides a summary and recommendations for the ongoing management of heritage resources within the assessed project area, and Section 7.0 closes the report with a listing of references cited. Three appendices are included at the end of this report. Appendix A shows project mapping, Appendix B provides project photographs, and Appendix C provides the project field notes.


STRATEGIC METALS LTD.
FIGURE 1
ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED
PROPERTY LOCATION
MELOY PROPERTY
0
200 km
FILE: ../2015/Meloy
DATE: JANUARY 2016
Road
Community
Parks and protected areas
69°N
68°N
67°N
66°N
65°N
64°N
63°N
62°N
61°N
140°W
138°W
136°W
134°W
132°W
130°W
128°W
126°W
124°W
YUKON TERRITORY
Old Crow
Dawson
Keno Hill
Mayo
Stewart Crossing
Pelly Crossing
Beaver Creek
Carmacks
Faro
Ross River
Burwash Landing
MELOY PROPERTY
Haines Junction
Whitehorse
Carcross
Teslin
Swift River
Watson Lake



STRATEGIC METALS LTD.

FIGURE 2

ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED

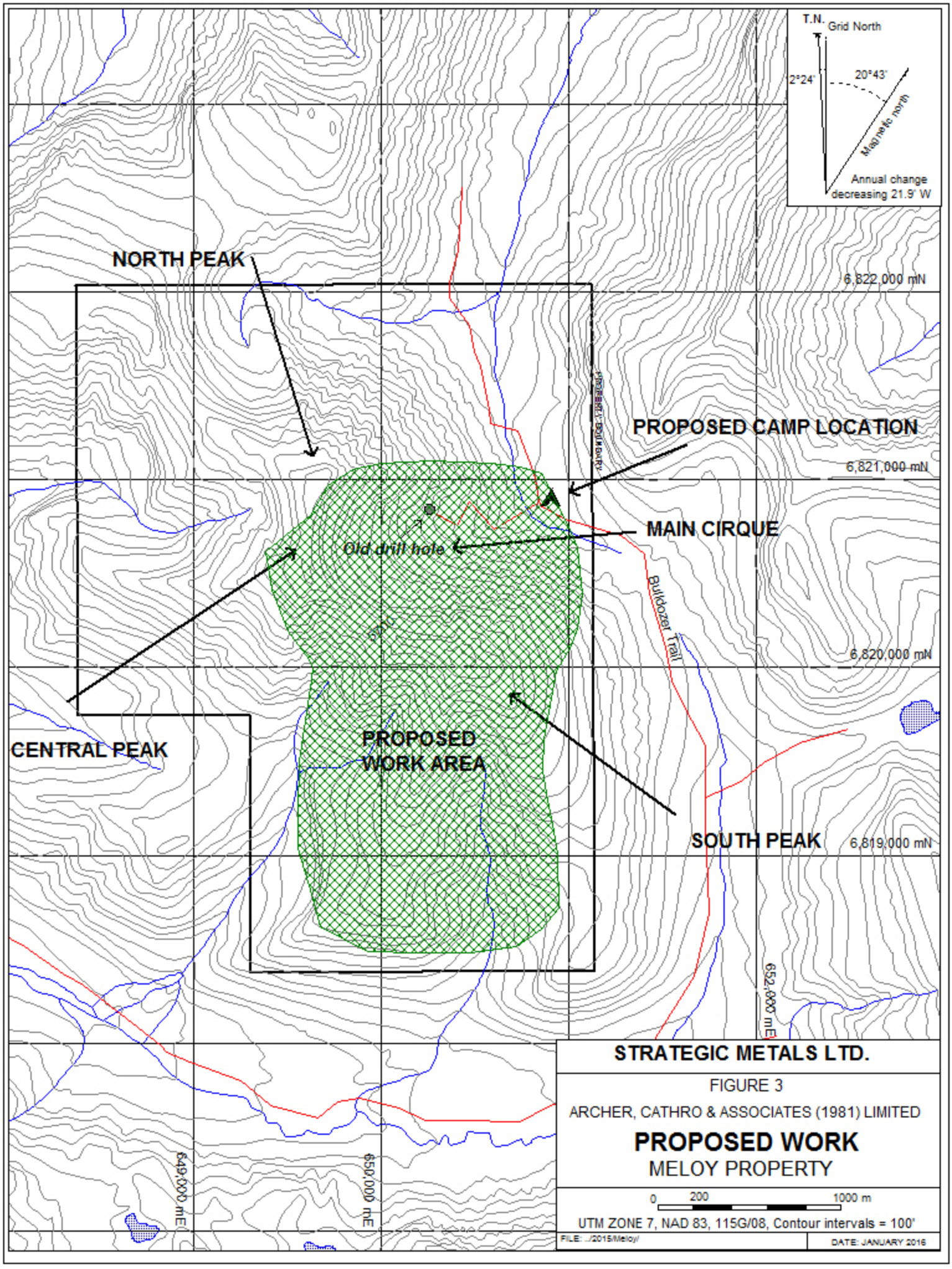
CLAIM LOCATIONS

MELOY PROPERTY

0 200 1000 m

UTM ZONE 7, NAD 83, 115G/08, Contour intervals = 100'

FILE: .../2015/Meloy/ DATE: JANUARY 2016


T.N.
Grid North
2°24'
20°43'
Magnetic north
Annual change
decreasing 21.9' W
NORTH PEAK
6,822,000 mN
PROPOSED CAMP LOCATION
6,821,000 mN
MAIN CIRQUE
Old drill hole
Bulldozer Trail
6,820,000 mN
CENTRAL PEAK
PROPOSED
WORK AREA
SOUTH PEAK
6,819,000 mN
652,000 mE
649,000 mE
650,000 mE
STRATEGIC METALS LTD.
FIGURE 3
ARCHER, CATHRO & ASSOCIATES (1981) LIMITED
PROPOSED WORK
MELOY PROPERTY
0
200
1000 m
UTM ZONE 7, NAD 83, 115G/08, Contour intervals = 100'
FILE: .../2015/Meloy/
DATE: JANUARY 2016

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project is located just inside the northwestern corner of the Ruby Ranges Ecoregion within the Boreal Cordillera Ecozone (Smith et al. 2004). This ecoregion includes the Kluane Plateau physiographic unit (a subdivision of the Yukon Plateau), the Shakwak Trench, and the Kluane Ranges to the south of Kluane Lake. The Kluane Plateau is characterized as a wide undulating upland consisting of the Ruby and Nisling ranges. The Shakwak Trench marks the Denali Fault from Haines, Alaska through to the south end of Kluane Lake and into eastern Alaska. This trench divides the high mountains on the west from the lower ranges and large valleys to the east.

The climate in the Ruby Ranges is one of the driest in the Yukon as it is located within the rain shadow of St. Elias Mountains. Precipitation is low with annual amounts of 250 to 300 mm. The winter months have mean amounts of 10 to 20 mm while the summer months can expect rainfall amounts of 30 to 70 mm (Smith et al. 2004). The heaviest precipitation originates from rain showers and thunderstorms in the summer months. Mean annual temperatures are -3°C to -7°C. Mean temperatures for January are -30°C to -35°C, and in July from 7°C to 12°C. This ecoregion borders the coldest recorded temperature in North America at -62.8°C at Snag.

The flora of the Ruby Ranges consists of boreal forest in which white spruce and willow dominate the vegetation below treeline (about 1,200 m a.s.l.), and in the valleys and low slopes. In the higher subalpine between 1,040 and 1,400 m a.s.l., the dominate vegetation consists of tall and medium shrubs. Above 1,400 m a.s.l., the lichens and ground shrubs predominate the vegetation. Other tree types include pine in the southeastern fringe area, aspen with white spruce on warmer sites, balsam poplar along streams and some moister slopes, black spruce in poorly drained areas, and paper birch in the northern part of the ecoregion. Ground cover includes soapberry, Labrador Tea, lichen, grasses, ground shrubs on drier sites and shrub birch and crowberry on cooler north and east slopes. Willow and shrub birch, as well as mosses, are also prevalent on poorly drained locations.

The wildlife in the area contains a large variety of species and relative abundance of animals. These include the Nelchina barren-ground caribou herd, and the Chisana and Mentasta woodland caribou herds moving in and out of Alaska. These make up the core of the Aishihik herd which is approximately 1,500 animals. This ecoregion is also home to the Kluane caribou herd which is one of the smaller herds at about 200 animals. Other mammals native to the area include Dall sheep, mountain goat, coyote, wolf, wolverine, and Grizzly bear, all of which have some of the highest population densities in the Yukon (Smith et al. 2004). The population of red fox may have fallen with the increase in coyote population. After marten were introduced in the area in the 1980s there are small areas where their population is better established. Wood bison were

introduced in the Upper Nisling River basin and the Yukon Southern Lakes in 1986 and they are now established in the Aishihik Lake and Nisling areas. Also introduced were elk, which have established two small populations, one by Hutshi Lake and one by the Takhini River. Other mammals include muskrat, little brown myotis, wood rat (uncommon), arctic ground squirrel, and least chipmunks, marmot, pika (rock rabbit), and deer mice.

This ecoregion is also known for its migrating waterfowl and birds that use the wetlands in the Shakwak Trench. These include Pacific Loon, Horned and Red-necked Grebes, Trumpeter Swan, Canada Goose, American Widgeon, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, scaup, scoters, goldeneyes, and several shorebirds. Other water bodies are used by Merganseres, Kingfishers, Dippers, Terns, Gulls, swallows, warblers. A variety of songbirds also use the area and the forested areas are home to a variety of raptors and other species.

This ecoregion is drained by the Dezadeash, Donjek, Kluane, Aishihik, Kathleen, and White Rivers while the project area is drained by the White and Donjek Rivers. Kluane is the largest lake in the Yukon and it is located to the southeast of the proposed project area. Other lakes near the property include Pickhandle Lake, Wolverine Lake, and numerous lakes along the Koidern River Valley. These waterways are also critical for their variety and abundance of fish. Key species include salmon, grayling, whitefish, sucker, pike, and lingcod (burbot). Other key water related species include muskrat, beaver, water fowl, as well as land mammals.

3.0 CULTURAL HISTORY

The following is an overview of the culture history for the broader region surrounding the study area including south-central and southwestern Yukon, and northern British Columbia. Many researchers have reviewed the cultural history of this broader area and have presented the information using a variety of terms and temporal ranges (Clark 1981; West 1996; Workman 1978; J. V. Wright 1995, 1999).

3.1 Prehistoric Period (ca. 11,000 BP to ca. A.D. 1700s)

The earliest prehistoric occupation, which dates to early post-glacial times, is known as the Northern Cordilleran Tradition (Clark 1983; Hare 1995). The earliest Northern Cordilleran Tradition occupation known at present is a site located near Beaver Creek, dated to 10,670 radiocarbon years before present (BP) (Heffner 2002). The majority of sites associated with this tradition appear to date older than 7,000 to 8,000 BP. The Northern Cordilleran Tradition, with some overlap, predates the introduction of microlithic technology from Alaska into the interior of the central and southern Yukon (Clark 1983; Hare 1995).

The Northern Cordilleran Tradition is followed by the Little Arm Phase which dates from approximately 7,000 BP to 4,500 BP (Clark and Gotthardt 1999; Workman 1978), and can be defined by the use of microlithic technologies. After about 4,500 BP, there is less evidence of microblade use in the Yukon, and an increase in the use of notched projectile points, and a variety of scraping and carving tools, labeled the Taye Lake Phase in southwest Yukon, or more broadly in Yukon and Alaska, the Northern Archaic Tradition (Hare 1995; Workman 1978).

The most recent archaeological culture of southern Yukon is that of the Aishihik Phase (Workman 1978). This phase is thought to be a cultural development from the earlier Taye Lake culture, although there are some significant differences in technology. Key amongst these technological innovations are native copper tools, small stemmed Kavik points, end- and sidescrapers, and ground adzes (Hare 1995), but perhaps most notable is the introduction of the bow and arrow which replaced a type of throwing spear known as an atlatl as the primary hunting weapon (Hare et al. 2004). This transition from atlatl to bow and arrow technology has been clearly documented by recent finds from high elevation ice patches in the southern Yukon (Hare at al. 2004). These Aishihik Phase sites are found above the White River Volcanic ash layer (also known as Tephra) that is dated to about 1,250 radiocarbon years BP (Clague et al. 1995), and are correlated with the appearance of Athabaskan peoples who are thought to be the direct ancestors of the current Kluane and White River First Nations peoples (see below).

3.2 Proto-Historic Period (A.D. 1700s to ca A.D. 1840s)

The Proto-Historic Period, as presented here, also overlaps with late Prehistoric/Athabaskan Period. It is defined by the appearance of non-native goods, other early trade items, and foreign (western or eastern) influences, but not the documented accounts of contact between indigenous North American peoples and European/Russian/Asian peoples themselves. Other indicators of the Proto-Historic Period are the arrival of the first non-native diseases and information concerning non-natives. This period spans the time between the first introduction of non-native influences or artifacts, and the recording of first hand or primary written accounts. Unlike other cultural periods with more specific temporal ranges it is difficult and perhaps impossible to determine when the first 'outside' influences of European, Russian, Asian, or other cultures began to impact First Nations people in the Yukon interior.

Some of these far reaching effects may have been passed along from Russian exploration in the early and mid-1700s (Veniaminov 1984) and other Asian and European (Andreev 1944; Quimby 1985) exploration and contact with coastal communities. The Chilkat Tlingit from the Northwest Coast travelled and traded with many interior First Nation peoples throughout this Proto-Historic Period including the Kaska and the Northern Tutchone from the Dawson and Mayo areas, and occasionally the Mountain Dene people from as far away as Fort Norman on the Mackenzie River. The Tlingit protected and controlled the trading routes into the interior and fiercely defended those routes when they were threatened. News of early non-native explorers and traders would have travelled inland along with foreign items such as metals, cloths, glass beads, and later tobacco and other goods.

In some of the earliest cases, the impacts of these foreign cultures could have had significant impacts even without the presence of the foreigners themselves. Such is the case for what is called 'drift-iron' whereby metals and other materials from Asian or European shipwreck wash ashore. Historical accounts of shipwrecks have been reported in the mid-1700s, but much earlier wrecks were possible. Metals and other foreign trade items have been derived from shipwrecks off what is now British Columbia, Southeast Alaska, and perhaps the Northwest Alaska as well.

3.3 Historic Period (post-A.D. 1840s)

During the early years of this period the Russians were exploring along the Pacific coast and up the major rivers of the Alaskan interior, while the British were exploring eastward into what would become Canada's Northwest and Yukon Territories, and Alaska. In the 1840s, representatives of the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) established trading posts throughout the northern territories. The closest trading post to the study area would have been the HBC Fort

Francis post, located on the north side of Frances Lake, at the junction of the East and West Arms. In 1840 Robert Campbell of the HBC built "Glenlyon House" and began trading there in 1842. When trading began Campbell changed the name from Glenlyon House to Fort Francis, after Lady Francis Simpson the wife of the governor of the HBC. It was the first trading post in the Yukon Territory and was successful for the first few years however when Fort Selkirk and Fort Pelly Banks were established it deteriorated and eventually shut down in 1852 (Coutts 1980). The location of Fort Selkirk was known to upset the Chilkat Tlingit who controlled the trade routes from the coast to the central Yukon. In 1852, a Chilkat Tlingit raiding party travelled inland and forced Robert Campbell and his crew to leave the trading post, which was consequently burned by the Northern Tutchone (Castillo 2012).

In 1867, US Secretary of State William Seward was able to focus increasing American interests, and he convinced the United States Senate to purchase Alaska from Russia. Soon after the purchase, the US Army sent Captain Raymond up the Yukon River on the first stern-wheel steamer to reach Fort Yukon (Grauman 1977). Raymond surveyed the location of Fort Yukon and proved that it was within US territory. The British sold the Fort to the US Government and relocated east across the 141st Meridian.

The inland fur industry continued to drive exploration and settlement into the late 1800s, but mining would shift the focus to the placer gold found in streams and alluvial deposits. Mining in the second half of the nineteenth century was a risky but often very lucrative enterprise. The impacts of mining would spread quickly and drastically change the project area.

Mineral prospecting and mining efforts in the second half of the nineteenth century were in some ways very dependent on the existing infrastructure of the fur trading and missionary efforts. As the competition for the inland fur trade grew, so would the number of stern-wheelers on the Yukon River. These steamers could better supply the small number of trading posts along the Yukon and its tributaries and reduce the risk of prospectors running short of supplies. Therefore, more of the fur traders and other explorers turned their attention to search for gold and other minerals. Three key prospectors to the north were L.S. (Jack) McQuesten, Al Mayo, and Arthur Harper. They wrote to miners in the United States to encourage them to come north. They also established outposts along the Yukon River, including Fort Reliance, established in 1874 near the confluence of the Klondike River (what would become Dawson City) (A. A. Wright 1976).

Harper and another man may have been the first to travel up the Fortymile in search of gold in 1881 (Buzzell 2003). They collected a very rich sample, but were unable to relocate the exact location. In 1886, McQuesten, Harper, and Mayo built a post on the confluence of the Stewart

and Yukon Rivers which provided supplies for additional prospectors. Also in 1886 Howard Franklin made a richer find on the Fortymile River. Others rushed in and these claims along the Fortymile River attracted miners from across Central and Eastern Alaska, and even Southeast Alaska. Fortymile was the first town to grow to over a thousand people by the mid 1890s (Buzzell 2003), and in 1887 the Stewart River post was deserted. Some prospectors that did not find easy success in Fortymile returned to the Stewart and continued work in the area. In 1890, Harper re-established a trading post at the site of the old HBC post at Selkirk as interest in the area grew. This was followed by Jack Dalton who developed a series of existing First Nation trails from tide water at Haines Alaska, into Fort Selkirk.

Then, on August 16, 1896, George Carmack, Skookum Jim, and Tagish Charlie discovered a very rich claim on Bonanza Creek, a tributary to the Klondike River near Dawson. This discovery sparked one of the largest gold rushes in history.

It would take almost a year for the news of the Klondike gold fields to spread south, even to places relatively close by in southeast Alaska. Most of the prospectors and traders in the Alaskan and Yukon interior had already converged on the Dawson area during the winter and spring, and supplies ran dangerously low. That would quickly change in the summer of 1897 and spring of 1898 as new towns and supply posts sprang up along the Gold Rush routes to cash in on the increased demand.

The population of Dawson City grew very fast and in 1898 reached a peak of over 30,000. However, the boom period did not last long and the vast majority of population moved on very quickly with the news of other discoveries and hopes of other bonanzas. The Gold Rush period saw greatly increased steamer traffic on the entire Yukon River drainage basin and across the interior. Just prior to the Gold Rush there were only a few steamers, while at its peak there would be hundreds of vessels working the rivers. These shallow draft steamers were supported by a network of wood camps, shipyards, and a large workforce which kept the river traffic moving. This network provided the infrastructure backbone for trading posts, fish camps, missionaries, and mail routes, while meeting the needs of the growing number of prospectors and traders.

During the turn of the 20th Century the First Nation residents of the project area traveled and traded for supplies and were impacted by a changing way of life but they remained fairly isolated. It was not until the international boundary survey of the 141st meridian from 1907 to 1913 that westerners made a primary impact, though the area remained fairly isolated through the early 1900s. By the 1930s, a plan for a new highway was suggested by a civil engineer from Fairbanks, who started the International Highway Association in hopes that a "Pacific Yukon Highway" would

connect Seattle to Fairbanks. The idea was supported by Alaska Territorial Legislature, and Congress completed a study in 1933 but concluded that it was too costly.

That began to change in the fall of 1939 and the impacts of World War II seemed far off, but after Pearl Harbor was bombed there was a new rush to build the highway. It was quickly decided that the "Prairie Route" would be used and key Canadian airfields would link Great Falls, Montana to Fairbanks. The US War Department issued the directive to build in February 1942 and more incentive was added after Japan bombed Dutch Harbor and invaded Adak, Kiska, and Attu in the Aleutians. The highway was soon named the Alaska-Canada Highway or ALCAN and it remains as one of the greatest engineering feats completed in the modern era. In just eight months and 12 days during one of the coldest winters recorded the highway was completed. The communities of Burwash and Beaver Creek were both established during the construction and since the area was used by First Nations people these locations made good sense for focal points. In most cases the highway followed many traditional trails that linked small communities together and had a huge impact on the First Nations. Local highway maintenance and government services played a big role in the post war years into the 1950s and 1960s which was followed by continued placer and hard rock exploration.

3.4 Modern First Nations

The project is located within the Traditional Territory of the Kluane First Nation (KFN) and the asserted territory of the White River First Nation (WRFN). The KFN is affiliated with the Southern Tutchone people and Southern Tutchone Tribal Council while the WRFN is affiliated with the Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone people.

Tutchone peoples were highly mobile, travelling in small groups in order to exploit the greatest number of resources. They would modify their movements depending on the patterns of large game animals and fish, or in later years to trade their furs with Westerners. In the summer, small domestic units gathered together to catch fish so that they could dry and store it for the winter months. By mid-summer several family groups moved upland together in order to kill large game mammals that they would dry and store in caches scattered in a variety of areas. From there some units moved away independently during the coldest months to trap and live off of the cached foods. The leanest months were March and April. In spring, several units often came together at this point to catch spawning whitefish or trap muskrat and beaver. May was the most plentiful month, with migrating waterfowl, fat ground squirrels, larger and more abundant fish, as well as the arrival of the Coastal Tlingit traders (McClellan 1981).

The principal ethnographic descriptions of the Tutchone are available in Cruikshank (1974, 1975), Johnson and Raup (1964), McClellan (1950, 1964, 1970a, 1970b, 1975), and Tanner (1966). Additional information on camp and village locations can be found in Schwatka (1885). Although villages were not inhabited year round, people would return to good fishing and/or hunting spots year after year. This would eventually change with the influence of Westerners. Watercraft were constructed for use, however during the summer months Tutchone people preferred to walk overland, rather than brave the sudden winds on the large lakes or the treacherous river rapids. Boats were not the preferred method of transport.

Also of interest is that McClellan (1975) reported from her Southern Tutchone informants that Pickhandle Lake was likely a trade rendezvous between people from Neskatahin, Upper Tanana, and Han from the Upper White River area in the 19th century. People would snowshoe in March from Neskatahin to meet up at the lake, trading guns and tobacco obtained from the Chilkat Tlingit for furs and native copper. Northern Tutchone from Fort Selkirk, who had strong trade ties to the Copper Chief (whose territory was the upper White River), would come here to trade as well.

The Kluane Lake area is home to the Lù'än Män Ku Dan, the KFN people who identify themselves as descendants of Southern Tutchone speakers with other ancestors including Tlingit, Upper Tanana, and Northern Tutchone. The Upper Tanana and Northern Tutchone people of the WRFN and the Southern Tutchone people of the KFN were grouped together by the Canadian Government into the White River Band in the early 1950s. In 1961, the White River Band was amalgamated by the Canadian government with the Southern Tutchone speaking members of the Burwash Band as the Kluane Band (subsequently the Kluane Tribal Brotherhood and then the Kluane Tribal Council). In 1990, the Kluane Tribal Council split its membership into the KFN, centered in Burwash, and the WRFN, centered in Beaver Creek.

The WFRN participated in negotiations for a land claims agreement and had reached a memorandum of understanding on most issues, but the parties were not able to reach a final agreement to put forward to ratification by WRFN citizens. The Federal Government mandate to negotiate land claims in the Yukon expired on March 31, 2005 and on April 1 the Federal Government announced that discussions with the WRFN “will no longer involve the possibility of concluding land claim and self-government agreements” and will instead focus “on how best to advance the interest of White River under the provisions of the Indian Act” (WRFN, n.d.).

3.5 Previous Heritage Investigations

Consultation with staff at Yukon Heritage revealed that no previous heritage resource studies have investigated lands within the proposed project area, with the exception of the recent ice patch survey by Christian Thomas, and that no heritage resource sites are known within or near the proposed project area boundaries.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Heritage resources potential was determined by identifying site presence indicators using a variety of resources including landscape features (e.g. waterbodies, wetlands, and watercourses), topographic mapping, Yukon Archaeological Sites Database, aerial photographs, and orthographic images where possible. The known sites databases were used to determine if sites were located in or near the proposed work area. Spatial and topographic mapping was used to locate waterbodies, watercourses, wetlands, and landforms that may indicate areas or corridors that have higher potential for heritage sites. Aerial photographs, topographic maps, and orthographic images were used to determine prominent topography with high potential for heritage resources. The in-field assessments were conducted through the proposed work area by pedestrian transects and helicopter survey. Transects were recorded by GPS. Landforms determined to possess potential for buried heritage resources were subsurface tested by 35 cm x 35 cm shovel tests. Tested areas were marked with GPS waypoints and sketch maps were drawn. If cultural materials were identified then the sites were recorded, materials were collected, cleaned, and interpreted, and data was submitted for Borden numbers to record the sites. Illustrative representations of the study area, site locations, and photographs of the sites discussed in this report are presented in the attached maps and photodocumentation.

5.0 RESULTS

This HRIA focused on two localities within the greater claim block that were specified by the proponent as requiring priority assessment to facilitate their exploration program. These areas include a priority exploration drilling area located along a ridge connecting three mountain peaks and a camp location in the valley bottom to the east of the drilling area. However, the entire claim block was assessed during the field survey.

Overall, terrain within the claim block was found to be predominantly steep talus slope or undulating rolling hummocks (Photo 1 and Photo 2). The drainages within the claim block generally flow through steeply sloped and rocky channels. The crew completed a pedestrian survey of the priority work areas as well as portions of the larger claim block (see Appendix A for mapping), and a helicopter survey was completed for the entirety of the claim block. During the pedestrian survey, the crew was spaced approximately 20 m apart. The one area within the priority exploration drilling area that was not walked was the main high, narrow, northwest-southeast running ridgeline. This area was not accessed directly due to snow cover that limited surface visibility and safety concerns given the ridge's narrowness and icy conditions (see Photo 2).

Despite the steep and/or rolling terrain, one area with potential for subsurface heritage resources was identified and shovel tested. This area, referred to as STL 1, is located in the northeastern portion of the claim block north of the proposed work area on a north-south running knoll on the east bank of Alaskite Creek (Photo 3). Six shovel tests were excavated at STL 1. Sediments encountered consisted of coarse decomposing bedrock and glacial till. All shovel tests measured 35 cm x 35 cm and were excavated to subsoil or approximately 18-25 cm in depth (Photo 4). No cultural materials were recovered from these tests.

Additionally, the field crew assessed an area associated with a previously identified ice patch (scar #43 as per Yukon Heritage numbering system) by helicopter supported pedestrian survey (Photo 5 and Photo 6). No ice remains in the location of the recorded ice patch, but a large, dark, humic remnant scar was inspected. No cultural materials were observed during this inspection.

6.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pedestrian survey was conducted throughout the proposed work area with a helicopter survey conducted for the entirety of the claim block. The proposed work area and the entire claim block consist of a series of steeply sloping ridgelines as well as rolling hummocks, with low potential for heritage resources. One exception to this trend was found on a small knoll overlooking Alaskite Creek. This area was shovel tested, and no subsurface cultural material was identified. Therefore, **no further heritage resource work is recommended for the proposed camp area, the proposed work area, and the entirety of the remaining claim block. Adherence to the chance find procedure is recommended.**

If any additional claims are added to the claim block, then those new areas are also required to be reviewed for possible impacts to heritage resources. This follow-up heritage review may be conducted though desktop overview and/or field study.

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APPENDIX A: Project Mapping

Description	Easting	Northing	Total (+) Tests	Total (-) Tests	Landform	Landform Size (m)	Photos (name and direction)	Way Point
STL 1	650667	6821199	0	6	knoll	20 x 5	412 (SE)	1161

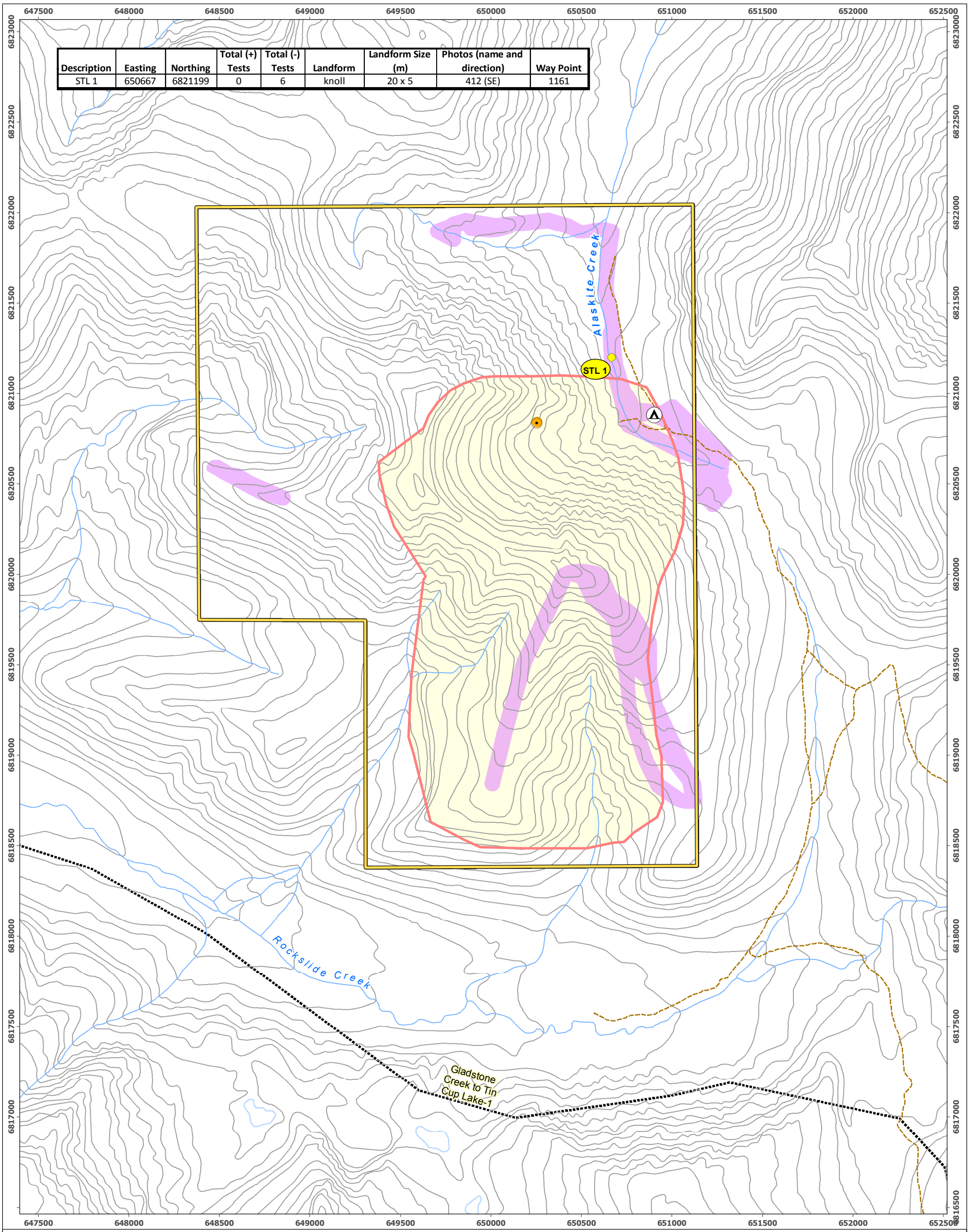


FIGURE 4. HRIA RESULTS MAP

Meloy Property

ARCHER CATHRO

ECOFOR natural and cultural resource consultants

Ecofor Consulting Ltd. November-21-16 (MM)

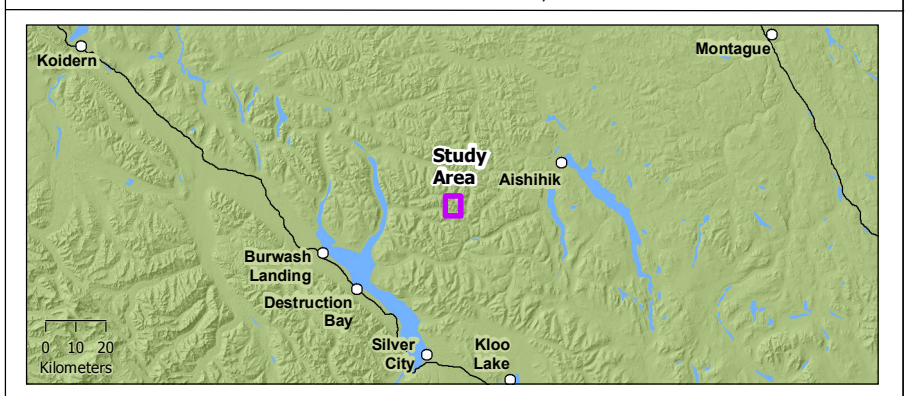
- Subsurface Test Location (STL)
- Old Drill Location
- Proposed Camp Location
- Proposed Work Area
- Meloy Property Boundary
- Assessed Area
- First Nations Heritage Route
- Access Trail
- Waterbody
- Watercourse
- Contour

N

1:20,000

0 500 1,000m

NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7N



APPENDIX B: Photographs

ECOFOR
natural and cultural resource consultants

Archaeological Survey Photodocumentation

Permit: 16-25ASR **Development Area:** Meloy Property Mineral Claim

Client: Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Limited **Date:** February 16, 2017

Photo 1: View southeast of general western terrain showing ridge line and steep slope.

Photo 2: View northeast of general southern terrain showing snow line, ridge, and steep slope.

Photo 3: View SE of Shovel Test Location (STL 1) view looking north.

Photo 4: View east of typical stratigraphy at STL1.

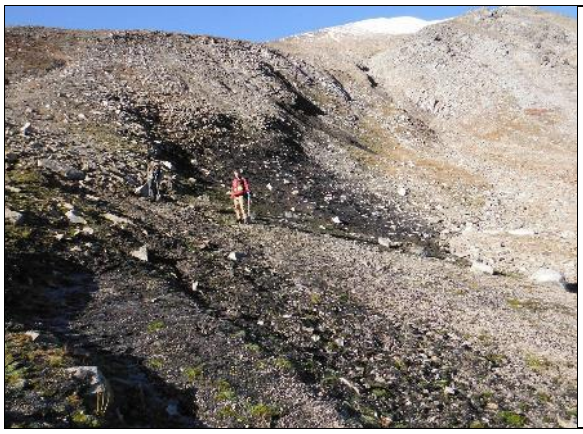


Photo 5: Crews inspecting remnant ice patch scar #43 view looking west.

Photo 6: View northwest of smaller remnant ice patch scar.

APPENDIX C: Field Notes

Sept 2, 2016
MELOY HRIA for Archer Cathro

( ) field prep, temp hire + contracts for Nadaya Johnson + Glenn Stephen, mapping, radio from AC, pick up
( ) gear, get Alex + Glenn in whse + finish prework + drive to Haines Jnct. Check in, go to meet Nadaya + go
( ) over remaining paperwork + forms + safety + Ecofor orientation.
2 hrs AG, 4 hrs GS, 4 hrs JM

SEPT 3, 2016
JM, AG, GS, NJ

Pick up Nadaya + snacks + head to TAHA
( ) safety briefing, flew out to property - clear blue skies after weeks of bad weather we could see Mt. Logan clearly, Mt. Steele. Some fresh snow along ridgeline so we flew the ridge + put down across from possible camp,
( ) then walked south to ice patch remnant scars + inspected them and patch 43 as per YG Heritage# system
photo 6407 NJ; 6408 + 409 NJ #0910 is patch 43 edge block scar

No finds. We spread out along dark humic scar remnant, Alex walked high ground. photos: 0407 - 0409

photo of remnant scar south of camp * 0410

0411 overlooks approach to Camp area

Then we walked north + Northwest up + over + zig-zag across the camp area. Ground is undulating, small rolling hummocks but no materials on surface + no possible STL's No further work for camp area.

we walked along east side of stream to best potential spot + opened up STL J-1 at WP 1161 = 07, 650667, 6821199 elev 1624 m - N→S (roughly) running raised knoll on east side of stream

photos looking N = 0412, 0413 and

photos of AE, NJ, OS

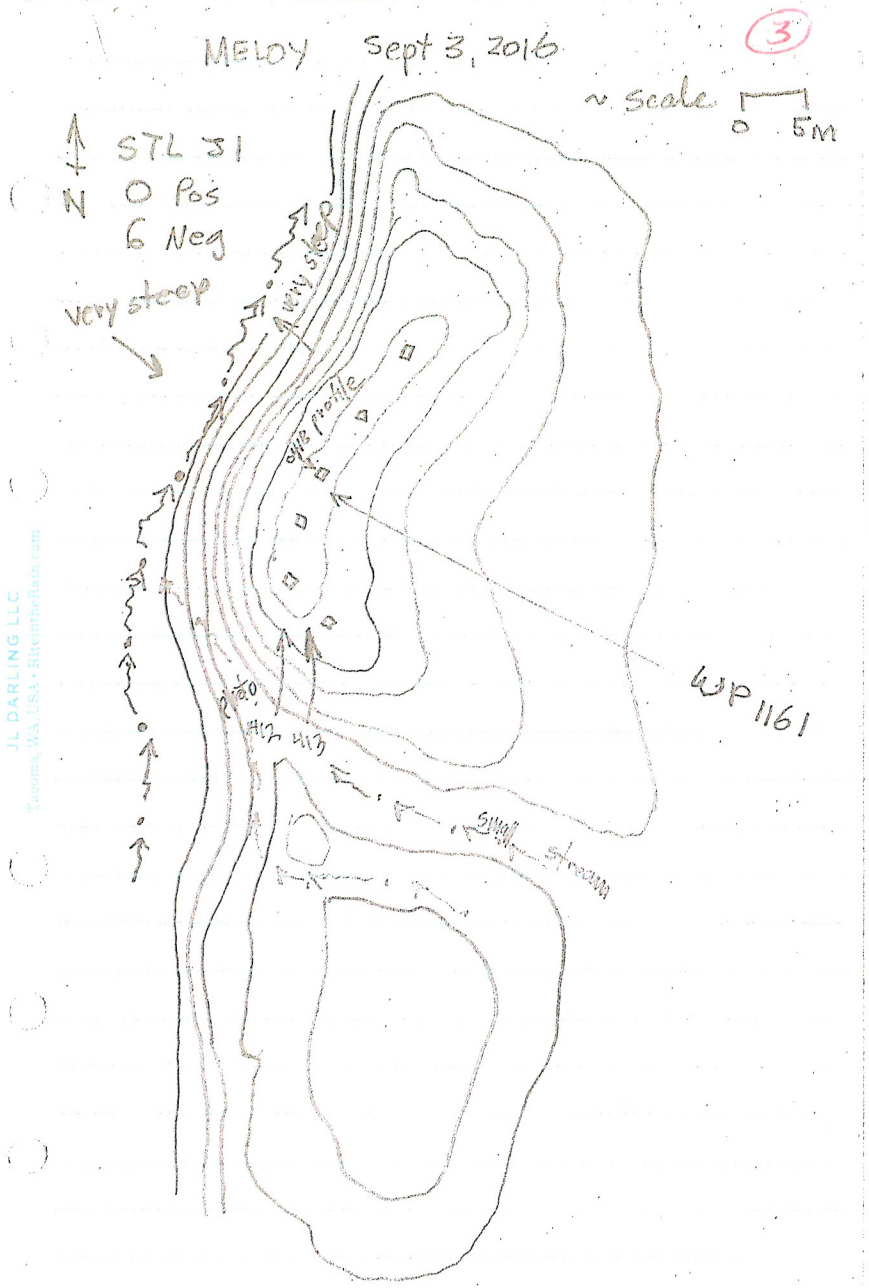
coarse decomposing bedrock + glacial till

STP's excavated to ~ 18 → 25 cmbs

soil profile photo 0418 looking East

soils are coarse sandy + decomposing granite

photo 406 + 405 are of overview of ridge + south end of block (claim block)



Sept 3, 2016 Meloy

after STL-J1 we walked north to edge of block then turned west up valley No significant areas of potential-steep slope - fast drainage

Then we got heli to pick up and put down on west side of block downslope of central peak - snow level was just near where we put down photos looking upslope to large angular boulder + cobble ridge 0421, downslope to grass + heli 0422

then lift over to the two southern ridges - we put down on top, NW and above the south peak + split into 2 teams JM+GS and AG+NJ to walk down + inspect two separate ridges (AG+NS see a red fox) 0423 looking NJ; 0424 North ridge

WP 1162 sos photo rock stacking photos looking E 0425 South + downslope 0426 and north 0427 - 0428 possible claim post base.

walked the east side down to WP 1163

Sept 3, 2016

The main ridgeline had a fair bit of snow on it so we did not walk it but it is very narrow and would have been zero surface visibily but also a significant trip hazard. We did see almost the entire claim block and besides the narrow ridge line the rest of the block is comprised of very steep talus slope, or undulating rocky + grassy/ low veg cover with rolling downslope and little to no potential. The drainages are very steep and rocky, and we tested the best landform visible today.

There are also two small new metal roofed cabins (next to each other North side of stream) on the stream running west to east along a small trail - likely guide outfitters outpost cabins.

No further work for whole claim block except chance finds procedures

On the way back we saw an odd geological formation + photos 0429 → 0431 + up 1164 - cone shaped basalt?

APPENDIX II

DIGITAL COPY ECOFOR'S HERITAGE REOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND UNDERHILL GEOMATIC'S REPORT