

Province of British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

# **MEMORANDUM**

15180-03-02

To: Victoria Placer Working Committee District Geologists July 13, 1988

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## Re: Placer Claim Staking Areas Under the Mineral Tenure Act

The Mineral Tenure Act (Bill 66) is scheduled for proclamation July 29, 1988. The Act will permit staking of placer claims in areas specified in a proposed Regulation. This regulation will create 6 initial areas within the Province in which placer claim staking will be permitted. Within these areas, certain sensitive areas will be reserved from placer staking.

Requests to reserve these areas from staking have been received and evaluated. The majority of the requests have been approved and reserves will be prepared. However, approximately 12 areas require further evaluation.

The attached information contains the following:

- Map of the province indicating the boundaries of the 6 initial areas. Please note Area 6 has been amended to delete Well Gray Park area and include the Upper Fraser River to Redpass Junction.
- 2. Summary sheets indicating approval status of requests.
- A series of notes keyed to the request which require further evaluation and negotiation.

Little time remains before proclamation. Your attention to the action specified in the attached is required no later than July 22, 1988. However responses should be returned immediately whenever possible. Time is required to prepare reserve documents before proclamation. I thank you in advance for your prompt response.

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## REQUEST IDENTIFIED ON SUMMARY WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER EVALUATION AND NEGOTIATION

The areas which require further attention can be classed into two catagories.

(1) Areas in which mineral exploration and placer exploration exists:

#### MAP NO.

- 6.5 BESSETTE CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES (HARRIS CREEK SPECIFICALLY)
- 5.6 LEMIEX CREEK EXCEPT EAKIN CREEK AND MAINSTEM
- 5.7 LOWER JOSEPH SYSTEM
- 4.6.5 HORSFLY RIVER (BLACK CREEK, MCKAY RIVER)
- 4.13 BOWRON RIVER (REDUCE TO CORRIDOR 1.0 km RESERVE)

## ACTION REQUIRED:

Portions of each of these areas have been identified as containing mineral and placer exploration potential. The District Geologist of each area concerned and the appropriate representative from the resource agency requesting the reserve will evaluate these concerns and submit a recommendation.

(2) Areas in which no specific mineral or placer exploration has been identified but which cover inordinately vast areas:

#### MAP NO.

- 5.5 THOMPSON PLATEAU LAKES
- 5.17 CHILKO
- 5.18 HUNGRY MTN.
- 4.2 & 4.4QUESNEL HIGHLANDS
- 1.1 TESLIM LAKE AND NAKINA RIVER

### ACTION REQUIRED

MEMPR questions the need to reserve such vast areas to protect wildlife habitat from access by placer exploration. Several areas requested lie within existing placer designated areas (Yalakom River and Gun Creek). Is there evidence of damage caused by placer exploration in these areas to justify a reserve?

These areas should also be evaluated by the District Geologist and the agency representative with a view to providing a smaller or more specific requests.

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