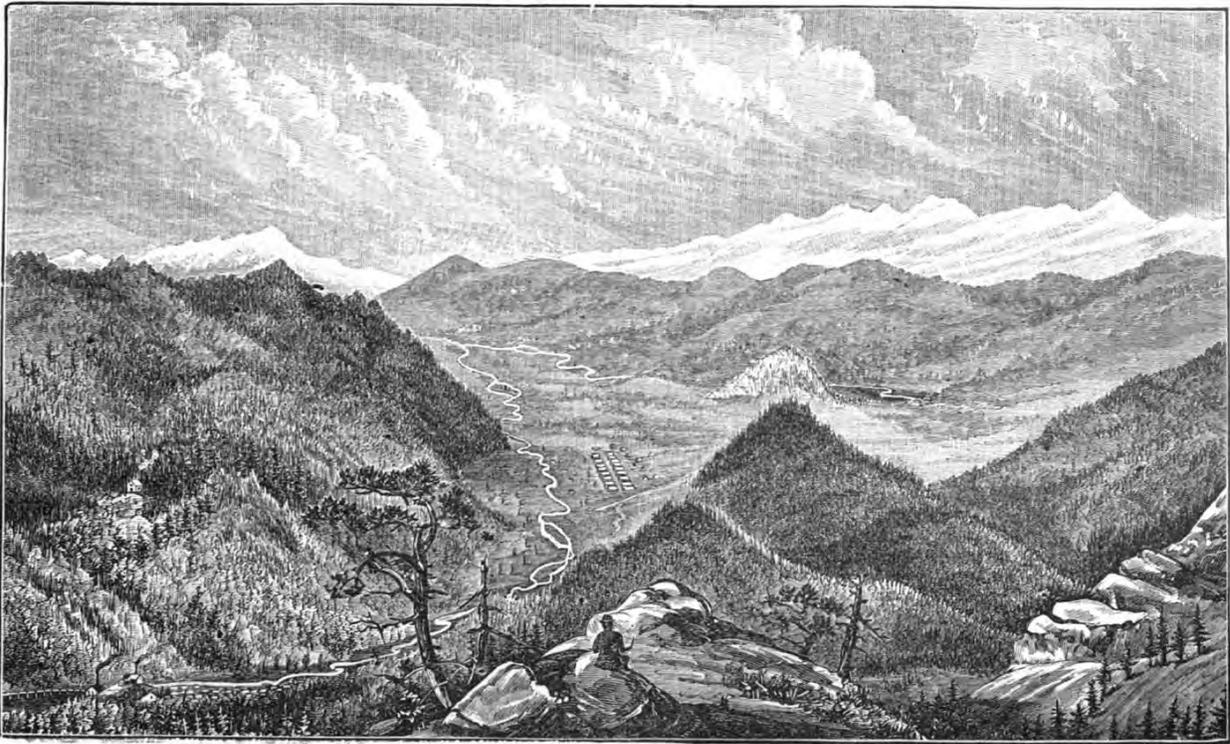


# APPENDIX E

Historical

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# APPENDIX E - YANKEE FORK HISTORICAL TIMELINE



An artist's rendering of the Yankee Fork (Strahorn 1881).

Prepared by:

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Salmon-Challis National Forest  
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**November, 2011**



# APPENDIX E

## YANKEE FORK HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This appendix presents a historical timeline of the Yankee Fork watershed categorized by: human settlement; roads and transportation; mining; dams and water utilization; timber harvest; livestock and grazing; fire, flood and landslide occurrences; and fisheries observations. The information for this timeline was extracted from a wide variety of sources. An attempt has been made to preserve the original sources when information has been reproduced within the references used to support this document.

During the early 1800's, the first well-documented expeditions into Idaho occurred. Many of these expeditions investigated isolated portions of the Salmon River basin, but local settlement did not occur until there was a discovery of gold in the area. In the 1860's, gold was discovered in several places surrounding the Yankee Fork watershed, including the Stanley, Loon Creek, and Leesburg areas (USFS 2009). In 1866 or 1867, a party of prospectors ventured up the Salmon River as far as the Yankee Fork, but they did not remain long (USFS 2009). Finally, in the 1870's, prospectors spreading from the placer excitement on Loon Creek discovered placer gold on Jordan Creek near its confluence with the Yankee Fork (Umpleby 1913). The towns of Custer and Bonanza were founded in the years following, which marked the beginning of the Yankee Fork's extensive history involving the interaction of humans and the landscape.

# 2. HUMAN SETTLEMENT

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1866/1867            | A group of gold prospectors, led by Joel Richardson, came to the area and gave it the name of Yankee Fork (LOYF Historical Association 2005).   |
| 1877                 | Bonanza City was laid out and two years later, in early 1879, Custer City was founded by Samuel Holman (LYOF Historical Association 2005).  |
| 1880s to early 1900s | Household and drinking water for the residents of Custer came from wells and springs. The General Custer mill and mining practices of the area caused the water from the Yankee Fork to be unusable.<br><br>Men fished frequently to help feed their families. There was a small lake near Bonanza where people caught frogs and ate frog legs. Raw oysters were also available in the winter (LOYF Historical Association 2005). |
| 1880                 | The census taken in that year showed 213 people lived in 77 households in Custer. Many of the households were boarding houses inhabited by single miners, laborers, and business men (LOYF Historical Association 2005).  |
| 1880                 | The first public school was built near the mouth of Jordan Creek and served the approximately 25 children that lived in the vicinity (LOYF Historical Association 2005).  |
| 1881                 | The population of Bonanza in that year was approximately 600 people (LOYF Historical Association 2005).   |
| 1889                 | A serious fire in Bonanza in that year resulted in some Bonanza residents moving up the road to Custer (LOYF Historical Association 2005).  |

- 1890 The populations in that year were 136 people in Bonanza and 134 people in Custer (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1895 The boarding houses and cabins of Custer were filled to capacity when the General Custer mill reopened after seven years of inactivity (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1896 to 1898 Custer experienced an increase in crime: 14 major crimes in addition to attempted arson (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1897 A devastating fire in May of that year burned an entire block in Bonanza. Eight buildings were destroyed and many people moved to Custer instead of rebuilding (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1900 The populations in that year were 90 residents in Bonanza and 342 people in Custer. Also, a new school was built in Custer (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1906 By Presidential Proclamation, November 6, 1906, a number of Forest Reserves were created, among them being the Lemhi, Sawtooth, and Salmon River (USFS 2009).
- 1907 The town of Sunbeam, located on Jordan Creek, got a Post Office (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1908 By Executive Order #840, July 1, 1908, the Challis National Forest was created from parts of the Salmon River and Sawtooth National Forests with an area of 1,161,040 acres (USFS 2009).
- 1908 to 1920 The original 14 acre Bonanza Administrative site was selected as a Forest Service Ranger District headquarters in November 1908. In 1911, an additional 140 acres was taken in as pasture. The site was used as a Ranger Station for District 3 until 1920, when the District was combined with the Clayton District, at which point it was then only used as a guard station (USFS 2009).
- 1911 By that year, fewer than a dozen people inhabited Custer due to the town's steadily declining population since 1904, when the General Custer mill closed down (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1912 The Forest Service constructed a telephone line from Sunbeam dam to Loon Creek, via Bonanza (USFS 2009).
- 1925 The Forest Service installed a creosoting plant in the Yankee Fork drainage for the treatment of telephone poles. It was the first creosoting plant on the Forest (USFS 2009).
- 1930 The Forest Service telephone line from Bonanza to Loon Creek was abandoned (USFS 2009).
- 1932 The Forest Service constructed a telephone line to Custer Lookout (USFS 2009).

- 1933 to 1941 The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built and occupied a summer camp located just above the historic town of Bonanza. While on the Yankee Fork, the CCC men were engaged by a host of projects in addition to fire suppression on the Challis National Forest. Among their projects were the rebuilding of the toll road (renamed the Custer Motorway) between Custer and Challis, the rebuilding of the Jordan Creek road, construction of new buildings at Bonanza Guard Station, and construction of the Loon Creek Ranger Station. Reportedly, in years 1933 through 1936, many of the old structures of Bonanza and Custer were torn down by the CCC men due to the hazards the buildings posed to civilians (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1933 The Bonanza Guard Station had new buildings constructed by the CCC (USFS 2009).
- 1947 In association with the dredging operations on the Yankee Fork at that time, all remaining cabins of the Bonanza and Custer historical settlements were occupied during the summer months. A gas station operated at Bonanza during the summer, but the nearest store and post-office were downstream near the mouth of Yankee Fork (Anderson 1949).
- 1950 The Forest Service telephone line to Custer Lookout was abandoned (USFS 2009).
- 1960 to 1962 The Forest's "Operation Outdoors" program gained momentum, resulting in rehabilitation or construction of several sites, including Polecamp Flat and the Sunbeam rest-stop (USFS 2009).
- 1963 Eleven campgrounds were built and improved on the Challis National Forest. That included the Custer Campground which had six family units (USFS 2009).
- 1964 The historic town of Custer was saved from destruction by fire on September 16<sup>th</sup> by local citizens and tourists. The fire was confined to an area east of Arthur (Tuff) McGowan's home and between the road and Yankee Fork. Cause of the fire was determined to have been a carelessly tossed cigarette in the dry grass. The fire burned several sheds, the old jail built during the 1880's, and the Pierce home. Those buildings and their contents were a total loss.
- The museum of western relics established in the old Custer school building by the McGowans had become a tourist attraction over the past few years (USFS 2009).
- 1966 The historic Custer town-site, including artifacts and buildings, were purchased from Arthur (Tuff) McGowan by the Forest for \$12,000 (USFS 2009).
- 1969 Custer Museum had about 11,000 visitors from 48 states and 13 foreign countries (USFS 2009).
- 1974 Custer Museum hosted 11,467 visitors. High water and very poor salmon fishing reduced some recreation use (USFS 2009).

- 1972 Formerly known as the Clayton Ranger District, the administrative district encompassing the Yankee Fork watershed was enlarged and renamed Yankee Fork Ranger District. The headquarters were near the town of Clayton (USFS 2009).
- 1974 The Challis National Forest constructed 10 new “V” and “K” dams at the junction of Yankee Fork and McKay Creek and repaired some of the old CCC structures (USFS 2009).
- 1976 A Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) camp was established at Bonanza in that year. Enrolled for eight weeks of work and education were 12 boys and 12 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years old.

### 3. ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

- 1870s The discovery of gold on Jordan Creek and the Yankee Fork initiated the formation of a trail from the Oro Grande mining town in Loon Creek, over Loon Creek summit, into the Jordan Creek drainage (USFS 2009).
- The transportation of people, supplies, and the exportation of ore was also accomplished by pack trains over a dangerous trail from Custer to McKay Creek, over mill Creek summit to a steep grade that led to Garden Creek, and finally to the town of Challis. The nearest freighting road at the time was 35 miles away in Challis (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- Travelers between the Boise Basin and the Yankee Fork-Jordan Creek diggings started a route via the West Fork of the Yankee Fork and over into Knapp Creek to connect with the Banner Trail at the mouth of Cape Horn Creek (USFS 2009).
- Another early day trail was between Bonanza and Stanley Basin via Sawmill Creek, Hay Creek, Kelly Creek and Stanley Creeks. This was later known as the “Hay Trail” and received its name from the fact that prior to the construction of a road to Bonanza, hay was baled in Stanley Basin and packed over this trail to feed the pack stock and few milk cows that were kept there (USFS 2009).
- With the discovery and development of quartz/gold in the area in the 70’s and 80’s, trails to many of the mines were established. They included the Livingston, General Custer, Greyhound, and various other mines (USFS 2009).
- 1879 Construction of a toll road by Alexander Toponce and 90 men made the Yankee Fork accessible by wagon from the town of Challis. A charter to collect tolls was obtained from the Idaho Legislature and the charge was \$4.00 per wagon; collected at Tollgate Station. Stage fare for a trip from Challis to Bonanza started out costing \$11.00 (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1879 A ‘good’ wagon road had been built to the summit of Mt. Custer, and beyond (Strahorn 1881).

- 1889 The State road that ran from Challis to Clayton was extended to reach the mouth of the Yankee Fork (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1913 The settlements of the Yankee Fork had stage access to Challis by a route which followed the Yankee Fork downstream to the Salmon River and then followed the Salmon River downstream to Challis. At that time, roads also connected the Yankee Fork north-northwest to Loon Creek and southwest to Stanley Basin. The commonly used route over the mountains to Challis (Custer Motorway) was still referred to as a 'trail' (Umpleby 1913).
- 1934 The Custer Motorway was being improved by the CCC at that time. The other large tributaries of Yankee Fork, Eight Mile Creek and Jordan Creek, were also reported to be accessible by road. The West Fork of Yankee Fork, however, was not (Rodeheffer 1935).
- 1935 Construction of the Ketchum-Clayton highway was underway during that year (Hoyt 1935).
- 1940 It appears from an article published in the May 29<sup>th</sup> edition of the Challis Messenger Newspaper that the CCC had engaged in regular seasonal maintenance of the Custer Motorway, which included road-grading and snow removal.
- 1950 Approximately 2.5 miles of flood damage to Jordan Creek road was repaired (USFS 2009).
- 1956 Approximately 0.5 miles of road were relocated and built below Bonanza Guard Station (USFS 2009).
- 1957 Approximately 1.5 miles of road and a bridge were constructed in the area of Bonanza (USFS 2009).
- 1960 A culvert was installed at McKay Creek and construction of a bridge on Jordan Creek was completed (USFS 2009).
- 1961 Construction of the Custer Bridge on the Yankee Fork was completed (USFS 2009).
- 1967 Construction and maintenance of the first three miles of Yankee Fork Road from Sunbeam to Polecamp Campground were completed at a cost of \$162,000.00. The concrete bridge in the middle of this project was completed under a separate contract at a cost of \$55,000.00 (USFS 2009).
- A plat and description of the Right of Ways (ROW) across patented claims in the Yankee Fork for 8.9 miles of road from Polecamp Flat Campground to Custer was completed early that year (USFS 2009).
- 1974 The extreme spring snowmelt events of that year necessitated a \$553,481.50 Yankee Fork road and bridge project, which was completed that fall. The project involved the construction and surfacing of 5.5 miles of road and construction of

six major bridges. Approximately 4 miles of this unique project was constructed on dredge tailings (USFS 2009).

## 4. MINING

### 4.1 Historical Mining

1870	Placer claims were made on Jordan Creek by Dudley Varney and Sylvester Jordan (LOYF Historical Association 2005). Reportedly, the whole of Jordan Creek was worked for a distance of four miles that season (LOYF Master Plan 2009).
1875 to 1884	William Norton found the first significant quartz vein in the area; the Charles Dickens lode claim (LOYF Historical Association 2005). The mine produced until Norton's death in 1884, at which time operations ceased (ISHS 1993)
1876	Montana Lode claim was located (Anderson 1949). These claimants worked the mine for several years, blew their profits, but were finally able to sell it in 1904. The new owners conducted significant operation on the Montana in 1906 and 1907, but nothing much happened to it after that (ISHS 1993).
1881	Construction of the General Custer mill was completed in that year. It was the first stamp mill in the area, preceded only by hand mortar and crude arrastra milling operations (Anderson 1949). The General Custer mill employed fifty-two men in that year (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1884	Up to that year, nearly 250 mineral locations had been made. Captain Varney, Deputy Recorder, reported that mineral locations were still being recorded daily (USFS 2009).
1886 to 1892	The Charles Dickens mine was purchased by a British interest, but operations struggled to produce profitable ore during that time (ISHS 1993).
1888	The General Custer mill, under the management of the Custer Mining Company, closed down due to increases in operating costs (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1888 to 1892	The British company that had purchased the Charles Dickens mine two years earlier acquired the General Custer mine and mill. The intent of the new Dickens-Custer Company was to use the General Custer mill to process ore from the Charles Dickens mine. In 1890, the company reportedly had 115 men employed freighting ore, wood cutting, and mining (ISHS 1993). Other sources suggest, however, that the General Custer mill did not actually operate during that time (LOYF Historical Association 2005). Not surprisingly, the operations of the Dickens-Custer Company closed in 1892 due lack of production and financial mismanagement (ISHS 1993).

1895 to 1904	After being closed for seven years, the General Custer mill began operations again under the new management of the Lucky Boy Gold Mining Company (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1903	Golden Sunbeam Mining Company was formed on Jordan Creek and a mill was built (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1904	The General Custer mill closed for the last time (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1906	<p>The Golden Sunbeam group of mining claims, located approximately four miles up Jordan Creek from its mouth, experienced extensive development beginning in that year, and through 1909. Subsequently, a mill was constructed on site and plans were developed for the installation of a hydroelectric dam and corresponding electrical transmission line (Umpleby 1913).</p> <p>The new owners of the Montana mine conducted significant in 1906 and 1907, but nothing much happened to it after that (ISHS 1993).</p>
Early 1910s	The valley flat along Yankee Fork from Salmon River to Jordan Creek and up Jordan Creek for about two miles was extensively explored for minerals by a process of drilling. To what success was not known to the authors of the corresponding source of information (Umpleby 1913).
1910s	Attempts at dredging the Yankee Fork were undertaken in these years, but no major production of any kind was accomplished (ISHS 1993).
1911	The Sunbeam mill began full operations in April of that year, using power transmitted from the newly constructed Sunbeam Dam which was located 13 miles downstream. The mill, however, shut down a month later due to financial problems (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
1912 to 1914	Lessees processed old tailings at the Sunbeam mill during September and October 1912 and similarly in 1913 and 1914. The tailings were treated by cyanidation (Mitchell 1997).
1913	A USGS publication indicated that the General Custer mill was equipped with cyanide tanks (Umpleby 1913)
1914 to 1917	The Montana mine was re-opened and became the most important ore producer in the district at that time. The ore from the Montana mine was processed at the Sunbeam mill (Anderson 1949). An aerial tram was built in 1914 to connect the Montana mine with the Sunbeam mill (Mitchell 1997).
1917 to early 1920s	The Yankee Fork Mining District was largely inactive during that time (Anderson 1949).
Early 1920s to Early 1930s	The Why Not mine on Estes Mountain was active during that time (Anderson 1949).

- 1926 Extensive testing of the placer deposits in the Yankee Fork Mining District took place in that year. Good results were predicted to hasten the use of a dredge to mine the Yankee Fork placer deposits (Ross 1927).
- 1932 The Yankee Fork Placer Mining Company acquired a collection of placer claims covering over five miles of the Yankee Fork. A small dredge was assembled near the mouth of Ramey Creek, but there was dissention amongst owners of the company over whether the dredge was big enough to work the boulders and tightly cemented gravels of the Yankee Fork. The untimely death of the dredgemaster led to the dredge being removed and abandonment of the entire endeavor (Packard 1983).
- 1933 Old tailings from the Sunbeam dumps were treated by cyanidation during that year (Mitchell 1997).
- Early 1930s to 1939 The Yankee Fork Mining District was generally inactive during that time, with few mines receiving only small amounts of attention (Anderson 1949).
- 1934 The Bureau of Fisheries stream surveyors, at that time, indicated that a new mine was operating at Custer. The surveyors speculated that the new mine would pollute the stream below Custer if it operated to any extent (Rodeheffer 1935).
- 1939 to 1942 The Custer Consolidated Mines Company acquired the Lucky Boy mines and mill. The mill was reequipped and the mines proved to be prosperous until 1942, when operations were halted by WWII (Anderson 1949).
- 1969 Extensive work by J. Lawrence had been done on the Estes Mountain, McFadden mine, and Charles Dickens properties on Jordan Creek in that year. Interests held by V. F. Taylor, Jr. had done extensive work on the Sunbeam mine property. Considerable additional work occurred on Rankin Creek. None of those properties shipped ore in that year (USFS 2009).
- 1974 The Yankee Fork District issued 30 Special Use permits relating to mineral exploration or development, including one for geothermal exploration and one for helicopter drilling under Bonanza Peak on Ramey Creek. Some “stripping” occurred on the Woodrat claims on Rankin Creek (USFS 2009).

## 4.2 The Yankee Fork Gold Dredge

- 1939 From early in August until mid-December, a 12 person crew contracted by the Silas Mason Company was camped below Silver creek to begin drill testing the Yankee Fork for mineral values (Packard 1983).
- 1940 By April 1<sup>st</sup>, the initial dredge pond was built and assembly of the dredge had begun at Polecamp Flat (near present day Poleflat Campground). The Silas

Mason Company renamed itself the Snake River Mining Company (Packard 1983).

On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the dredge machinery was 'turned over' for twenty minutes. A party was thrown for the crew and their families in celebration (Packard 1983).

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the dredge began preliminary operations. The dredge started from the point of construction and worked downstream to the lowest extremity of mining claim, which took three weeks. The above information was obtained from an excerpt out of Mining World Magazine which was reprinted in the December 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mackay Miner newspaper.

On September 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, the dredge was at the point to turn around and start back upstream. First, the dredge was shut down for final adjustments and minor work to the structure. The above information was obtained from an excerpt out of Mining World Magazine which was reprinted in the December 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Mackay Miner newspaper and also obtained from a letter of correspondence between the dredge superintendant and the Mining World Magazine editor at the time.

1941

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the dredge was confirmed to be operating and it was noted that operations had occurred that winter at temperatures as low as 30 degrees below zero. The above information was obtained from a letter of correspondence between the dredge superintendant and the Mining World Magazine editor at the time.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, correspondence from the dredge superintendant to Senator Whitten (dredge co-owner) indicated that the dredge was in the area of Rankin Creek.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, correspondence from the dredge superintendant to Senator Whitten indicated that dredging operations were shut down due to problems with the amount of ice occupying the dredge pond.

On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, correspondence from the dredge superintendant to Senator Whitten indicated that dredging operations were still shut down due to ice.

1942

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, correspondence from a private landowner to the dredge superintendant confirmed that the area at the mouth of Rankin Creek was dredged last year.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the dredge's winchman, in his daily report, indicated that dredging operations were approaching the mouth of Ramey Creek.

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, all non-essential mining was halted by the War Production Board Act, Order #L208 and the dredge was "shut down for duration" (Packard 1983).

- 1946 In March, the dredge began operating again, working its way through the rich gravels of Jerry's Creek meadow (Packard 1983).
- 1947 In October, the Snake River Mining Company ended dredging operations due to the seasonal weather and to the falling value of the gravels. The company decided to sell the dredge and associated mining claims. The dredge sat "just above the mouth of the West Fork" (Packard 1983).
- 1947 to 1950 In 1947, a second dredge, not associated with the Snake River Mining Company-owned Yankee Fork Gold Dredge, began work on lower Jordan Creek (Anderson 1949). R. Choate 1962 stated that, "*Between 1948 and 1950, Jordan Placers, Inc., drag-lined the lower 1 ¼ miles of Jordan Creek [...]*".
- 1949 The Warren Dredging Company, owned by Fred Baumhoff and J.R. Simplot, purchased the dredge and claims from Snake River Mining Company (LOYF Master Plan 2009).
- 1950 On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the Warren Dredging Company began dredging operations, beginning just above the mouth of the West Fork (Packard 1983).
- 1950 or 1951 An earthen dam was built to back up enough water to float the dredge over a ledge of bedrock a quarter of a mile below the ghost town of Bonanza (Stephens 1991).
- 1951 The dredge operated for eight months in that year (Packard 1983).
- 1951 or 1952 The dredge reached Jordan Creek and had dredged all of the ground owned by the Simplot Company, sole owner after J. R. Simplot bought out his partner. An arrangement was made to dredge the Morrison claims on Jordan Creek (Packard 1983).
- 1952 In early August, the dredge fully ceased operations, coming to rest on the Morrison Claims (Packard 1983).
- 1953 Sometime during that year, it was discovered that the dredge was still on the Morrison claims. The dredge was started up and ran just long enough to dig back to Simplot-owned property (Packard 1983).

# Yankee Fork Gold Dredge Timeline

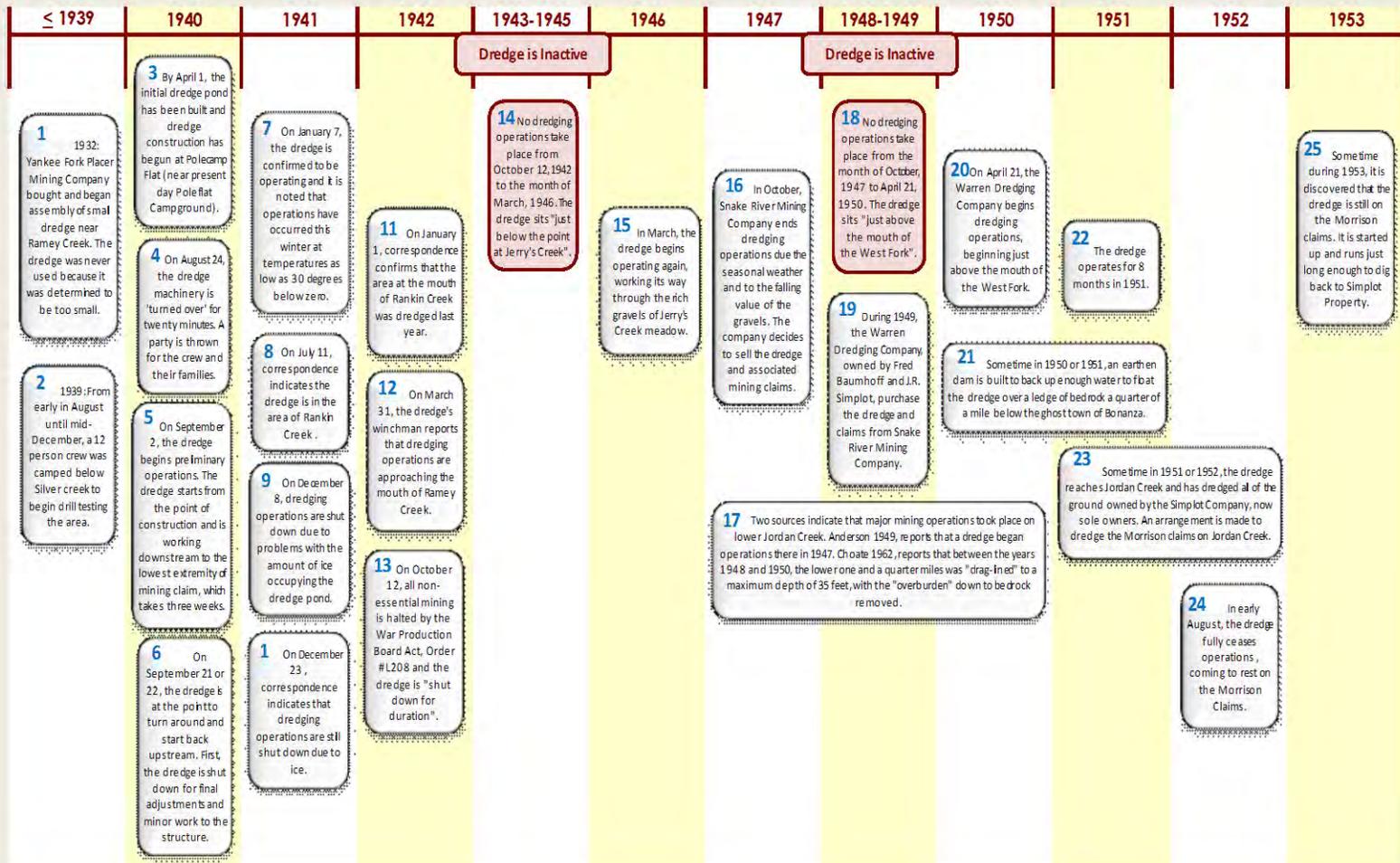


Figure 1. Illustration of the timeline of events of the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge

### 4.3 Summary of Yankee Fork Mining Claims

Mining claims within the Yankee Fork watershed warranted further examination, within the scope of this publication, if significant surface disturbing activities had ever taken place. The information regarding those more significant mining operations in the Yankee Fork was summarized in Table 1 (back of Appendix E) using specific rules and rationale:

The summary of claims was organized within the watershed, first, by subwatershed and then by the geomorphic reaches described within the Yankee Fork Tributary Assessment. The descriptions were ordered from the downstream to upstream. The arrangement of claims within the summary was generally intuitive and claims are often grouped by proximity to each other.

It was noted when a claim occupied multiple specific geomorphic reaches. Those claims were described only once in the first reach that they occupied and not in the subsequent reaches. A mining claim was considered to be within a specific geomorphic reach if any part of the claim was within 1,000 feet of the stream of interest (the Yankee Fork or Jordan Creek). Mining claims further than 1,000 feet from the stream of interest were given a reach categorization of "NA". Information for the distance of a claim from a stream was gathered from the USFS 2006 publication or calculated using an online mapping application sponsored by Custer County, Idaho, referred to as Mapserver<sup>1</sup>.

The location of each claim was described using Township, Range, Section, and quarter-Section in North American Datum 1983. Many claims occupied more than one Section or quarter-Section and it was noted when that occurred.

The name of a claim corresponded with records in one of two resources: 1) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) General Land Office (GLO) Official Federal Land Records Site, or 2) the BLM's Land & Mineral Legacy Rehost 2000 System (LR2000). It was not uncommon to find variations in the spellings of claim names while researching various other resources, but spellings within this publication remained consistent with the records of the BLM GLO and LR2000. When multiple claims exhibited similar names, were contiguous, and were held and operated by the same claimant, they were referred to as a "group" and were summarized collectively. The use of the word "Group" in a claim name corresponds with official claim records.

Mining claim records housed at the BLM GLO Official Federal Land Records Site correspond with only those claims that became patented, or privately owned. Patented mining claims involved the transfer of land titles from the Federal government to individuals. Claims that became patented were first surveyed, and consequently assigned a Mineral Survey (MS) # or Lot #. Those MS labels, commonly used to identify patented land, were included in this summary of mining claims. It was noted when, in a few rare cases, unpatented claims received an official mineral survey, were given a MS label, but were never patented. Mapserver was an additional

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<sup>1</sup> Custer County asserts that they provide this map service for illustrative purposes only and assumes no liability for actions taken by users based on information shown.

tool used to identify patented land and corresponding MS labels. Figures 2 and 3 (back of Appendix E) illustrate the distribution of patented land in the Yankee Fork watershed.

LR2000 was used to identify and describe only those unpatented claims known to have had significant surface disturbing activities, as thousands of unpatented claims have existed within the Yankee Fork watershed. The LR2000 database contained information regarding the location, type, ownership, establishment, and status of unpatented claims.

All unpatented claims had a “case disposition” which indicated whether it was active, closed, pending, or void. At the time of this publication, summarized unpatented claims within the Yankee Fork watershed were either active or closed. Active claims were those that had sufficient fees, documentation, and surveys completed on them to allow mining operations. That “active” status, however, did not permit the claimant to conduct significant operations without first complying with the policies and procedures of the claim’s administrative agency. Consequently, claims that had an active case disposition should not necessarily be assumed to have had mining operations on it at that time. Descriptions of unpatented claims that were closed included the year when they closed.

Mining claims were also described by their proximity to a stream, which included both the streams of interest and as well as other perennial bodies of water. A mining claim was considered to be within the proximity of a stream if any part of the claim was within 300 feet of the stream. Information for the distance of a claim from a stream was gathered from the USFS 2006 publication or calculated using Mapserver.

The names of the most recent claimants were used in reference to unpatented claims. The name of the current land owner was used in reference to patented land. The names of the individuals or corporations were derived from LR2000 and Mapserver.

For a group of unpatented claims, the date used to describe when they closed was always the latest date assigned to any one claim within that group. The date used to describe a closure represented the last year that assessments and fees were submitted by the claimant. Official notifications of forfeiture and abandonment often came one to two years after the closure date. The source of that information was LR2000.

For groups of both patented and unpatented claims, the date used to describe when they were established or opened was always the earliest date assigned to any one claim within that group. The date used to describe the establishment of a patented claim did not necessarily reflect the date it was patented. In most cases, the claims were patented within a few years of when they were established. Where that was not the case, the patent year was specifically noted. The date used to describe the establishment of a patented claim also did not necessarily reflect the time that mining operations began to occur there. In many cases, mining activities occurred two to ten years before the claims were formally established. That two to ten year average was estimated by comparing historical narratives of mining activities (Strahorn 1881) and the BLM GLO records.

## 5. DAMS & WATER UTILIZATION

### 5.1 Sunbeam Dam

- 1909 Construction of the Sunbeam Hydroelectric Dam on the main Salmon River above its confluence with the Yankee Fork commenced (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1910 The Sunbeam Dam construction was completed and generated electricity that was transmitted to Sunbeam mill 15 miles distant on May 3<sup>rd</sup> (LOYF Historical Association 2005).
- 1911 The entire Sunbeam enterprise, including the mines, mill, and dam, was abandoned (Umpleby 1913).
- 1920s to 1930s The Sunbeam Dam structure was reported to not have been used in several years, but it was conjectured that dam would likely be used again in the mining industry when economic conditions warranted (Hoyt 1935). The portion of the publication used here and pertaining to that section of the Salmon River was based upon other publications produced in the mid-1920s. This fact accounts for the dilemma that a bypass channel had already been constructed around Sunbeam Dam (yielding it unusable) at the time that publication was produced.
- 1933 or 1934 A channel around the Sunbeam Dam structure was opened by the Idaho State Game Department, presumably to improve upstream access of the Salmon River to fish (Rodeheffer 1935).

### 5.2 Water Utilization

- 1935 The USGS, in Water-Supply Paper 657, stated that water utilization in the Yankee Fork drainage during that year was primarily for placer mining. The report also indicated that placer mining posed the only expected demand for water into the foreseeable future. No other uses for water in the Yankee Fork were indicated (Hoyt 1935).
- 1940 Published in the August 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Challis Messenger newspaper was a Notice of Application to Assign Permit to Appropriate the Public Waters of the State of Idaho. The original permit was issued on September 2, 1939 for the diversion of water from the Yankee Fork at the mouth of Fivemile Creek for power purposes. The permit was for 50 cubic feet per second and was to be returned to the Yankee Fork 55 feet below point of diversion. This August 7<sup>th</sup> Notice was for the reassignment of that permit from the original permittees Dunn & Malin to new permittee Custer Consolidated Mines, Inc.

## 6. TIMBER HARVEST

A stamp mill, like the General Custer mill, was powered by a huge steam engine which required multiple boilers and burned many cords of wood daily (LOYF Historical Association 2005).

1880 As reported by the Yankee Fork Herald in the April 17, 1880 edition, *“There are five sawmills in the Yankee Fork District with a capacity of 40,000 feet of lumber per day”* (LOYF Historical Association 2005).

1881 Mt. Custer was reported to be covered with a heavy growth of timber, as was also the whole Yankee Fork country (Strahorn 1881).

1881 to 1888,  
1895 to 1904 During the years it operated, the General Custer mill required over 300 cords of wood per month to fuel the steam engines that powered the mill (LOYF Historical Association 2005).

1901 to 1904 A man named Dewey Bowman recalled his childhood living in Custer. His father was employed by the General Custer mill, beginning in that year, to transport cord wood to the mill using a team of horses (LOYF Historical Association 2005):

*“It took a terrific amount of wood to run the mill. The stamps ran for 24 hours a day as long as we lived there.”*

1904 By that point in time, the hills for miles around Custer were denuded of trees, as huge quantities of wood had been used for homebuilding, mine supports, and mills (LOYF Historical Association 2005).

1961 The Central Idaho Lumber Company sawmill at Torreys burned down and a more modern electric mill was constructed in Clayton (USFS 2009).

1964 to 1967 Demand for timber had gradually increased over those years. The Clayton mill had increased its capacity to about four million board feet annually. The Challis National Forest sited as its main problem that access into areas suitable for logging was difficult (USFS 2009).

## 7. LIVESTOCK & GRAZING

1880s There was a summer dairy located at the upper end of Custer on the west side of the creek. There was also a slaughter house in Bonanza, but cattle were brought from Challis to be butchered (LOYF Historical Association 2005).

1920s By that time, the Yankee Fork was largely deserted, though occasional shepherders passed through the valley. Floyd Silvia, a sheep rancher, recounted how he frequently rested there for a day or two, occupying the abandoned buildings (Packard 1983).

- 1927 A meeting between the Challis Woolgrowers Association and the Challis National Forest was held to transfer land with grazing preferences between various parties. Frank Silvers reportedly accepted the 'Yankee Fork range' (USFS 2009).
- 1974 A fence and cattleguard were installed on Five Mile grade on the Yankee Fork (USFS 2009).

## **8. FIRE, FLOOD, & LANDSLIDE OCCURRENCES**

- 1935 Fire danger was so great in that year that the Forest was closed to recreation in mid-August (Crosby 1997). This statement within its context likely refers to the area administered by both the Challis and Salmon National Forests, separate entities at the time.
- 1937 The Unknown Fire, located in the headwaters of Deadwood Creek, a tributary to the West Fork of the Yankee Fork, burned approximately 243 acres (BOR 2011).
- 1950 Approximately 2.5 miles of flood damage occurred to Jordan Creek road (USFS 2009).
- 1970 Heavy rains the night of June 27, on remaining snow banks, caused wash-outs in several places on the Forest, including the Yankee Fork at Ramey Creek (USFS 2009).
- 1974 In mid-June, two weeks of 80°+ weather rapidly melted the above average snow pack that remained in the mountains on the Forest. The Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration engineers inspected damage to the Yankee Fork Road and the Salmon River Road caused by the record-high flooding from the spring snowmelt. Four out of five new bridges across the new Yankee Fork road washed out and traffic had to be routed along the old road for the rest of the recreation season. Several large sections of the Jordan Creek road were washed completely away. A very dry, but fire-free summer followed (USFS 2009).
- 1985 The East Basin Lake Fire, located on the west side of the Yankee Fork between Rankin Creek and Sawmill Creek, burned approximately 3500 acres (BOR 2011).
- 1999 The Eight Mile Fire, located on a ridge on the northeast side of Eightmile Creek, burned approximately 107 acres (BOR 2011).
- 2000 The Rankin Fire, located in the lower Yankee Fork drainage on both the west and east sides of the Yankee Fork, burned approximately 6,710 acres (BOR 2011) The Rankin Fire warranted the use of national funding to re-vegetate areas that burned with intense heat. Rankin Creek received tree planting

prescriptions in which alder trees were planted along stream banks to help buffer erosion from entering surface water, help stabilize stream banks, and provide shade to surface water (USFS 2006).

2006 The Potato Fire, located on the west side of the Yankee Fork, from Sawmill Creek to the headwaters of Jordan Creek, burned approximately 18,225 acres (BOR 2011).

The Zane Fire, located in the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to the West Fork of the Yankee Fork, burned approximately 218 acres (BOR 2011).

## 9. FISHERIES OBSERVATIONS

There are many sources of both anecdotal and scientific information regarding the historical occurrence of fishes within the Yankee Fork Watershed. The anecdotal accounts from past residents of the Yankee Fork area should be used with caution since they do not represent the observations of trained professionals. Such recollections and narratives can, however, assist in constructing a frame of reference for and adding detail to records which are scientific in nature.

Men with mining aspirations began consistently coming to the Yankee Fork area in the 1870's. While over a thousand people occupied the settlements of the Yankee fork until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, relatively few accounts regarding native fish populations exist from that time.

1894 A bulletin published by the US Fish Commission sought to compile known information regarding the salmon stocks of the United States. In reference to the Salmon River, this statement was made (US Fish Commission 1894):

*"It is claimed that salmon still ascend this stream in large numbers, and spawn in all the little creeks high in the mountains. Little, however, is known with certainty regarding the salmon or other fishes of this stream."*

1894 to 1896 Professor Barton W. Evermann was a biologist renowned for his observations made in 1894 and 1895 regarding the 'red fish' of the Redfish Lakes in Stanley Basin, Idaho. In 1896, Evermann conducted additional investigations of the salmon of the Columbia River Basin. His findings, published in a report by the US Commission of Fish and Fisheries, included information gained from a local procurer of game and fish (Evermann & Meek 1898):

*"Mr. Springer, who was fishing and hunting for the Custer market, says that... where salmon have until this year been plentiful, not one was seen. "*

It is significant to note two things from this account: 1) that the city of Custer had a market that necessitated individuals who could procure and supply local game and fish, and 2) that the number of spawning Chinook salmon in 1896 was drastically less than that returning in the previous year. The second item is also supported by the observations of Evermann himself (Evermann & Meek 1898):

*“From such observations as were made and from information obtained from various parties who came up the river from Stanley Basin and other points below, it appears that the run was very small and much later than in the preceding year.”*

1901 to 1904

A man named Dewey Bowman recalled his childhood living in Custer (LOYF Historical Association 2005):

*“We ate a lot of fish because Dad [John Bowman] was a great fisherman. He’d work for 12 hours, for \$3.00 a day; then came home, eat his supper and then go fishing and catch enough fish to last a week.”*

1934

The Bureau of Fisheries conducted a stream survey of the Yankee Fork in that year. General fisheries observations made by the surveyors are as follows (Rodeheffer 1935):

The West Fork of the Yankee Fork furnished the best fishing in the drainage.

The stream bottom in the lower section of Yankee Fork was almost entirely made up of large stones and boulders. Above Fivemile Creek the stream bed was composed largely of gravel. That region, which was closed to salmon fishing, was where salmon spawned. The West Fork of Yankee Fork, with a wide gravel bottom, was also closed to salmon fishing. Other tributaries were too small for salmon spawning but furnished excellent spawning areas for trout.

It was generally known that there was interest in using a dredge to mine the valley from Jordan Creek to the Canyon near the mouth of the Yankee Fork. It was the opinion of the surveyors that if that was done, the fishing would be ruined in Yankee Fork below the mouth of Jordan Creek.

Jordan Creek was so badly polluted by several small mines along its course that no fish or fish foods could be found there.

Rainbow were the most abundant trout. The stream also had some native cutthroat, Dolly Varden, and whitefish. Chinook Salmon used the Yankee Fork for spawning. Mr. J. A. Lightfoot, of Sunbeam Dam, reported that “sharp nose dace” and “shiners” were common in August. *Cottus* was also reported common.”

Approximately one half of the lower mile of Eightmile Creek was recognized as good spawning gravel. Surveyors indicated that care should be taken not to destroy that area.

The surveyors speculated that the channel around Sunbeam Dam, opened by the Idaho State Game Department in the previous year, could have an effect on the number of salmon that would use the Yankee Fork for spawning.

Fish specimens were collected during the 1934 Bureau of Fisheries Stream Survey of the Yankee Fork. Both *Oncorhynchus mykiss* and *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* were collected at sites on the Yankee Fork between Jordan Creek and the town of Custer and at the mouth of Fivemile Creek. The specimens are preserved at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

Other specific observations contained within the field notes of the stream survey and relevant to the Yankee Fork Tributary Assessment are summarized in Table 2 (back of Appendix E).

1940

Published in the March 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Challis Messenger newspaper was a notice concerning the closure of the Yankee Fork to fishing:

*“...the State Game Commission... closes the waters of the Yankee Fork and its tributaries from the mouth of West Fork of Yankee Fork, on up to its source, to fishing of any kind. The upper waters of Yankee Fork are natural spawning beds for salmon and trout and it is owing to this fact as well as the fact that the streams have been heavily fished during the past several years, which has practically depleted the supply, that the closing order has been issued.”*

1940 to 1951

A man named Chuck Sherman recalled his childhood living in the Yankee Fork during the years the Yankee Fork Gold Dredge conducted operations. His account included the following information (Sherman, Yankee Fork Saga):

The store at Sunbeam, located near the mouth of the Yankee Fork, had a meat smoker behind it that operated in the spring through the summer smoking either white fish or salmon, depending on what was being caught.

Many hours were spent by Sherman and his father fishing Fivemile Canyon and upstream to the meadows where the road (Custer Motorway) turned to go down to Challis. Ramey Creek was also a favorite place for the Dredge Camp occupants to catch fish.

Trout caught from Jordan Creek and salmon caught from the Yankee Fork during summertime were taken home and canned by Sherman's mother.

Reportedly, during the time the salmon would run up the Yankee Fork, occasionally a salmon would end up in the bucket line of the dredge.

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**Table 1. Significant Mining Claims in the Yankee Fork Watershed**

**Mining Claims in the Lower Yankee Fork Subwatershed**

Subwatershed	Reach	T (N)	R (E)	Section	1/4 Section	Claim	Mineral Survey Label	Patent Status	Case Disposition	Proximity to Stream	Claimant/Land Owner	Year Est.
Lower YF	2, 3	11	15	4,5		Iowa Group	MS 2406	Patented		Yankee Fork	Simplot	1909
		12	15	17,20,29,32								
Lower YF	2	11	15	5		USFS Rock Pit			active	Yankee Fork	USFS	
Lower YF	2	11	15	5	NE NW	Gold Lode Star		Unpatented	closed in 2006	Yankee Fork, Rankin	Golden Dream Mining Co.	1931
Lower YF	2	11	15	4	NW	High & Dry- group		Unpatented	closed in 1992	Yankee Fork	Thurber, Somerville, Hobbs, Campbell	1984
				5	NE							
		12	15	32	SE							
				33	SW							
Lower YF	2	12	15	29	NE SE	Lucky Joyce		Unpatented	closed in 1997		Harms, Rhodenbaugh	1992
Lower YF	3	12	15	20	NE NW SW SE	Preacher's Cove- group		Unpatented	closed in 1992	Preachers Cove	US Antimony Corp	1985
Lower YF	3	12	15	17	SW	Sandy J. Placer # 12		Unpatented	active	Yankee Fork	Castle, Cook, Hughes	1998
				20	NW							
Lower YF	3	12	15	17	NW	Bonanza Placer No. 2	MS 3458	Unpatented	active		Reed	1940
Lower YF	3	12	15	17	NE NW	Neice Gravel Operation		Patented		Yankee Fork		
Lower YF	3,4	12	15	8,17		Speculator Placer	MS 2407	Patented		Yankee Fork	Simplot	1908
Lower YF	NA	11	15	6	NE NW SW SE	Lucky Shelly Kay- group		Unpatented	active	Rankin	Martsch, Chesney, Sanders	1980
		12	15	31	NW							
Lower YF	NA	12	15	31	SE	Hard Luck Mining		Unpatented	active	Rankin	Nelson, Schmidt	2003
Lower YF	NA	12	15	31	NE NW SW SE	Joy/Junior		Unpatented	closed in 2010	Rankin	Nelson	2004
Lower YF	NA	12	15	14	SE	Hemco- group		Unpatented	closed in 1997		Hammond, Beckman	1990
				23	NE							

Lower YF	NA	12	15	17		Old Diggins Adit		Unpatented				1940s
<b>Summary of Mining Claims in the Middle Yankee Fork Subwatershed</b>												
Subwatershed	Reach	T (N)	R (E)	Section	1/4 Section	Claim	Mineral Survey Label	Patent Status	Case Disposition	Proximity to Stream	Claimant/Land Owner	Year Est.
Middle YF	4	12	15	8	SE	Charles Dickens Millsite	MS 805B	Patented		Yankee Fork	USA	1890
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	SW	High Hopes Placer		Unpatented	active	Yankee Fork	Adams, Charland, Friess, Gerlach, & Koster	1978
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	NE SE	Crazy Lumberjack- group	MS 3689	Unpatented	active	Yankee Fork, Adair	Stricklan	1958
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	NW SW	Deep Yellow	MS 3689	Unpatented	closed in 2010	Yankee Fork	Baker	1990
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	NE NW SW SE	Honey Girl	MS 3689	Unpatented	closed in 2010	Yankee Fork	Baker	1978
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	SE	Honey Boy- group		Unpatented	closed in 1994		Baker, Lau, Johnston, McHenry	1979
				10	SW							
Middle YF	4	12	15	9	NE NW SW SE	McHenry- group		Unpatented	closed in 1996	Intermittent trib. to YF	Durham	1985
Middle YF	4	12	15	8	NW SW	Copper Lode- group		Unpatented	active	Yankee Fork	Chase	1969
				9	SE							
Middle YF	4	12	15	10	NW	Millsite Lode	MS 832	Patented		Yankee Fork	Barrett	1890
Middle YF	4	12	15	10	NW	Chris Morler Millsite	MS 830B	Unpatented		Yankee Fork		1890
Middle YF	4	12	15	10	NW	Custer and Horse Trail Placers		Unpatented	active	Yankee Fork	Barrett	1936
Middle YF	4	12	15	3	SW	Banjo Bill		Unpatented	active		Barrett	1942
Middle YF	6	13	16	30		USFS Gravel Pit			active	Eightmile	USFS	
Middle YF	NA	12	15	8	NE	Capulet Lode	MS 813	Patented			Johnson	1889
Middle YF	NA	12	15	8	NE	Julietta Lode	Lot 48	Patented			McGowan	1883
				9	NW							
Middle YF	NA	12	15	9	NE	DuBuque		Unpatented	active		Barrett	1954
Middle YF	NA	12	15	10	NE NW SW SE	Longview		Unpatented	active		Chaffin, Vanorden	1940
Middle YF	NA	12	15	14	NE	Continental & Atlantic Consolidated Lodes	MS 824	Patented		4th of July	Moon	1890

Middle YF	NA	12	15	15	NE SW SE	Limelight		Unpatented	active	Intermittent Trib. To Adair	Barrett	1957
				14	NW SW							
Middle YF	NA	12	15	14	NE SE	King Solomon's - group		Unpatented	active		Beckman, Hammond	1955
				13	NW							
Middle YF	NA	12	15	13	NE SW SE	Bachelor Mountain Mine (Bachelor T No. 1-8)		Unpatented	closed in 1992		Tiegs	1985
		12	16	18	SW							
Middle YF	NA	12	15	15	NE	Black Mine		Unpatented	closed in 1992		Jensen	1983
Middle YF	NA	13	15	11		McFadden Mill		Unpatented	closed	Eightmile	Unknown	1890s
Middle YF	NA	13	15	16	SW SE	Golden Gate	MS 3136	Patented			Tiedemann	1930
				21	NE NW							
Middle YF	NA	13	15	21	NE NW	Fraction Lode	MS 1118	Patented			Moon	1895
Middle YF	NA	13	15	21	NE NW	Yankee Fork Lode	MS 1119	Patented			Moon	1895
Middle YF	NA	13	15	16,21		Assorted claims associated with McFadden Mine		Unpatented	closed in 2000			1890s

Table 1. Significant Mining Claims in the Yankee Fork Watershed - continued...													
Patented Claims associated with the the hillside southeast of Custer Ghost town and the headwaters of Fourth of July Creek.	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10		Hillside Lode	MS 968	Patented			Moon	1882
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10		Whistler Quartz Claim	Lot 37	Patented			Moon	1879
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10		General Custer Quartz Claim	Lot 38	Patented			Moon	1879
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10		Unknown Quartz Claim	Lot 39	Patented			Moon	1879
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10		Fogus Tunnel Lode	MS 905	Patented			Moon	1892
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10,15		White Bird Lode	MS 831A	Patented			Moon	1890
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	10,15		Yankee Lode	MS 825	Patented			Moon	1890
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	15		Delaware Lode	MS 720	Patented			Barrett	1888
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14,15		Vishnu Group	MS 2064	Patented			Moon	1906
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	15		Anna Lode	Lot 46 (MS 10)	Patented		Holman's Gulch	Moon	1882
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14,15		Lucky Boy Lode & Millsite	Lot 47A&B	Patented		Holman's Gulch	Moon	1882
	Middle YF	NA	12	15			Continental & Atlantic Consolidated Lodes	MS 824	Patented		Fourth of July	Moon	1890
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	15		Surplus Lode	MS 1154	Patented			Galusha	1895
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14		Fraction Lode	MS 1155	Patented			Galusha	1895
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14		Badger Lode	Lot 45 (MS 9)	Patented			Galusha	1881
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14		American Girl Lode	Lot 44 (MS 8)	Patented		Fourth of July	Galusha	1881
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14,15		Yellow Bird Lode	Lot 43 (MS 7)	Patented			Galusha	1881
	Middle YF	NA	12	15	14		Little Giant Lode	Lot 42 (MS 6)	Patented			Galusha	1881
Middle YF	NA	12	15	14,15		Fourth of July & Homestake Consolidated Lodes and Fourth of July Millsite	MS 821A&B	Patented		Fourth of July	Barrett	1897	

Summary of Mining Claims in the Upper Yankee Fork Subwatershed												
Subwatershed	Reach	T (N)	R (E)	Section	1/4 Section	Claim	Mineral Survey Label	Patent Status	Case Disposition	Proximity to Stream	Claimant/Land Owner	Year Est.
NONE												
Summary of Mining Claims in the Jordan Creek Subwatershed												
Subwatershed	Reach	T (N)	R (E)	Section	1/4 Section	Claim	Mineral Survey Label	Patent Status	Case Disposition	Proximity to Stream	Claimant/Land Owner	Year Est.
Jordan Creek	1,2	12	15	8,17		Morrison Group	MS 2660	Patented		Jordan Creek	Hecla	1912
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8		George Washington Lode	MS 529	Patented		Red Rock	Lewis	1886
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	NE NW	Henry Ward Beecher Lode	Lot 50	Patented		Jordan Creek	Corkery	1883
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	NE NW	Pilot Lode	Lot 49	Patented		Jordan Creek	Corkery	1883
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	NE NW	Adelaide Lode	MS 509	Patented		Jordan Creek	Persons	1886
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	NW	Charles Dickens Lode	MS 805A	Patented			Beckman	1890
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	NW	Buckshot #1		Unpatented	active	Jordan Creek	Wright	1985
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	8	SW	Last Chance Reclamation		Unpatented	closed in 2009	Jordan Creek	Johnson	1933
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	7	NE SE	Gold Lode - group		Unpatented	active	Red Rock	Barrett	1947
				8	NW SW							
Jordan Creek	1	12	15	5	SW SE	Casino Claims		Unpatented	closed in 1998		McHenry, CCN Inc.	1987
				8	NW							
Jordan Creek	1, 2	12	15	5	SW	Moonbeam Placer	MS 3672 A&B	Unpatented	active	Jordan Creek	Moon	1979
Jordan Creek	2	12	15	5	NW	Olga Marie No. 4	MS 3644	Unpatented	active	Jordan Creek	Moon	1980
		13	15	32	SW							
Jordan Creek	2	13	15	29	SW SE	Square & New Deal Lodes	MS 3644	Patented		Jordan Creek	Moon	1956
Jordan Creek	2	13	15	29	SE	Jordan # 2 Placer (Jordan Creek Placers)		Unpatented	active	Jordan Creek	Crosby, Massey	1945

**Table 1. Significant Mining Claims in the Yankee Fork Watershed - continued...**

Patented claims associated with Helca's Grouse Creek Mine	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	29	NW	Gold Dust # 1 Lode	MS 3677 A	Patented			Hecla	1992	
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	29	NW SW	Sphagnum Group	MS 3677 B	Patented		Jordan Creek, Pinyon Lake	Hecla	1992	
					32	NW								
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	30	NE	Sentinal Fraction	MS 3651 A	Unpatented	Active		Hecla	1981	
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	29	NW	Sunbeam Mountain Group	MS 3651 A	Patented		Jordan Creek	Hecla	1983	
					20	SW								
					13	15	29	NW SW	MS 3651 B		Pinyon Lake			
	Jordan Creek	NA	12	15	20	SW	Golden Sunbeam Group Lode Claim	MS 2159	Unpatented	closed in 1984	Jordan Creek			1906
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	19	NE SE	Grouse Creek Group ( #'s 2, 3, 4 & 8)	MS 3685 A	Patented			Hecla	1992	
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	29	NW	SBMS 27 & 28	MS 3685 B	Patented			Hecla	1992	
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	20	NW SW	Exchequer Group	MS 2168	Patented			Hecla	1906	
					19	NE SE								
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	19	SE	Mulcahy Lode	MS 2910	Patented			Hecla	1919	
	Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	20	SE	Halloween		Unpatented	closed in 2005		US Antimony Corp	1985	
					21	SW								
28					NW									
29					NE									
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	21	SW	Gold Star and First Southwest Extension of the Montana Lodes	MS 3137	Patented			Moon	1927		
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	21	NW SW	Montana Lode ( Montana Quartz Claim - Lot 41)	MS 3008	Patented			Moon	1922		
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	21	SW	Golden Key		Unpatented	active		Stewart, Castle	1965		
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	16	NW SW	Snow Drift and Carol Claims		Unpatented	closed in 2002		Stewart, Castle	1982		
				21	NE NW									

Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	20	NW SW SE	Yankee Fork Lode Claims (1, 2, 4, & 6)		Unpatented	active		Fisher, Tupper	2007
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	21	NE SE	Golden Ruby # 1 & 2		Unpatented	active		Hansen	2001
				22	NW							
				28	NE							
Jordan Creek	NA	13	15	28,29		Duke Resources, Majestic Drilling		Unpatented	closed in 2003		Duke Resources	1990
Jordan Creek	NA	12	15	7	SW SE	Bear Claw		Unpatented	closed in 1992		Tiegs	1984
Jordan Creek	NA	12	15	7	SE	Passover Lode	MS 530	Patented			Lewis	1886
				8	SW							
Jordan Creek	NA	12	15	8	NW SW	Fair Play Lode	MS 531	Patented		Red Rock	Lewis	1886
<b>Summary of Mining Claims in the West Fork Yankee Fork Subwatershed</b>												
Subwatershed	Reach	T (N)	R (E)	Section	1/4 Section	Claim	Mineral Survey Label	Patent Status	Case Disposition	Proximity to Stream	Claimant/Land Owner	Year Est.
West Fork YF	NA	12	14	7,8		Yankee Fork Placer		Unpatented	closed	West Fork	Steel	1994
West Fork YF	NA	12	13	1,2,11,12		Red Mountain Mine		Unpatented	active		Niece	1966

<b>Table 2. Information from the 1934 Bureau of Fisheries Stream Survey that is relevant to the Yankee Fork Tributary Assessment</b>	
●	Yankee Fork – Sunbeam to Mouth of West Fork. U.=below Ramey, M.=below Silver, L.=mouth of Yankee
○	Riffles (Character and Extent): 90%, gravel to boulders.
○	Shade: U.- Partly, M.- very little, L.- partly
○	Character of watershed: mountainous, wooded...
○	Fish: Three large fish seen in upper reach
○	Spawning areas: few in this region
○	Rearing pool sites: The lower ¼ mile of Silver Creek is slow and shallow. Many fingerlings were seen. This area might be made into a good rearing pool site.
●	Yankee Fork – Mouth of West Fork to Custer Mine. U.=below old Custer mine, M.=mouth of Jordan, L.=mouth of West Fk.
○	Riffles (Character and Extent): almost continuous
○	Shade: U.- partly, M.- partly, L. almost none
○	Character of watershed: mountainous
○	Fish: rainbow, cutthroat, Dolly Varden. Sizes- from 5-12 inches. Salmon Spawning
○	Fry, fingerlings seen: Numerous fingerlings (trout) seen in quiet shallow pools and pools of tributaries.
○	Pollution: Jordan Cr. polluted by mines
○	Rearing pool sites: none
●	Yankee Fork – Mouth of Fourth of July Creek to Six Mile Creek. U.=below Six Mile, M.=below Five Mile, L.- below Fourth of July
○	Riffles (Character and Extent): U.- 95%, M.- 85%, L.- 95%
○	Shade: U.-partly, M.-partly, L.-small amount
○	Bottom: U.-few boulders
○	Character of watershed: Canyons (L.), mountainous, wooded (U. M.), open (L.),
○	Spawning areas: Frequent between Five mile creek, and Six mile Cr.
○	Fry, fingerlings seen: Thirty fingerlings seen in distance of 200 yd.
○	Remarks: From Fourth of July cr. to Fivemile cr., stream passes through a deep canyon, which has numerous falls – 5 to 8 feet tall, all passable to fish.
○	Improvements material: Conifers (lodgepole) are abundant, alders, scrub-willows, and boulders, are rare.
○	Stream bed: Meandering, low banks. Pools are deficient... . Spawning area- almost continuous in this section.
●	Yankee Fork – Eight Mile Creek to McKay Creek. U.=below 10 mile, M.=mouth of 9 mile, L.=mouth of 8 mile
○	Riffles (Character and Extent): 95%
○	Shade: Partly
○	Character of watershed: mountainous
○	Fish: 5 salmon seen spawning

o Degree fished: (closed?) to salmon
o Fry, fingerlings seen: 300 to 400 fingerlings seen between 6 mile and 8 mile creeks
o Improvements material: conifers and dead conifers standing abundant, alders, willows, rare, boulders abundant
o Spawning areas: good spawning area in greater part of this section
● Yankee Fork – McKay Creek to source. M.= 1 mile above McKay, L.=below McKay
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, partly wooded, open
o Springs: One spring ½ mile from mouth of McKay creek.
o Spawning areas: Entire section- good spawning area.
o Fry, fingerlings seen: About 50 fingerlings seen in small tributaries leading to creek from spring (mentioned above, under: Springs).
● Rankin Creek – L.=200 yds above mouth
o Pools and shelter: practically no pools
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: canyons, mountainous, wooded
o Fish: none seen
o Spawning areas: none
● Ramey Creek – L.=300 yds from mouth
o Pools and shelter: The few pools due to boulders
o Riffles: almost 100%
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, wooded, open
o Fish: none seen
o Spawning areas: none
● Jordan Creek – From mouth to bridge 3.4 miles above mouth. U.=below bridge, M.=.9 mi. from mouth, L.=At bridge on Custer Hwy.
o Riffles: 95%
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, partly open (U.)
o Gradient: steep (U.)
o Fish: none seen
o Spawning areas: none
o Fry, fingerlings seen: none seen
o Pollution: multiple mining operations
o Remarks: Water at the mouth of Jordan Creek becomes slightly turbid each afternoon, because of mining operations.
● Jordan Creek – From point 3.4 miles from mouth to source. M.=1½ mi. above Sunbeam Mine, L.=below Sunbeam Mine
o Riffles: 95%

o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, wooded
o Barriers: Dam just below mine- about 1 foot high. To make a diversion
o Fish: none seen
o Spawning areas: none
o Fry, fingerlings seen: none seen
o Pollution: Possible from Tailings at Sunbeam Mine
● Five Mile Creek – M.= ½ mile above bridge on Custer Hwy, L.= 100 yd. from mouth
o Riffles: M.-95%, L.-85%
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, wooded (M.), open (L.)
o Barriers: ¼ mile upstream from bridge, fall 2' high, and fall 6' high
o Fish: trout
o Spawning areas: none
o Fry, fingerlings seen: 10 to 12 seen, seven collected
● Six Mile Creek – L.=100 yd from mouth at Yankee Fork
o Riffles: continuous 100%
o Shade: partly
o Character of watershed: mountainous, wooded, open
o Gradient: moderate to steep
o Fish: none seen
o Spawning areas: none
o Fry, fingerlings seen: none seen
● Eight Mile Creek – From Custer Highway to three miles upstream. U.= 3 miles from mouth, M.= 2 miles from mouth, L.= Where hwy crosses 8mi.
o Pools: about 12 pools/ ¼ mile.
o Riffles: 50% (U.), 95% (M.)-almost torrential, 95% (L.)
o Shade: partly (U. M.), partly (L.)-conifers scarce
o Character of watershed: canyons (M.), mountainous, wooded (U. M.), open (L.)
o Gradient: moderate (U. L.), steep (M.)
o Barriers: at intervals- temporary natural log jams.
o Fish: none seen in the middle ¼ mile of stream
o Spawning areas: Good spawning areas in lower mile of stream- probably used by salmon
o Fry, fingerlings seen: none

