

Quartz and Placer Mining Projects and Heritage Resources



This is brief introduction to how heritage resources are protected and managed in the Quartz and Placer Mining licensing process.

Yukon's Heritage

There are more than 4,000 known heritage sites in the Yukon, spanning the period from the Ice Age to the construction of Alaska Highway. Heritage resources include fossil remains of plants and animals, and historic and archaeological resources such as cabins, caches, graves, and other man-made structures, features or objects that have been abandoned and are greater than 45 years old.

Heritage resources are protected

Heritage resources in the Yukon are protected under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, the Quartz and Placer Mining Land Use Regulations and the *Historic Resources Act* and the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulation. Sites may not be disturbed and no objects may be removed from sites without a permit.

Quartz and placer mining and heritage resources

Much of the Yukon has never been surveyed for heritage sites and many archaeological, palaeontological and historic sites are as yet unrecorded. Areas under application for quartz and placer mining licenses may contain known heritage resources, or may be in locations where undocumented heritage resources exist.

To obtain information on heritage resources in a specific project area, contact the **Yukon Archaeology Program** at 456-6102 or toll-free: 1-800-661-0408. See also: Yukon Government Best Management Practices for Heritage Resources:

<http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/bmp.html>

YESAA and heritage resource protection

In the *Yukon Environmental Socioeconomic Assessment Act* (YESAA) review, assessors may recommend avoidance of known heritage resources in the project area or that the proponent undertake any of the following:

- Heritage resources overview assessment;
- Heritage resources inventory
- Heritage resources impact assessment;
- Mitigation

This work will become part of the terms and conditions of mine licensing and assistance from a professional archaeological consultant may be necessary to complete these requirements. Please note: heritage assessment involving fieldwork can only be carried out when the ground is thawed and free of snow. Obtaining information in advance assists in project planning and scheduling – please contact the Yukon Archaeology Program

ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTIONS

YUKON GOVERNMENT

Owns and manages the majority of heritage resources on Crown land in the Yukon.

TOURISM & CULTURE - Cultural Services Branch

Heritage Resources Unit

Archaeology Program

Palaeontology Program

Historic Sites Unit

Responsible for the research, preservation, management, development and interpretation of Yukon's heritage resources.

ENERGY MINES & RESOURCES

Client Services and Inspections

Providing client support and inspection services to the Department's natural resource management Branches.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS

Own and manage heritage resources on their settlement lands and moveable ethnographic objects found within the traditional territory.