THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

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Fort Knox and Gil Field Inspection Report

Inspection Date:	June 15 and 16, 2026
Time:	8:00AM to 4:00PM
Weather:	Mostly sunny, high clouds, and windy with strong gusts.
Agency Personnel:	DNR: Jesse White, Carolyn Curley, and Skyler Smith
Operator Contact:	FGMI: Edmond Packee, Muradur Rashedin, Ryan Stahl, and Ruby Campbell
Inspection Objectives:	Site Inspection

Operations:

The Fort Knox and Gil mines (Map 1) are operated by Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation. The Fort Knox mine (Map 2) is located approximately 26 miles northeast of Fairbanks via the Steese Highway. Accessed via Fort Knox, the Gil Satellite Mine (Map 3) is approximately 10 miles east of Fort Knox. Maps 2 and 3 illustrate areas of active disturbance, reclamation, and stockpiles of materials as interpreted in the field and via desktop analysis of photos, drone imagery, and 2025 aerial orthoimagery provided by FGMI. The mine's footprint resides primarily on state lands managed by Mental Health Trust (MHT) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Private lands owned or leased by FGMI are within the active mining area. Fort Knox Mine is a conventional open-pit truck-and-loader operation with an onsite mill. The milling and mining operations operate 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, producing 330,000 gold equivalent ounces in 2025 and employing 752 people at the end of 2025.[1]

The Fort Knox Mine Reclamation Plan and Plan of Operations approvals at the time of inspection (F20209852RPA.2 and F20209852POOA.2 respectively) were initially issued March 25, 2020, and amended in 2021 to include Gil effective through March 31, 2026. FGMI submitted an updated and approved Reclamation Closure Plan (RCP) in April 2026, which includes the estimated costs associated with reclamation and closure of the Fort Knox Mine. The RCP describes the procedures and processes to return land disturbed by mining operations to State standards outlined in AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.

The Gil Mine is a conventional open-pit truck-and-loader operation composed of four small pits, waste rock dumps, and growth media stockpiles located in the upper watershed of Fish Creek Valley about six miles east of the freshwater reservoir at Fort Knox.

[1] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2026). *Fort Knox Mine Annual Activity Report for Reporting Year 2025*. Available at DNR's Large Mine Webpage: https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/large-mines/fort-knox/

Mining of the Main Gil Pit began in late 2021 and expanded to North Gil and Sourdough Pits in 2023. These pits were mined until late 2024. The entire facility is in temporary closure until 2028 after which the project with either reopen or go into reclamation[2,3].

Field Inspection Plan, Execution and Summary Schedule:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Large Mines Permitting Team (LMPT) conducted a site inspection over two days at both the Fort Knox and Gil mines for compliance with F20209852RPA.2 and F20209852POOA.2. On June 15, LMPT staff arrived on site at 9:00am and met with FGMI personnel to discuss current authorizations, the two-day inspection plan, mine safety, and avoiding highly active areas. The inspection focused on active mining disturbance, growth media stockpiles, concurrent and future reclamation, and water management. Daily tasks were completed by approximately 4pm.

06/15/2026:

The inspection began at the RO3 Wastewater Treatment Plant where a drone was deployed to view the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF), TSF dam, associated facilities, nearby growth media stockpiles (GMS), and borrows. The Roman Hill Waste Rock Dump (RHWRD), Growth Media Stockpile (RHGMS), Laydown Yards, various stockpiles (ore and crushed rock), and TSF waste dump were also documented during a separate drone flight.

The team then visited the Walter Creek Heap Leach (WCHL) where the drone was deployed from Fish Creek Road on the north side of the heap leach. From this high vantage point, the LMPT viewed the southeast and east face of the heap leach and upper Heap Leach Borrow, Barnes Creek Heap Leach (BCHL), Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump (BCWRD), and associated facilities, RHWRD, Fish Creek Waste Rock Dump (FCWRD) and regrade, the TSF, and various stockpiles, growth media, and borrow sites.

The drone was also deployed from the Laydown Yard north of the “A” Ore Stockpile to take a closer look at the RHWRD, stockpiles, and the south-southeast face of the WCHL and embankment. BCHL, BCWRD, FCWRD and regrade, and the Administration Buildings, Shop, Mill, and associated sites were also viewed.

The team then drove out Twin Creek Access Road to the top of the Pedro Creek drainage. The drone was deployed from the road to view the future site of the Pedro Creek Waste Rock Dump (PDWRD), active reclamation of the north and northwest sides of BCWRD, and west-northwest sides of WCHL.

We then moved over to the southeast side of the BCWRD where the drone was deployed to view BCHL, BCWRD, and Barnes Creek Growth Media Stockpiles. From this high vantage point, the LMPT also viewed WCHL, the north and west facing pit high walls, Phase 11, and drill pads and roads.

The LMPT finished out the day deploying a drone atop Yellow Pup Waste Rock Dump (YPWRD) to view it, Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump (VCWRD), and surrounding areas. From this high vantage point, we also viewed FCWRD, the south and east facing pit high walls, BCHL, WCHL, and the TSF.

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[2] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2024a). *Gil Project Reclamation and Closure Plan*. Available at DNR’s Large Mine Webpage: https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/large-mines/fort-knox/archive/

[3] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2024b). *Gil Satellite Mine Notice of Temporary Closure Authorization No. F20149852RCP, Fort Knox Gold Mining Inc., Environmental Department, Fairbanks, Alaska.*

06/16/2026:

On June 16, DNR staff arrived at Fort Knox at 9:00am, met with FGMI personnel, had a safety brief, and left for the Gil Mine (Gil). The Gil is currently under care and maintenance and hence there was no mining activity. The inspection began from Gil #5 Growth Media Stockpile where a drone was deployed to document disturbance and reclamation of the area.

The LMPT viewed the Main and North Gil pits, Gil Waste Rock Dump, Gil Growth Media stockpiles, ore and temporary stockpile pads, and exploration drilling pads. Once completed, we drove over to the Sourdough Waste Rock Dump and deployed the drone to view the Sourdough Waste Rock Dump, Sourdough Organic Dump, Southeast Sourdough Pit, and Northeast Sourdough Pit.

After completing our inspection at the Gil, we travelled to the Fresh Water Reservoir and Engineered Wetlands where we viewed the Gil Causeway, Fresh Water Reservoir, dam, and spillway, and Outfall 002. The drone was not deployed over these areas due to the abundance of birds and wildlife in the area.

Please note that all *directional arrows* associated with photos in this document are approximate and meant to give the general direction of North.

Findings:

A summary of findings can be found below with a description of active sites that were visited (in order of inspection). Detailed route maps with areas of interest, including photos of all inspected sites with observations notes, are in Appendix A.

1. **Inspection of Active Areas of Disturbance and Reclamation (Fort Knox Mine)**

   1.1 Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) (Photos 1-11)

   The primary purpose of the Tailings Storage Facility is to safely store processed tailings. The permitted area is approximately 1,556 acres including tailings material deposition, dam (embankment), and the interceptor well system below the embankment. The area excluding the encroaching YPWRD and FCWRD is about 1,020 acres with the final placement of tailings expected to cover 903 acres[4]. In 2006, the TSF reached its original designed storage capacity with an elevation of 1,494 feet above mean sea level (ft-amsl) and since has been raised and modified several times. The most recent configuration includes a 5-foot dam raise constructed in 2025 increasing the crest elevation from 1,560 to 1,565 ft-amsl. The Pearl Creek Causeway (PCC) was raised an additional 4 feet from 1,560 to 1,563 ft-amsl[5].

   Tailings slurry is discharged and deposited to the TSF North, South, and Barge ponds. The water is pumped back to the mill from the Barge Pond for reuse in processing ore. Currently, the North Pond is separated from the Barge Pond by a decant jetty and the South Pond by the Pearl Creek Causeway (PCC). The jetty acts as a retention dike that allows subsurface water to flow between the ponds. The PCC provides access across the TSF to the tailings dam from YPWRD. It physically separates the North and South Ponds while allowing water

[4] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2025). *Fort Knox Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan*.

[5] Knight Piesold. (2024). *Fort Knox Project Tailing Storage Facility Expansion Report, Report on Detailed Design of Embankment Raise to Crest Elevation 1565.0 ft-amsl and Seepage Reduction Berm to Elevation 1563.0 ft-amsl. Knight Piesold, April 2024.*

to seep through to the South Pond and eventually into the Barge Pond. The PCC was constructed from run-of-mine waste rock and is currently at 1,563 ft-amsl[6].

There are numerous growth media stockpiles (topsoil and overburden) and borrow pits around the mine site. The closest to the TSF include Tailings South Borrow 1 and 2 (approximately 79 acres reclaimed)[7], TSF South Growth Media 1 and 2, Tailings North Growth Media, and Tailings North Borrow (Photos 11, 12, and 16-18).

The TSF and associated facilities were viewed via several drone deployments during the inspection. It was in good working order. The Growth Media Stockpiles and Borrows near the TSF (including reclaimed South Tailings Borrow 1 and 2) were in good condition. There was no sign of erosion or mass wasting.

1.2 **Roman Hill Waste Rock Dump and GMS** (Photos 12-16)

RHWRD was permitted in 2025 as a 2-phase project that began in January 2026 with initial stripping and site preparation. The 133-acre dump is being constructed along the ridge northeast of the Walter Creek Drainage between WCHL and the TSF. Approximately 174,000 cubic yards of growth media including weathered schist is expected to be removed and stockpiled at the new RHGMS southeast of RHWRD. It will contain non-acid generating (NAG) waste rock extending from the Walter Creek tailings cap and span elevations from approximately 1,500 to 2,000 ft-amsl. It will have a ramp and three dump sections reaching depths from 150 to 180ft including nine 50ft benches. Upon completion the RHWRD will store 24.5 million tons of NAG. At the time of inspection active vegetation removal and excavation of growth media was occurring, near completion, and moving forward as planned and permitted[8].

The RHWRD and GMS were viewed via several drone deployments during the inspection. A drone was deployed from the RO3 Water Treatment plant to view the entirety of the GMS. It was stripped and awaiting material. Nearly all the RHWRD overburden had been stripped and stocked in linear fashion. The topography was sloped to grade and orderly. During the drone flight other parts of the mine were also viewed including the WCHL (Section 1.3), “A” ore, crush rock, and Manh Choh ore stockpiles, and TSF Waste Rock (Section 1.4).

1.3 **Walter Creek Heap Leach and GMS** (Photos 17-20)

WCHL was brought online in 2009 and completed in 2021 with concurrent reclamation initiated in 2022 (sloping to grade in preparation for growth media application). Located in the upper reaches of Walter Creek drainage and upstream from the TSF, WCHL is a valley-fill heap leach composed of Fort Knox pit run-of-mine ore stacked in a lined containment area. It covers about 435 acres, contains approximately 307 million tons of run-of-mine rock, and a maximum capacity of 113,800,000 gallons (gal) process solution. Barren solution is applied to the heap leach through drip emitters dissolving gold in solution

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[6] Knight Piesold. (2024). *Fort Knox Project Tailing Storage Facility, El. 1563.0 ft-amsl Pearl Creek Causeway and El 1560.0 ft-amsl Seepage Reduction Berm Raises, Geotechnical Design Letter, Rev.0, June 2024.*

[7] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2025). *Fort Knox Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan*.

[8] https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/large-mines/fort-knox/pdf/other/2025.10.06_Roman-Hill-Amendment-Request-ADNR.pdf

(pregnant solution) which flows to and is collected within the in-heap reservoir. It is then pumped into Carbon-In Column plants. Loaded carbon is then processed in the mill[9,10].

The WCHL was viewed during several drone deployments during the inspection. The primary and focused flight was deployed from the northeast side of WCHL on Fish Creek Road above the edge of the liner surface adjacent to the upper Heap Leach Borrow. The heap leach including emitters, embankment, embankment test plot, V-Ditch, and vertical solution wells area all looked stable. No work was being done on the facility at the time of inspection. From the drone deployment vantage point much of the Fort Knox mine is visible including stockpiles (Section 1.4), and the Barnes Creek Heap Leach, Waste Rock Dump, and GMS (Section 1.5).

1.4 Stockpiles ("A" Ore, Crush Rock, Manh Choh Ore, TSF Waste Dump) (Photos 20-22)

The Fort Knox Mill is processing ore from both Fort Knox and Manh Choh mines and thus stockpiles are required between milling campaigns. These stockpiles are located southeast of the WCHL and northeast of FCWRD atop the TSF separated by a laydown yard and crush rock stockpile. The Manh Choh ore is divided into piles based on sulfide content (high-grade oxide, low-grade oxide, high-grade sulfide, and low-grade sulfide) whereas the Fort Knox "A" Ore doesn't need to be separated. Mill tailings from Fort Knox and Manh Choh mines have been deposited as slurry into the Fort Knox east pit since the second quarter of 2024[11].

The stockpiles were viewed via several drone deployments. The primary and focused flight was deployed from the Laydown Yard to view the stockpiles and RHWRD. Active dumping was occurring at the Crush Rock and Manh Choh Ore stockpiles. The yard itself was tidy, and the various stockpiles were in good working order and well maintained. Other areas were visible during the flight including the BCHL, FCWRD, Administration, Mill, other buildings, and TSF.

1.5 Pedro Creek Waste Rock Dump (Future Site) (Photos 23-24)

The future site of the PCWRD is located north-northwest of BCWRD and west of WCHL and Twin Creek Access Road at the top of the Pedro Creek drainage.

The LMPT deployed a drone from the access road to document the area prior to construction. The north and northwest sides of the BCHL and WCHL were also viewed.

1.6 Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump, Heap Leach, and GMS (24-28)

Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump (Photos 24-28)

BCWRD (NAG) is located north of the pit between the western boundary of the Mill Lease Site permit boundary and the BCHL. At the time of inspection, the WRD was in reclamation status with graded slopes and topsoil from BCGMS either being placed on the WRD or in prep. Activity was occurring at the site.

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[9] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2023). *Walter Creek Valley Fill Heap Leach Pad Operations & Maintenance Manual Revision 18, December 2023*.

[10] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2025). *Fort Knox Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan*.

[11] *Id.*

Barnes Creek Growth Media Stockpiles (Photos 24, 27, and 28)

The BCGMS were all stable with some being excavated and utilized for reclamation.

Barnes Creek Heap Leach (Photo 29)

BCHL was brought online in 2020. It's being constructed in the Barnes Creek Drainage south of WCHL and upstream and west of the TSF. Like WCHL, it is a valley-fill type heap leach with run-of-mine ore from Fort Knox pit being stacked in a lined containment area. Ultimately, 320 million tons of ore will be stacked on the BCHL over 389 acres. Like WCHL, drip emitters apply process solution to the heap leach that is collected in gravity drains and pumped to the CIC plants for processing and recovery. The in-heap storage reservoir has a capacity of 122,000,000 gallons[12,13]. Activity was occurring at the time of inspection.

The BCHL, BCWRD, and BCGMS were viewed during several drone deployments. The primary and focused flight was deployed from the southern end of BCWRD.

1.7 Yellow Pup, Victoria Creek, and Fish Creek waste rock dumps (Photos 30-34)

YPWRD (NAG) is located between the pit, TSF, and VCWRD. It has reached an ultimate elevation of 2,400 ft-amsl with a reclamation footprint of 480 acres[14].

VCWRD (NAG) is south of the pit and YPWRD at the southern end of the mine on the south facing slopes of the Victoria Creek watershed. It was constructed over part of the YPWRD and onto adjacent undeveloped land. The reclamation footprint is about 32 acres and has an ultimate elevation of roughly 2,300 ft-amsl[15]. The most recent elevation of VCWRD is 2,350 ft-amsl and if Fort Knox Pit Phase 11 is approved, the elevation will increase to 2,400 ft-amsl (M. Rashedin (personal communication, October 5, 2026).

FCWRD was constructed during initial pit development and excavation. The material is primarily NAG and uneconomic low-grade ore. The low-grade ore was relocated to WCHL with part of the original dump remaining. It has a reclamation footprint of roughly 150 acres and is expected to reach an ultimate elevation of around 1,700 ft-amsl[16]. The current elevation of FCWRD is 1,850 ft-amsl with some expansion remaining to the southwest but it will not increase in elevation (M. Rashedin (personal communication, October 5, 2026).

Both YPWRD and FCWRD were viewed during several drone deployments. The primary flight was deployed from the top of YPWRD near the garbage dump and burn pile to view the entirety of VCWRD, YPWRD, and southern portion of the FCWRD. Most of the Fort Knox mine can be seen in the drone flight taken from YPWRD. There wasn't any activity occurring on any of the waste rock dumps at the time of inspection. None of these WRDs are

[12] *Id.*

[13] Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2024). *Heap Leach Pad Operations & Maintenance Manual Revision 4, December 2024.*

[14] *Id.*

[15] Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc. (2025). *Fort Knox Plan of Operations & Waste Management Permit Renewals, Facility Description, July 2025.*

[16] *Id.*

in the reclamation phase. There is an inactive and partially dismantled Hitachi Mining excavator near the garbage dump.

2. Inspection of Active Areas of Disturbance (GIL Mine – Care & Maintenance) (Photos 35-49)

2.1 North Pit (Photos 36-37)

The North Pit has remained relatively unchanged since mining activity was suspended, other than variations in the color and amount of water in the pit and relatively minor rill development on highwall benches.

2.2 Main Gil Pit (38-42)

The Main Gil Pit opened in 2021 with organic material and growth media stripped and stockpiled for future reclamation. Overburden and waste rock was transported to waste rock dumps and ore hauled to the Fort Knox Mill or BCHL[17].

A drone was deployed from the Gil GMS #5 to view the entirety of the Gil Mine area. The Main Gil Pit has areas of erosion and mass wasting that were first recognized via drone flight in September of 2023 including slump cracks along the north-northwest highwall, sloughing on the southwest corner of the southside highwall, and rill formation and erosion in the terraces at the northeast corner near the entrance to the pit. In September of 2024 these features had changed with increased dilation of cracks and movement along the north-northwest highwall and continued erosion and mass wasting at the southwest and northeast corners of the pit. In May 2025 the southwest and northeast exhibited a major increase in material volume eroded from the highwall and terraces and the north-northwest highwall had broken away and slumped into the pit. It was noted that new cracks were developing above the slump. The drone flight in June 2026 viewed the same erosional profiles and it was noted that slump cracks have reached the edge of the berm on the exploration access road.

2.3 Exploration Drilling Pads (Photo 43)

Twelve exploration drilling pads north of the Main Gil pit rim and between the Main and North Gil pits (Snack Bar) are connected by exploration roads. The pads and roads are unreclaimed with growth media stockpiles pushed to pad edges. Pads west-southwest of North Pit are either reclaimed or partially reclaimed. Ten exploration pads to the north-northeast of North Gil and North Organic Dump are unreclaimed with growth media stockpiles pushed to the edges. There have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

2.4 Temporary Ore Stockpiles and Waste Rock Storage pads (Photo 44)

Ore stockpile #1 is located near the laydown yard tent structure and Ore Stockpile #2 is between the Main Gil Pit and Gil WRD. The neutralizing waste storage pad was used for blending potentially acid generating (PAG) waste rock. All three pads were viewed and are stable.

2.5 Gil Waste Rock Dumps and Growth Media Stockpiles (Photos 45-49)

The Gil Waste Rock Dump is located immediately uphill and adjacent to the Main Gil Pit. At the time of inspection, it was stable except for slopes on the west side of the haul road

[17] *Ibid. Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (2024a).*

which exhibit cracks, erosion, and mass wasting (slumping). Growth Media Stockpiles also exhibited erosion especially the north and east slopes of GMS #4. This growth media stockpile and previous erosional features on its slopes were hydroseeded in 2024, but that hasn't succeeded in maintaining slope stability. GMS #4 has a footprint of approximately 81.79 acres and contains 448,205 cubic yards of material.

The East (GMS #2), West (GMS #3), and North Gil (GMS #5) organic dumps contain 110,760, 57,086, and 243,622 cubic yards of material respectively.[18] There have been no significant changes to these stockpiles since the last inspection.

2.6 Sourdough Waste Rock Dump (SWRD) and Organic Dump (Photos 50-51)

A drone was deployed from the SWRD to view the entirety of the Sourdough Area. The upper haul road linking Gil to Sourdough northeast of the Truck Shop and Laydown Yard continues to exhibit cracking on the northern edges of the road. The SWRD is located immediately uphill from the Sourdough pits and has a footprint of about 28.97 acres[19]. It was hydroseeded in 2024 and there is no evidence of significant erosion.

The Sourdough Organic Dump (Gil GMS #1) was in good condition. It contains 170,667 cubic yards of material[20]and there have been no significant changes since the last inspection.

2.7 Sourdough pits (Photos 52-54)

The Southeast Sourdough Pit exhibits some mass wasting of the southern high wall. The Northeast Sourdough Pit has remained relatively unchanged since mining activity was suspended. It has some minor cracking and erosion in the northeast corner on the lower-level benches. There have been no significant changes to either pit since the last inspection.

2.8 Freshwater Reservoir and Outfall 002 (Photos 55-59)

The LMPT viewed the Fresh Water Reservoir from the Gil Causeway and Fresh Water Reservoir dam and spillway. We also visited Outfall 002 below RO2. Everything looked good and the water exiting Outfall 002 was crystal clear. The freshwater reservoir including the dam, causeway, and spillway complex, encompasses approximately 173 acres. The drone was not deployed over these areas due to the abundance of birds and wildlife in the area.

3. Twin Creek Access Road

3.0 Truck Wash (Photo 60)

The truck wash on the access road was in operation at the time of inspection.

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[18] *Id.*

[19] *Id.*

[20] *Id.*

Conclusion and Recommendations:

It is recommended that FGMI continues to monitor and evaluate the slope conditions within the Gil Main Pit, Gil Growth Media Stockpiles, and Sourdough pits.

Overall, FGMI facilitates their mining activities in a manner which prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of State land and State water resources. All other observed activities conform with the Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan Approvals, and current activities meet the state's requirements under AS 27.19 and 11 AAC 97. DNR finds Fort Knox Mine operations are in good condition and consistent with industry standards.

Report prepared by: Jesse Garnett White (Geologist 3 – LMPT)

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Ben Wagner (DNR)
James Hyun (DNR)
Skyler Smith (DNR)
Nick Waldo (DEC)
Audra Brase (ADF&G)

Appendix A

Inspection Maps and Observations of Note

Acronym List

AORE – “A” Ore Stockpile

ARWRD – Access Road Waste Rock Dump

BCGMS – Barnes Creek Growth Media Stockpile

BCHL – Barnes Creek Heap Leach

BCWRD – Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump

CRSP – Crush Rock Stockpile

FCAR – Fish Creek Area Regrade

FCWRD – Fish Creek Waste Rock Dump

FWR – Fresh Water Reservoir

FWRDM – FWR Dam

GIL GM – Gil Growth Media

GIL OSP – Ore Storage Pad

GIL PRDP – Partially Reclaimed Drill Pads

GIL SB – Snack Bar

GIL TSFI – Truck Stop Fuel Island

GIL WRD – Waste Rock Dump

HLB – Heap Leach Borrow

LDY – Laydown Yard

MCOS – Manh Choh Ore Stockpile

PCC – Pearl Creek Causeway

PCGM – Pedro Creek Growth Media

PCWRD – Pedro Creek Waste Rock Dump

PH1CSW – Phase 1 Causeway

RHGMS – Roman Hill Growth Media Stockpile

RHWRD – Roman Hill Waste Rock Dump

TRK – Track

TNB – Tailings North Borrow

TSF – Tailings Storage Facility

TSFBP – TSF Barge Pond

TSFB – TSF Borrow

TSFBTRS – TSF Butress

TSFDM – TSF Dam

TSFFL – TSF Fill

TSFNGM – TSF North Growth Media

TSFNP – TSF North Pond

TSFSC – TSF Seepage Collection

TSFSGM – TSF South Growth Media

TSFSP – TSF South Pond

TSFWRD – TSF Waste Rock Dump

VCGM – Victoria Creek Growth Media

VCWRD – Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump

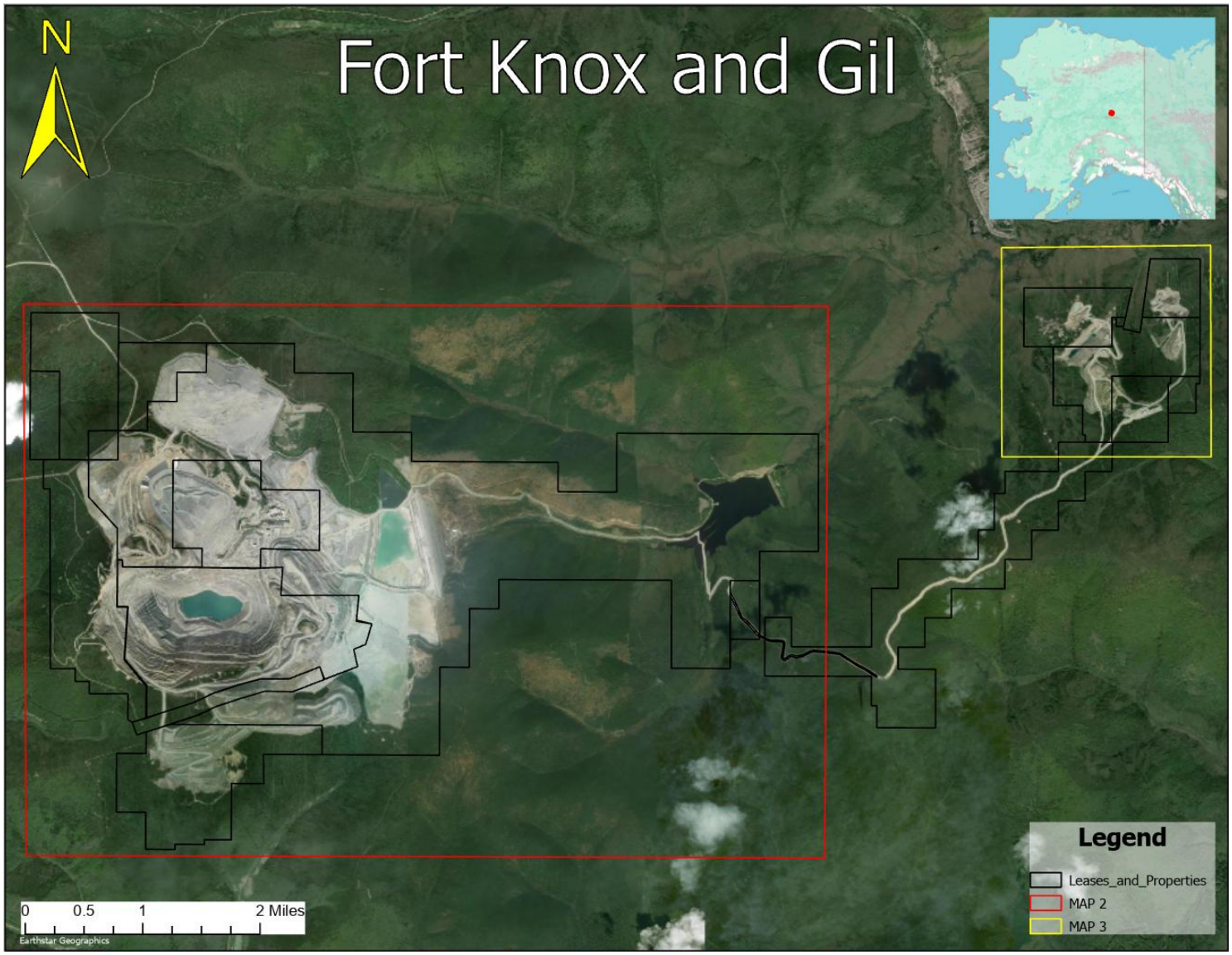
WSGM – Water Storage Growth Media

WCGM – Walter Creek Growth Media

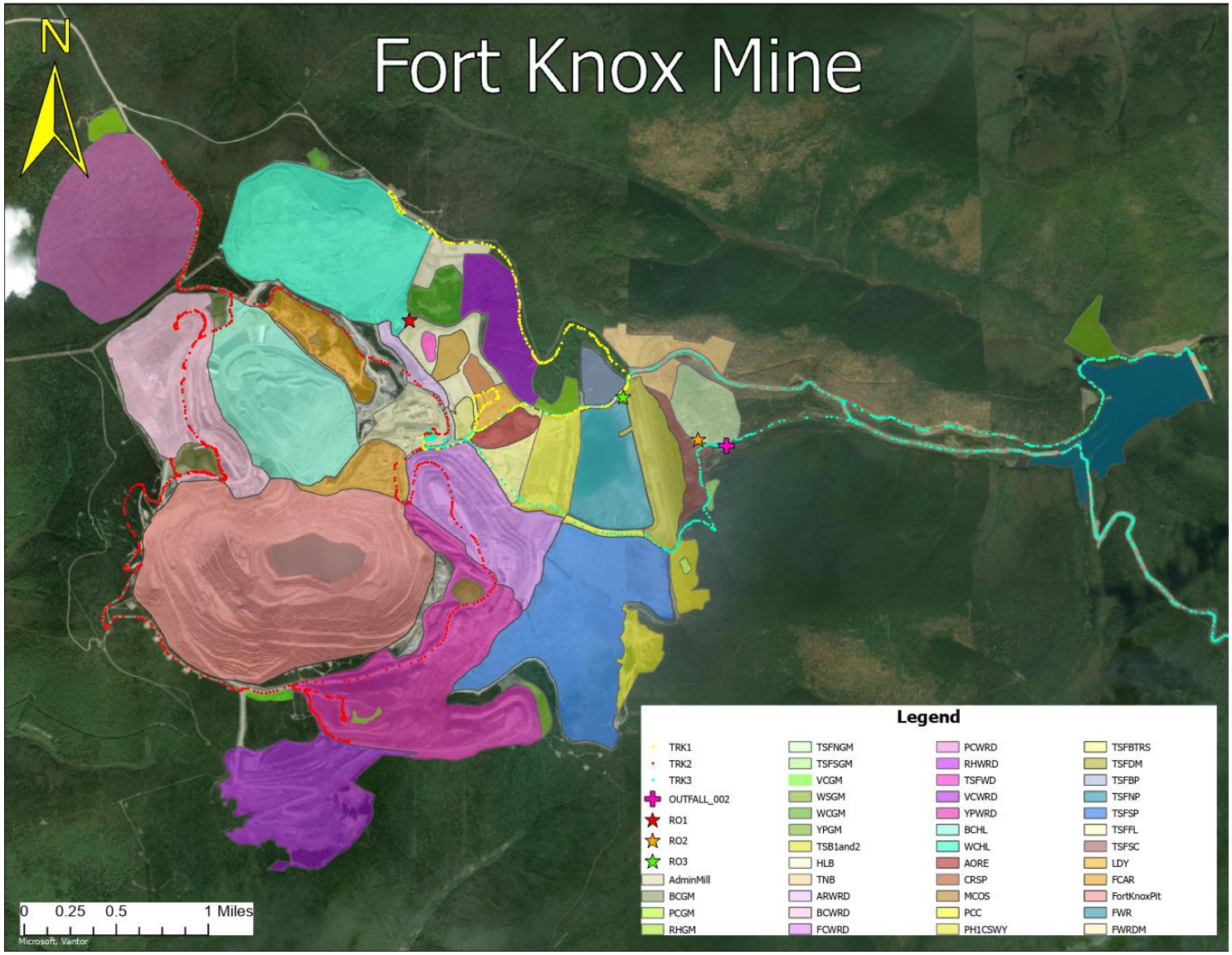
WCHL – Walter Creek Heap Leach

YPGM – Yellow Pup Growth Media

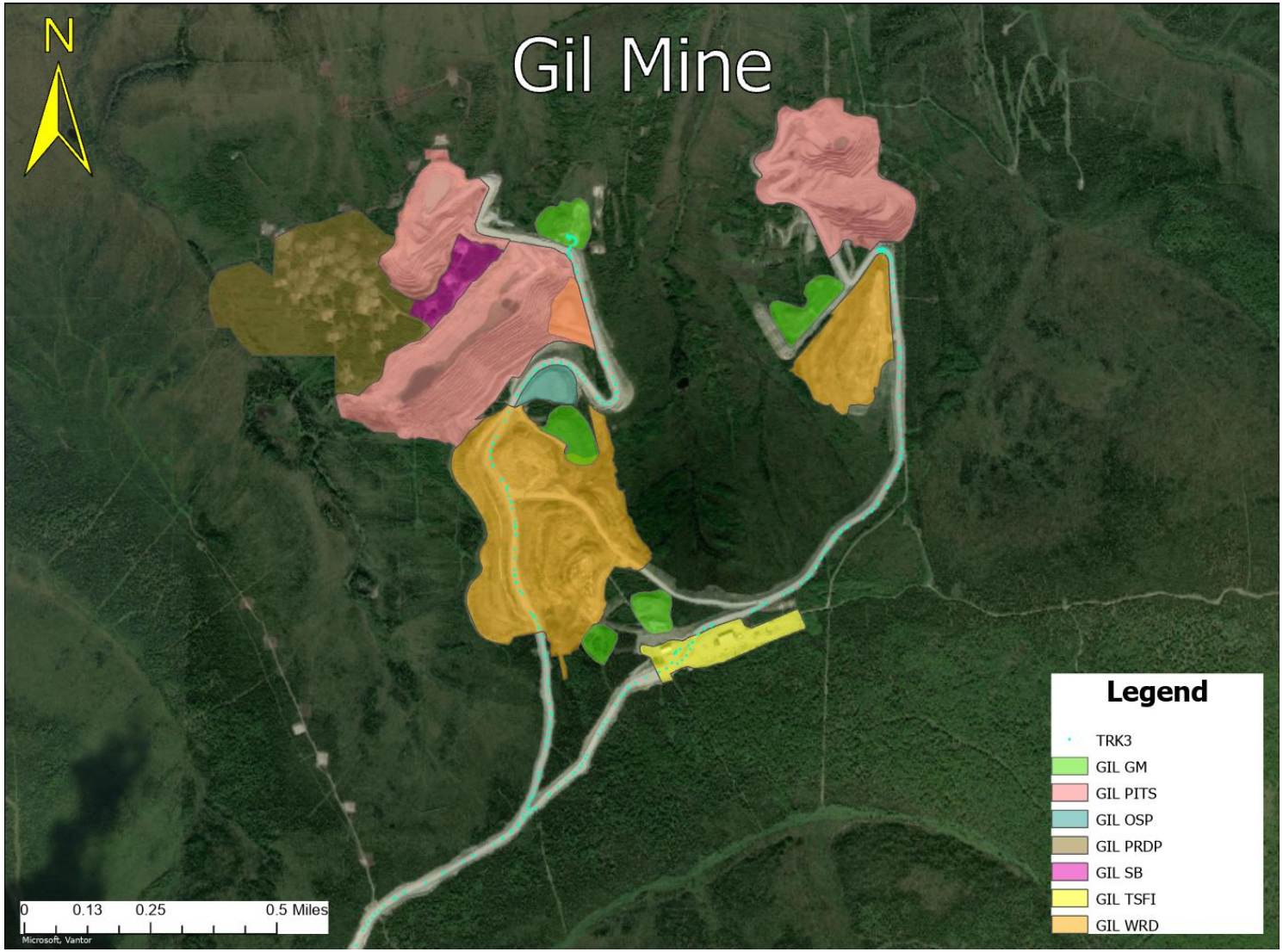
YPWRD – Yellow Pup Waste Rock Dump



Map 1: Fort Knox and Gil Operational Areas



Map 2: Fort Knox Mine and Inspection Tracks



Map 3: Gil Mine and Inspection Tracks

Field Inspection Observations of Note

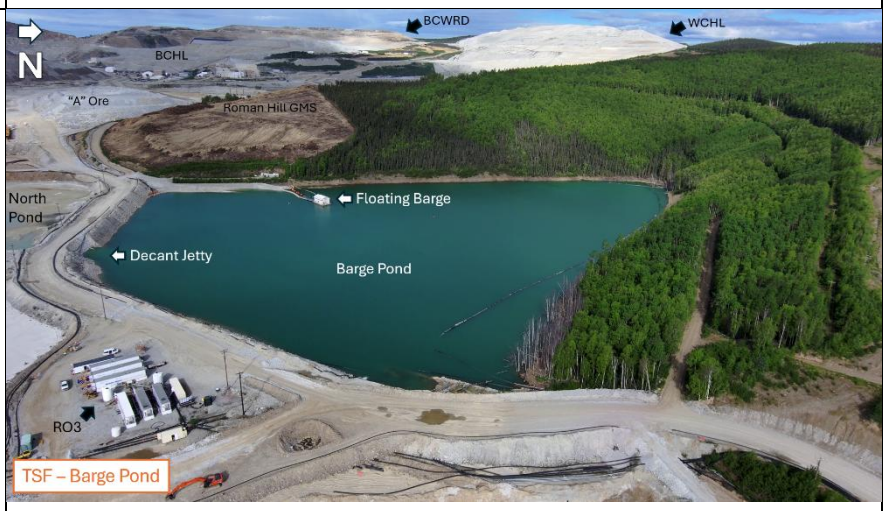
Photo 1: View of the TSF including Barge, North, and South ponds, Pearl Creek and Phase 1 causeways, Decant Jetty, and RO3 Water Treatment facility.	
Photo 2: View of the TSF Barge Pond, Floating Barge, Decant Jetty, and RO3 Water Treatment facility.	

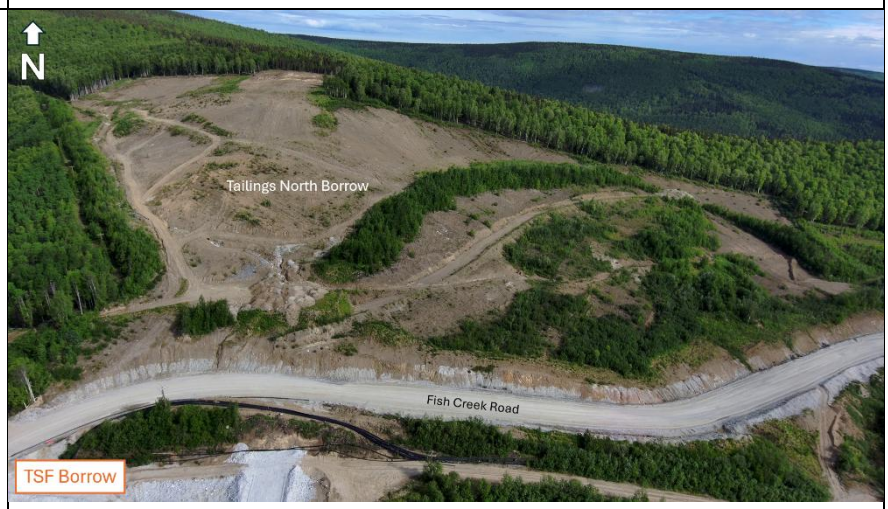
Photo 3: View of the TSF Barge Pond, Floating Barge, Decant Jetty, and RO3 Water Treatment facility. Recently grubbed area for placement of Roman Hill organics adjacent to the Barge Pond.	
Photo 4: Tailings North Borrow above Fish Creek Road.	

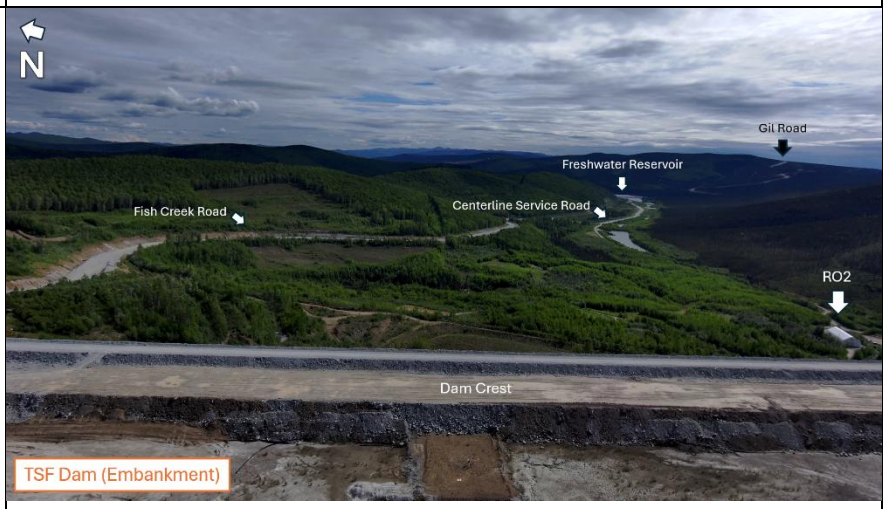
Photo 5: View of the TSF Dam including RO2 and Seepage Collection facilities.	
Photo 6: A view of the TSF Dam looking east towards the downstream infrastructure.	

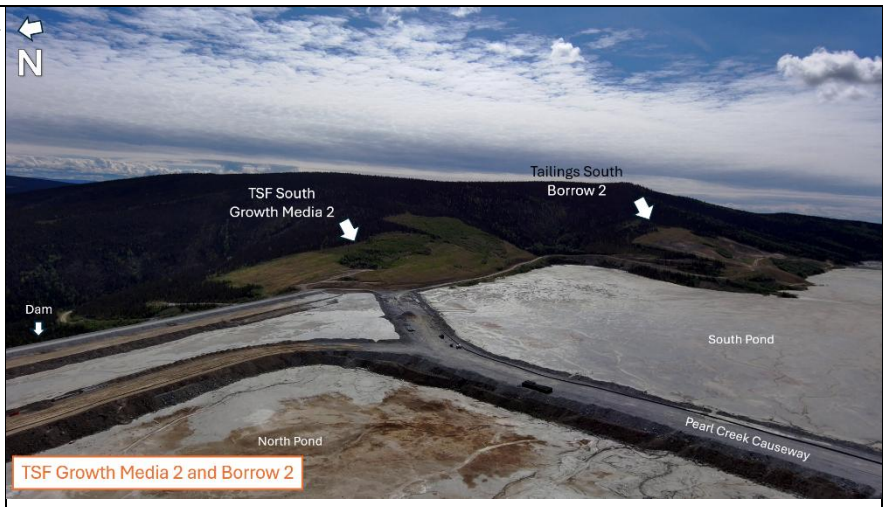
Photo 7: TSF Growth Media 2 and South Borrow 1 (reclaimed in XXXX)	
Photo 8: TSF South Growth Media 2 above the eastern edge of South Pond. Vegetation is well established and overall coverage is good.	

Photo 9: Reclaimed TSF Tailings South Borrow 2.	
Photo 10: South Pond with YPWRD and FCWRD in the background.	

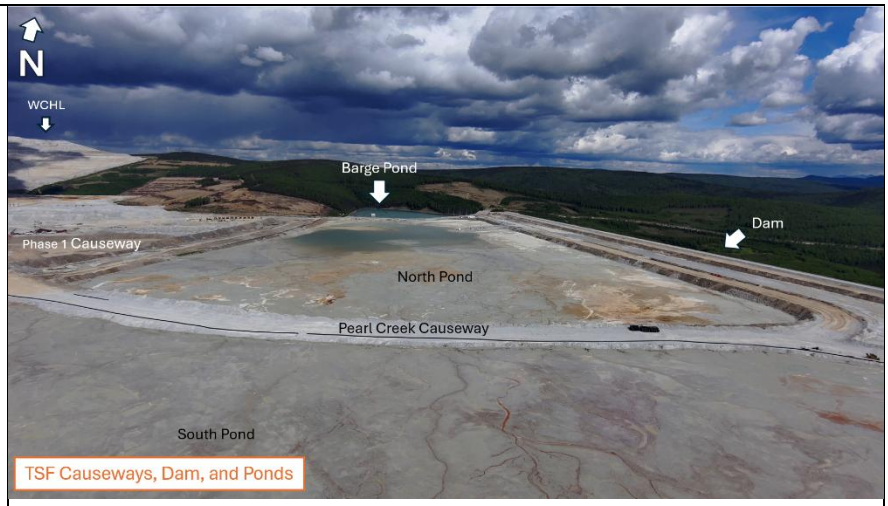
Photo 11: A different view of the TSF including Barge, North, and South ponds, Pearl Creek and Phase 1 causeways, and dam.	
Photo 12: RHGMS. At the time of inspection, the RHGMS was stripped, contoured, and prepped for growth media from the RHWRD location.	

Photo 13: Another view of the RHGMS stripped, contoured, and prepped for growth media from the RHWRD location.	
Photo 14: RHWRD stripped, contoured, and prepped for removal of growth media to the RHGMS.	

Photo 15: In the background, RHWRD has been stripped, contoured, and prepped for waste rock. In the foreground, the Laydown Yard, Manh Choh Ore stockpile, and Crush Rock Stockpiles are visible.	
Photo 16: View from WCHL of the RHWRD stripped, contoured, and prepped for waste rock.	

Photo 17: WCHL and upper WCGMS including views of the Drip Emitters and Heap Leach Liner.	
Photo 18: WCHL including views of the Drip Emitters, Vertical Solution Wells, V-Ditch, Embankment, Growth Media Test Plot, and RO1 Water Treatment Facility.	

Photo 19: WCHL as seen from drone above Access Road and upper Pedro Creek.	
Photo 20: Various stockpiles below the WCHL and RHWRD. The ballast below the stockpiles is also TSF WRD.	

Photo 21: Another view of various stockpiles and other facilities on site.	
Photo 22: View of the "A" Ore Stockpile between the Laydown Yard and Phase 1 Causeway.	

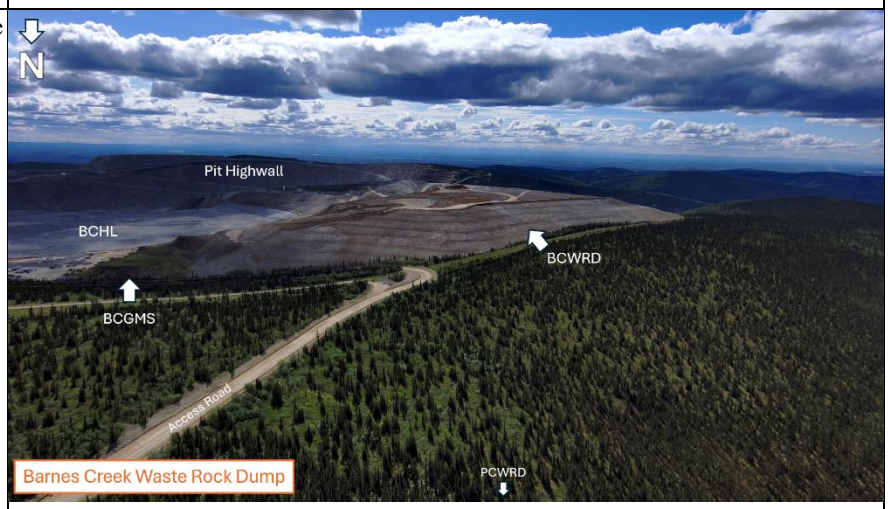
Photo 23: Future site of the PCWRD. BCWRD can be seen southeast of the proposed PCWRD.	
Photo 24: View of the future south-southeast side of PCWRD and north-northwest side of BCWRD.	

Photo 25: BCWRD as viewed from the Access Road. The side slopes have been regraded and contoured to prevent erosion. Active reclamation includes the placement of growth media.	
Photo 26: Top of the BCWRD. The contoured slopes on the west side of the dump and active reclamation of the slopes with placement of growth media.	

Photo 27: Another view of the BCWRD with sloped contours BCHL is seen below BCWRD. The liner has been prepared for loading.	
Photo 28: BCGMS at the southern end of the BCWRD.	

Photo 29: View of the BCHL and liner.	
Photo 30: View of the top of YPWRD and VCWRD.	

Photo 31: A view of the south side of YPWRD.	
Photo 32: FCWRD with views of the TSF and eastern YPWRD.	

Photo 33: View of the VCWRD.	
Photo 34: A view of the southern slopes of VCWRD.	

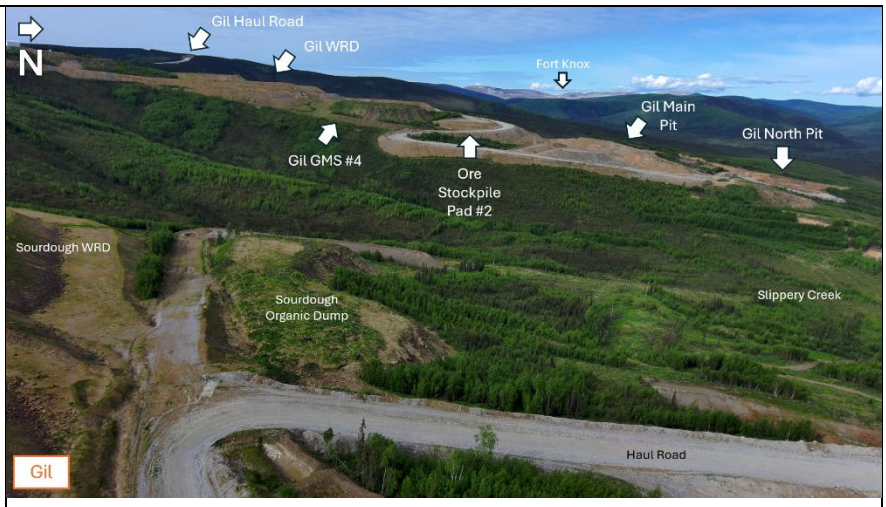
Photo 35: The Gil Mine as viewed from a drone above Sourdough Ridge. Vegetation has been growing since the planned Temporary Closure began November 3, 2024. Regrowth of reseeded areas can be compared to the natural growth in the Slippery Creek drainage and wetlands.	
Photo 36: View of the North Gil Pit exhibiting water filled bottom.	

Photo 37: A view of North Gil Pit looking west towards Fort Knox Mine seen in the background.	
Photo 38: View of the Main Gil Pit exhibiting areas of mass wasting and water-filled bottom.	

Photo 39: A view of the Main Gil Pit looking down towards Fish Creek.	
Photo 40: Erosional and Mass Wasting features in the Main Gil Pit.	

Photo 41: View of mass wasting in the Main Gil Pit (northeast highwall).	
Photo 42: View of erosion in the Main Gil Pit (southwest highwall).	

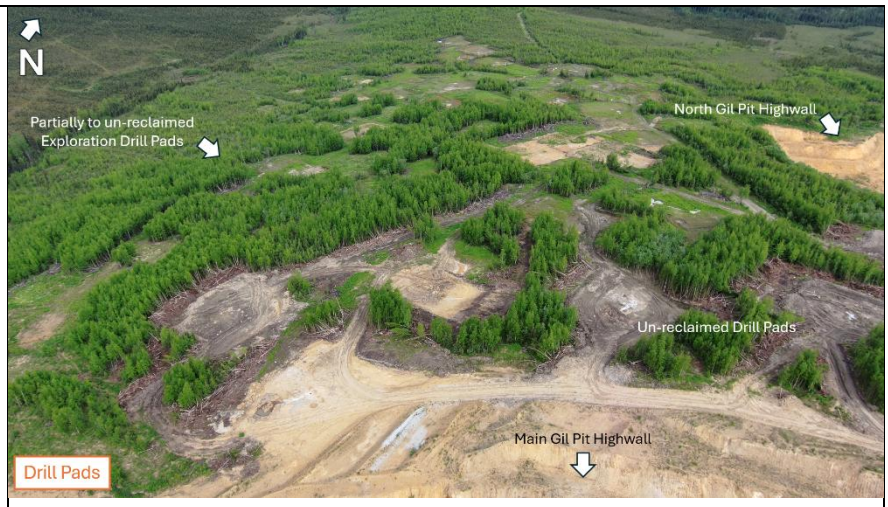
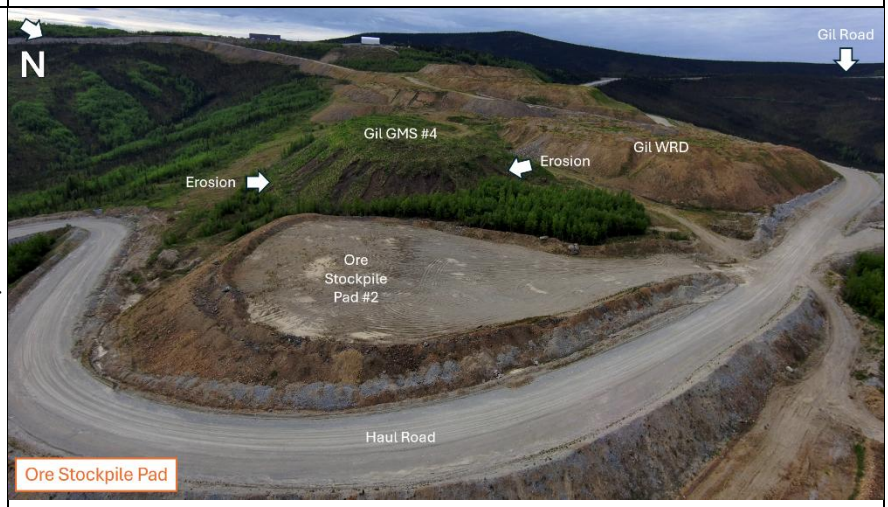
Photo 43: Drill Pads north-northwest of the Main Gil Pit.	
Photo 44: View of Ore Stockpile Pad #2, Gil GMS #4, and lower portion of the Gil WRD. This area was hydroseeded in 2024. The seeds germinated and the vegetation (grass) held up well except for the slopes of GMS #4 exhibiting erosion (earthflow).	

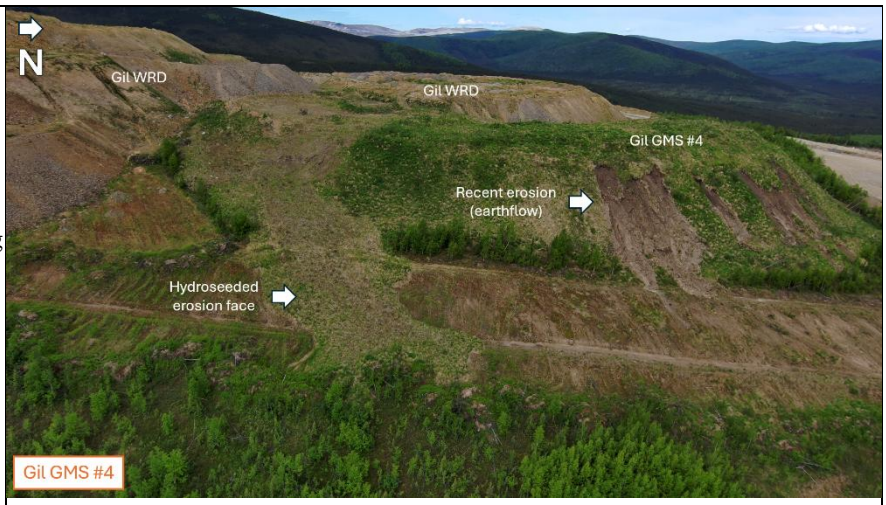
Photo 45: View of Gil GMS #4 exhibiting erosional features, and the middle-lower, and lower portion of the Gil WRD. Except for the slopes of GMS #4, 2024 hydroseeding has held up well. The slope angle, depositional profile, and other factors at GMS #4 have resulted in erosion (earthflow).	
Photo 46: View of the lower Gil Waste Rock Dump.	

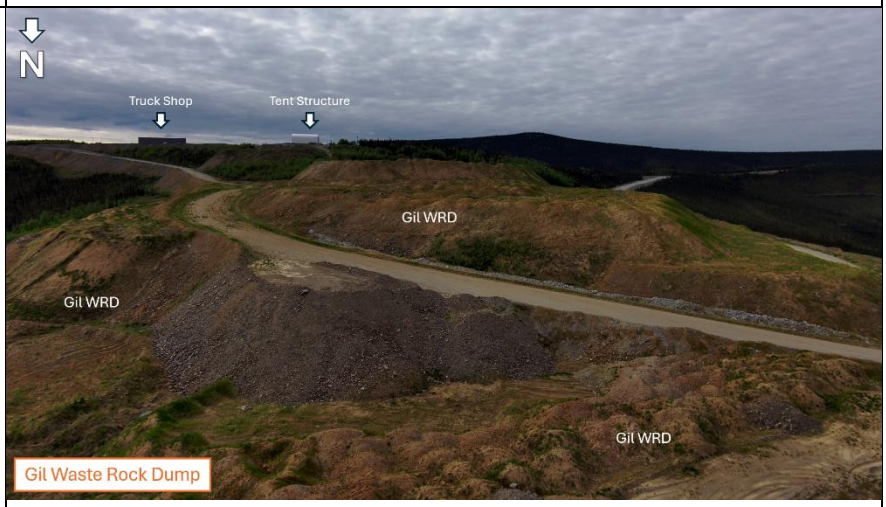
Photo 47: A view of the Gil Waste Rock Dump as viewed from the southwest.	
Photo 48: A view of Gil Waste Rock Dump side slopes.	

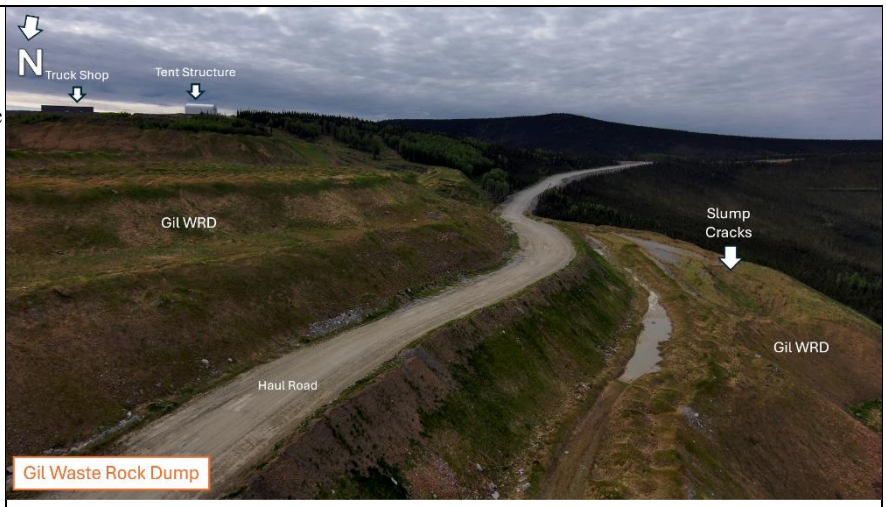
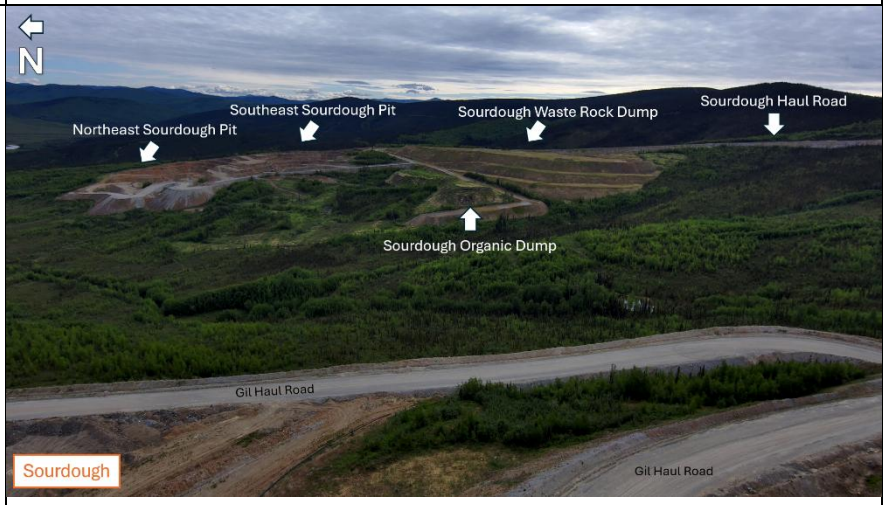
Photo 49: A partial view of the Gil WRD (western side) exhibiting significant slumping of the dump on the west side of the Haul Road. This area was hydroseeded in 2024. The seeds germinated and the vegetation (grass) held up well.	
Photo 50: Sourdough Ridge as viewed from Gil Mine.	

Photo 51: View of Sourdough Waste Rock and Organic dumps. This area was hydroseeded in 2024. The seeds germinated and the vegetation (grass) held up well.	
Photo 52: View of both Northeast and Southeast Sourdough pits.	

Photo 53: View of the Northeast Sourdough Pit. The pit hasn't changed in any significant way since DNR's previous inspection.	
Photo 54: View of Southeast Sourdough pit exhibiting mass wasting of the mid to lower highwall. The pit and associated erosional feature have remained unchanged since DNR's previous inspection.	

Photo 55: A partial view of the Fort Knox Mine as seen from the Gil Haul Road traveling towards FWR.	
Photo 56: View of the Fresh Water Reservoir from the Gil Causeway. During our visit, "Bear Activity" signs had been placed in the area due to recent sightings. Note: Moose, beaver, bear, wolves, bald eagles, and other wildlife and birds are frequently seen in, at, around, or near the Fresh Water Reservoir.	

Photo 57: Fresh Water Reservoir as seen from the bridge over the spillway. The Gil Causeway can be seen at the west side of the FWR.	
Photo 58: Fresh Water Reservoir Spillway leading to the Fish Creek Drainage and wetlands.	

Photo 59: Outfall 002 discharging clean, clear water.	
Photo 60: Truck Wash Station near the exit of the Access Road onto public highway (Steese). Manh Choh ore haul trucks use this station to remove attached debris, dirt, and/or mud from tires and undercarriage to prevent “track out” onto the Steese.	