KINROSS Fort Knox

Fort Knox Mine
Plan of Operations Amendment

Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump

March 31, 2021

Revision 1 – May 18, 2021

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Abbreviations

amsl	above mean sea level
COE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ft	feet
ft^2	square feet
FGMI	Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.
Fort Knox	Fort Knox Mine
gpm	gallons per minute
H	horizontal
hr	hour
MHTLO	Mental Health Trust Land Office
POO	Plan of Operations
RCP	Reclamation and Closure Plan
SRCE	Standardized Reclamation Cost Estimator
TSF	tailings storage facility
USGS	United States Geological Survey
V	vertical
WRD	Waste Rock Dump

1.0 Introduction

Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI) is requesting a Plan of Operations (POO) amendment approval at its Fort Knox Mine (Fort Knox) for the construction and operation of the proposed Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump (WRD), which will be located within the Fort Knox millsite lease boundary and the proposed Alaska Mental Health Trust Land Office (MHTLO) lease boundary.

1.1 Site Description

Fort Knox is owned and operated by FGMI, a wholly owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold USA, Inc. Fort Knox is located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, approximately 26-road miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska (Figure 1). It is located along a belt of lode and placer deposits that comprise one of the highest gold-producing areas in Alaska. The deposit at Fort Knox is mined by conventional open-pit methods on a year-round basis, seven days per week. Fort Knox processes ore onsite at a carbon in-pulp mill with a daily capacity of up to 45,000 tons. In recent years, Fort Knox has produced approximately 240,000 to 350,000 ounces of gold annually. Major site facilities include the active open pit mine, mill, tailings storage facility (TSF), waste rock dumps, water storage reservoir, and the Walter Creek Valley Heap Leach and Barnes Creek Heap Leach Facilities (Figure 2).

Figure 1: Site Location

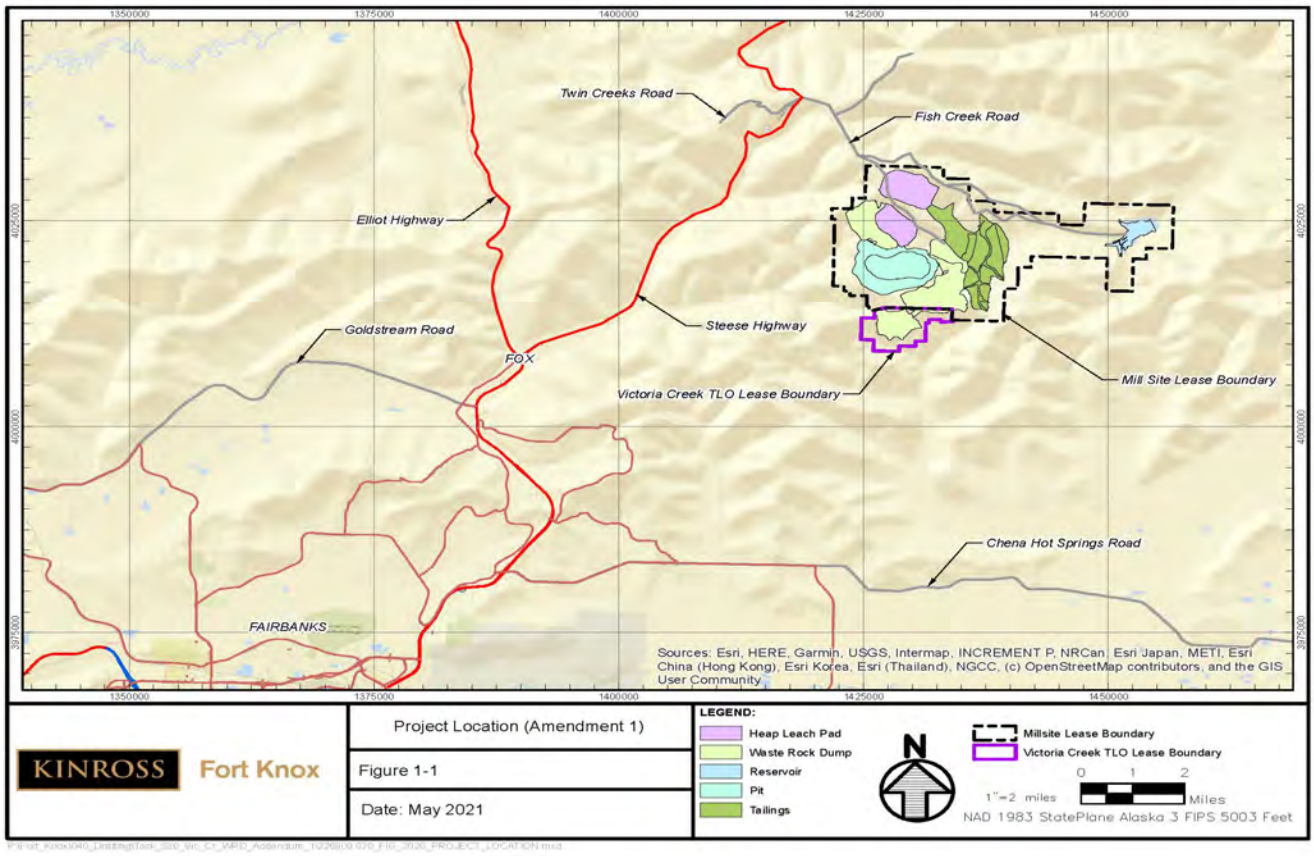
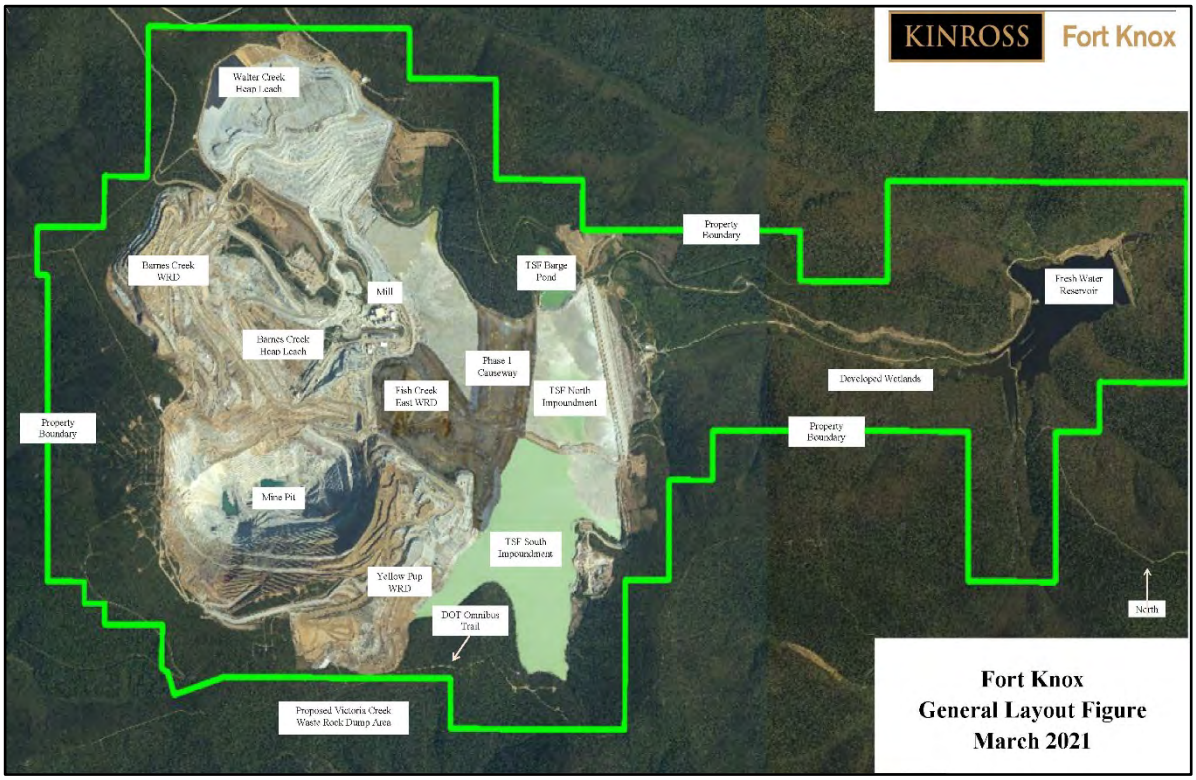


Figure 2: Fort Knox General Layout



2.0 Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump

Changes to the Fort Knox mine plan require additional waste rock storage, and FGMI proposes to construct and operate the Victoria Creek WRD, which has a design capacity of 106 million tons. The proposed Victoria Creek WRD will be developed south of the Yellow Pup WRD and will be constructed in two locations. The northern location will be constructed over a portion of the existing Yellow Pup WRD footprint and onto adjacent undeveloped land with the exception of 5.06 acres of the existing Monzulla Lane disturbance. The southern section will be constructed south of the Yellow Pump WRD on a south facing slope of the upper reaches of the Victoria Creek watershed. Figures 3 and 4 depict the locations of the northern and southern sections of the Victoria Creek WRD including the approximately 751.62 acres of MHTLO leased land.

The construction of the Victoria Creek WRD will be similar to existing waste rock dumps at Fort Knox. The construction generally involves end dumping truck loads in a benched configuration from the bottom, up. The benches are developed to allow for a regraded slope at closure mimicking slopes found near the project. Victoria Creek WRD will be constructed on approximately 498.3 acres of previously disturbed and undisturbed ground. Approximately 107.3 acres (includes 5.06 acres of existing Monzulla Lane disturbance) is waste rock dump ground disturbance and 391.0 acres will be on undisturbed ground. Figure 4 depicts the proposed configuration of the Victoria Creek WRD.

Figure 3: Victoria Creek WRD Surface Ownership

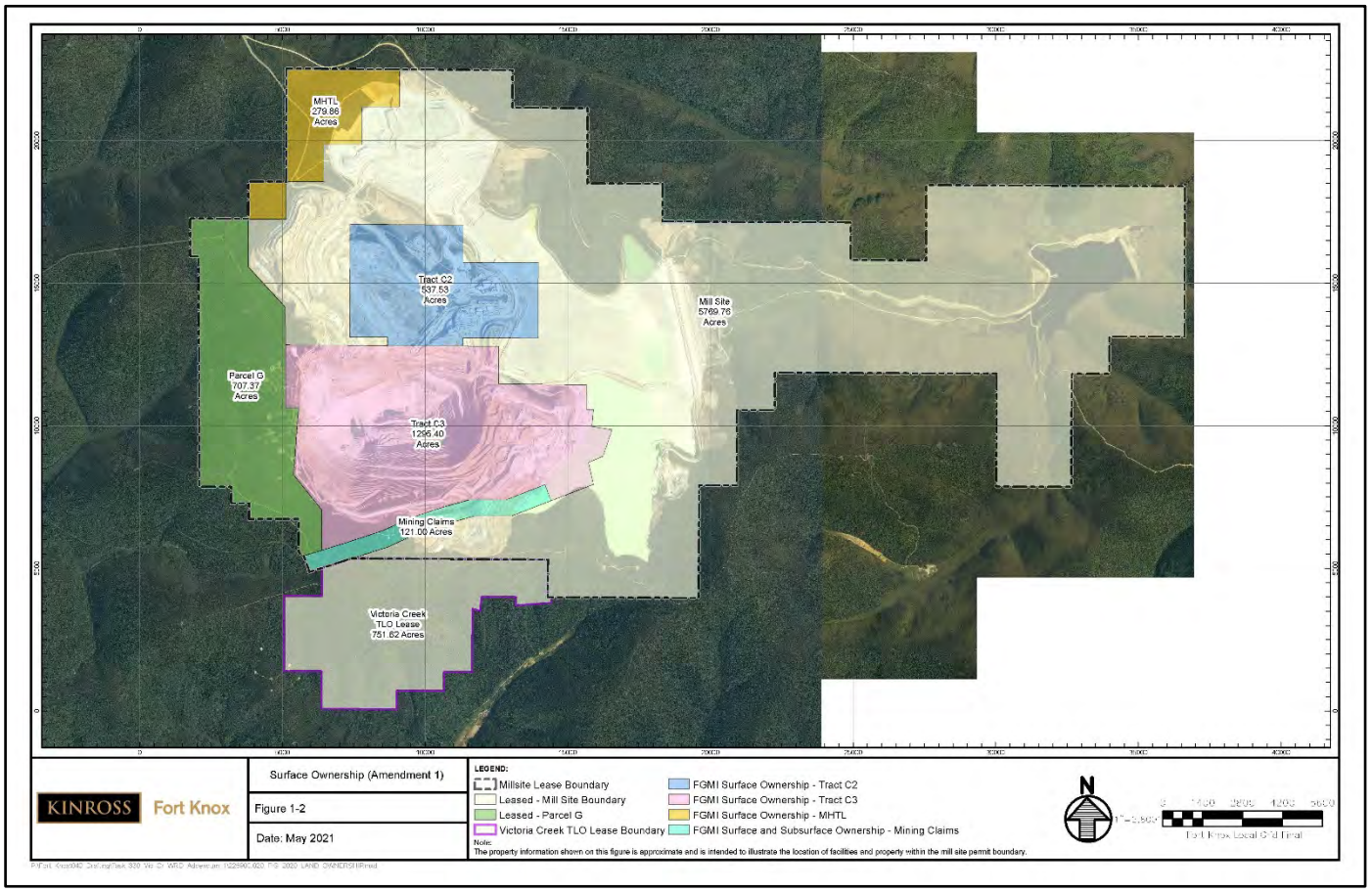
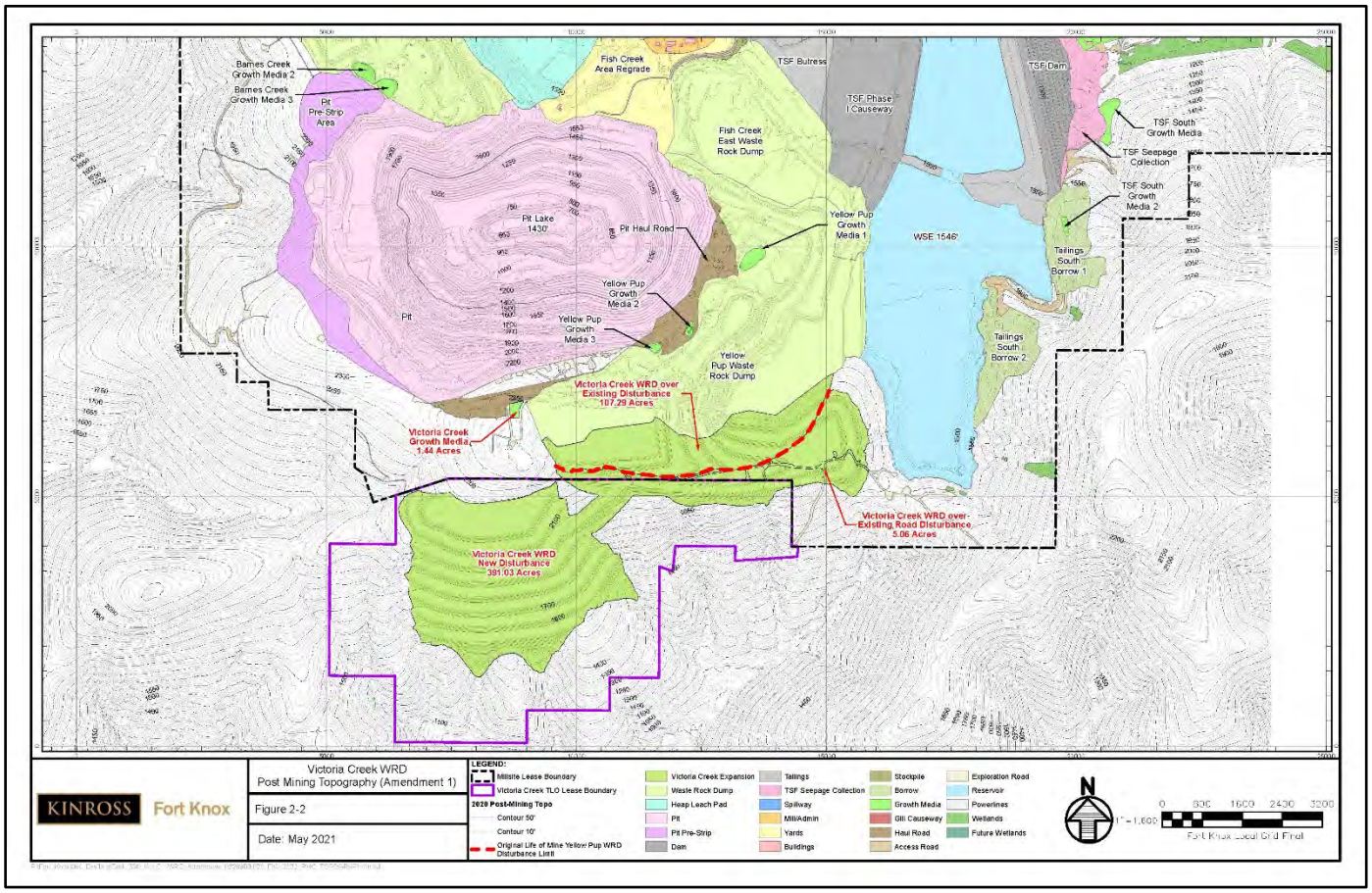


Figure 4: Victoria Creek WRD Configuration



2.1 Reclamation and Closure Plan

Reclamation of the Victoria Creek WRD is detailed in the *Fort Knox Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan (RCP), Amendment 1, Revision 1, May 2021*. The RCP Amendment 1, Revision 1 is submitted as a separate file with the POO Amendment Revision 1submittal package to the ADNR, ADEC, and MHTLO.

2.2 Financial Assurance

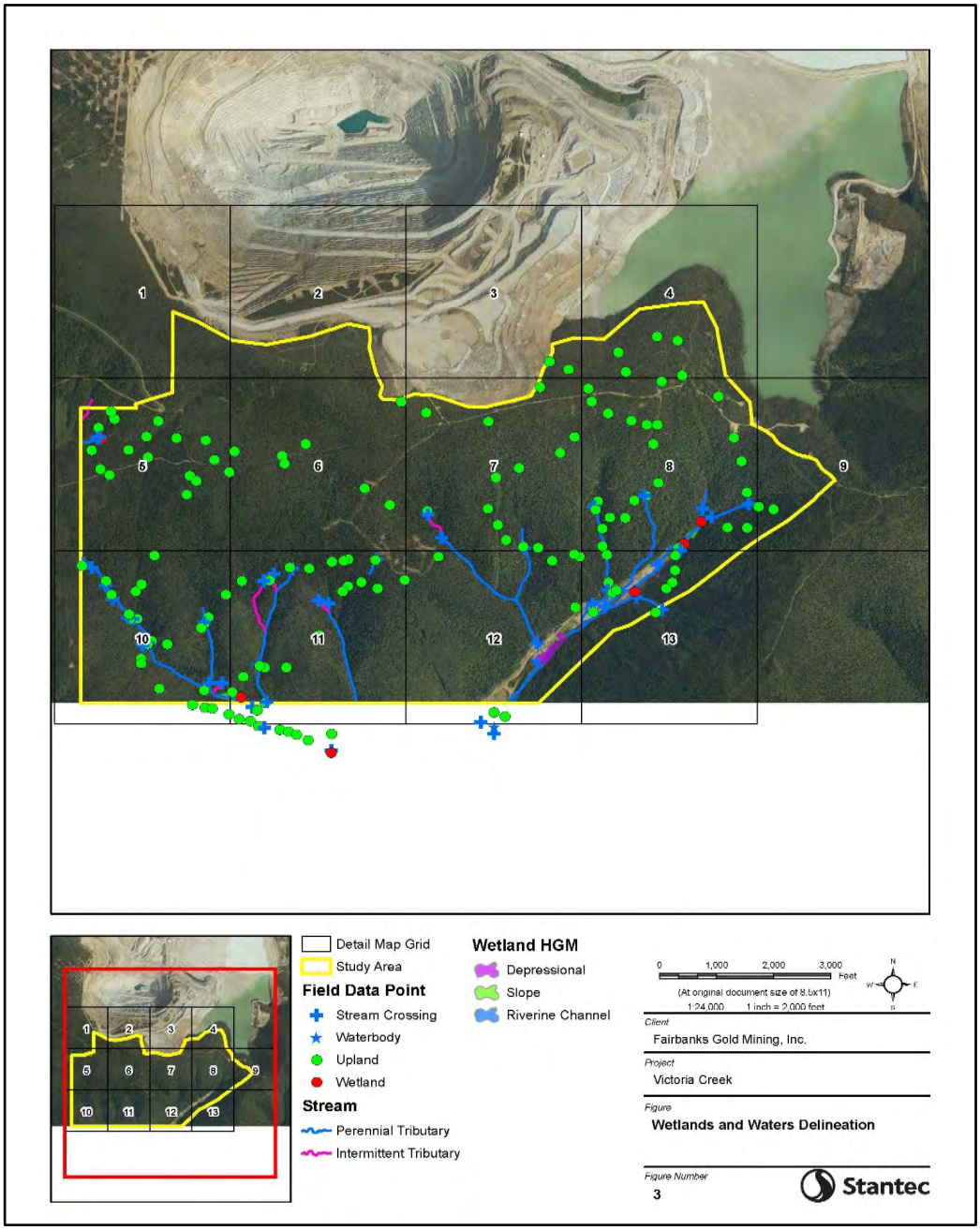
The Fort Knox Mine RCP, Amendment 1, Revision 1 includes the closure costs associated with the proposed Victoria Creek WRD. The RCP Amendment 1, Revision 1 includes the SRCE model estimated costs for reclamation and closure, which will be used for amending the financial assurance amount provided to ADNR as an amendment to the Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. S18572/260177.

3.0 Wetlands

A wetlands delineation was performed for the Victoria Creek WRD area in 2020. The *Fort Knox Victoria Creek Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Report (PJD), December 31, 2020* documents the delineation activities and results. The PJD identifies upper stream and small wetland

areas that will be impacted at the Victoria Creek WRD location (Figure 5). Before construction activities of the Victoria Creek WRD begin, wetland permitting and mitigation will be achieved with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The PJD is provided separately with this Plan of Operations Amendment request submittal.

Figure 5: Victoria Creek WRD Wetlands Location

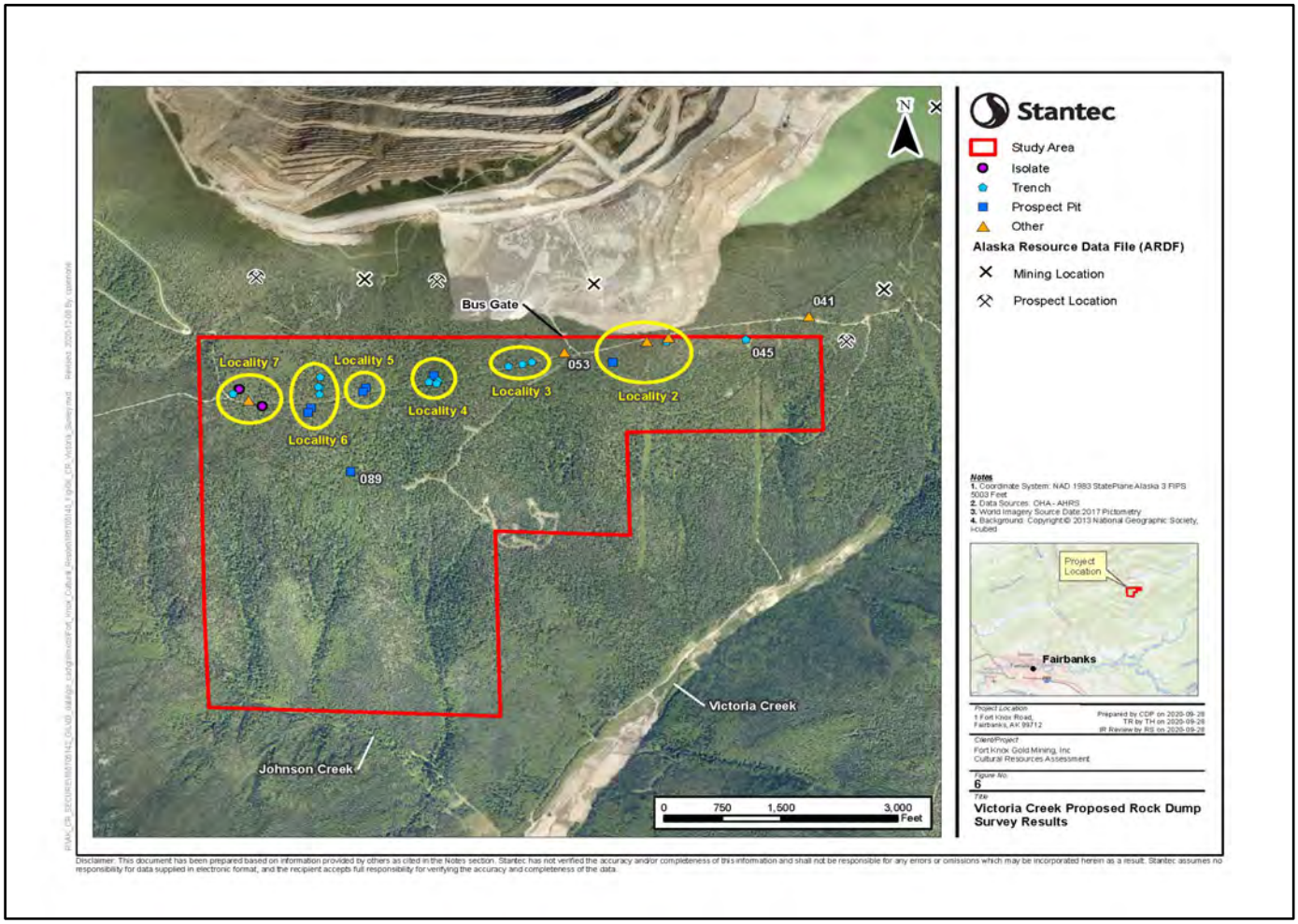


4.0 Cultural Resources

A cultural resources investigation of the Victoria Creek WRD area was performed in 2020. The investigation report, *Victoria Creek Rock Dump Cultural Resources Investigation, Revised February*

19, 2021, details investigation activities and results for the Victoria Creek WRD area. The cultural resources investigation report provides details to the identified sites of Figure 6. The report is provided separately with this Plan of Operations Amendment request submittal.

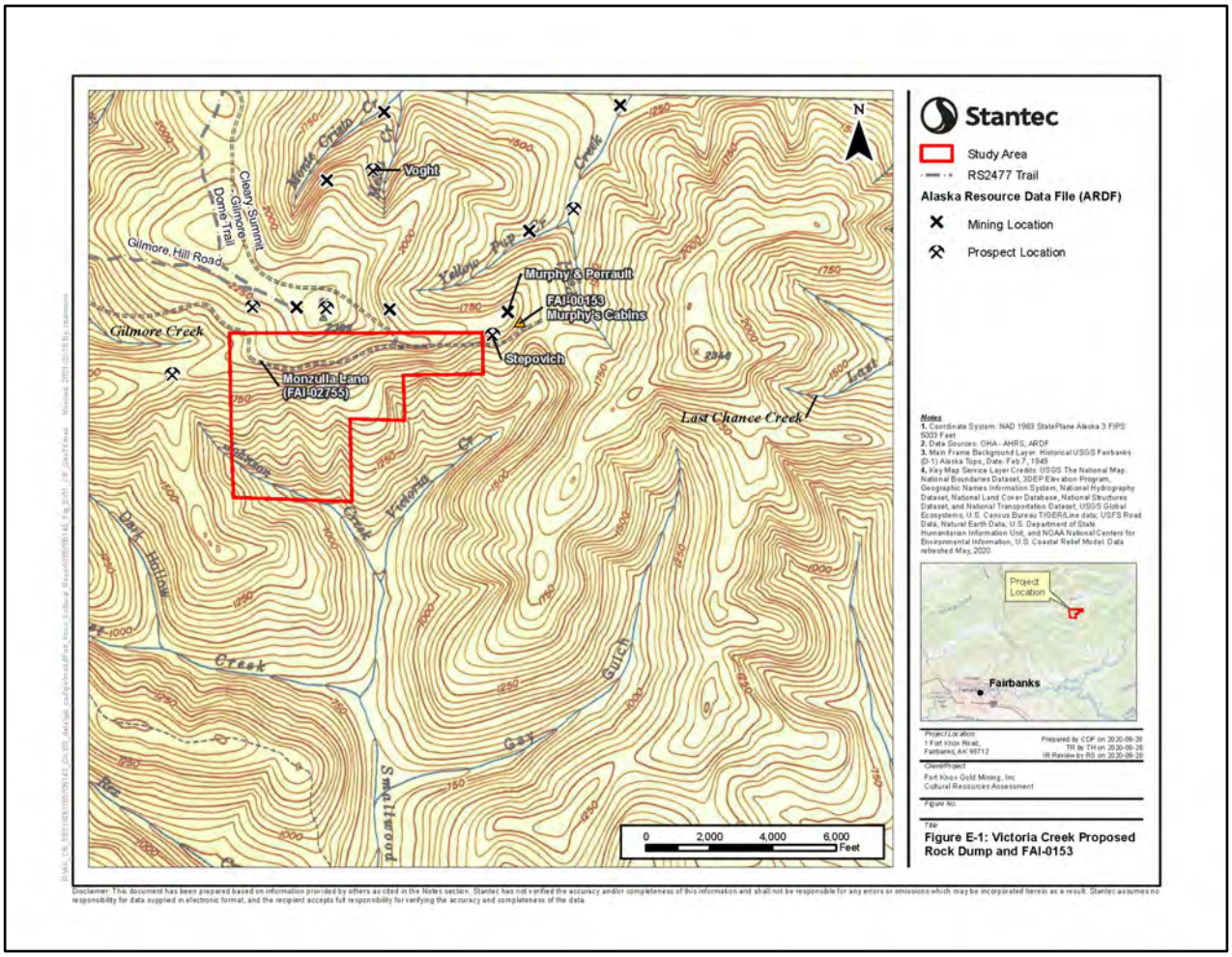
Figure 6: Victoria Creek WRD Cultural Resources



5.0 Alaska DOT Omnibus Trail

A short portion of an Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities omnibus trail, Monzulla Lane (Figure 7), will be impacted by the construction of the Victoria Creek WRD. FGMI is proposing to close Monzulla Lane a safe distance from the west side of the Victoria Creek WRD during the dump's construction activities through its reclamation activities. The closure is required to keep the public from entering an active mining area because of significant safety concerns. Prior to reclamation activities, FGMI will provide a reroute design to the ADNR and MHTLO for approval. Once approval is received FGMI will construct the reroute of Monzulla Lane.

Figure 7: Monzulla Lane Location



6.0 Supporting Documents

6.1 Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations

The Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations No. F20209852POOA approval was issued March 25, 2020 and is effective through March 24, 2025. The approved Plan of Operations describes the facilities and operations of the Fort Knox Mine.

6.2 Fort Knox Mine Reclamation and Closure Plan

The Fort Knox Mine Reclamation Plan No. F20209852RPA approval was issued March 25, 2020 and is effective through March 24, 2025. The approved RCP 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 and ore processing operations to a stabilized condition that will

provide long-germ protection of land and water resources. Additional goals include: reducing the effects of disturbance during mining, implementation of concurrent reclamation where appropriate, reducing or eliminating long-term management requirements, management of dams for the protection of life and property, and meeting state and federal regulatory requirements. The RCP describes the schedule for reclamation, general reclamation procedures, and the methods for achieving the final closure requirements and objectives. In addition, the RCP serves as the basis for calculating reclamation costs and the amount of the financial assurance.