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Pogo Mine Inspection Report

Inspection Date: August 26, 2025
Time: 9:00AM to 4:30PM
Weather: Mostly sunny with a few high clouds
Agency Personnel: DNR: Jesse Garnett White and Carolyn Curley (LMPT), Jonathan Kummer (Water), Ben Wagner (Dam Safety), and Charlene Bringhurst (APMA).
Operator Contacts: Pogo: Russel Gossett and James Meyers
Inspection Objectives: Site Inspection

Operations:

Pogo Mine is an underground gold mine located on land owned by the State of Alaska 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction, Alaska, and 88 miles east-southeast of Fairbanks on the western edge of the Goodpaster Mining District. Mine access is from the Richardson Highway via a 49-mile all-season road. The mining method used is underground long-hole open-stope cut-and-fill operation using gravity concentration, flotation, and Carbon-in-Pulp (CIP) process to recover gold ¹.

Field Inspection Plan, Execution and Summary Schedule:

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources Large Mines Permitting Teams (DNR – LMPT) primary objectives for the field inspection were to inspect active disturbance and reclamation, including the Off River Treatment Works (ORTW), new 1380 portal, Dry Stack Tailings Facility (DSTF), Recycle Tailings Pond (RTP), and RTP Dam (RTP Dam). DNR personnel from the LMPT, Water, Dam Safety, and APMA teams were on site. The LMPT reviewed and inspected surface disturbance and reclamation, APMA and Water viewed underground operations including sumps, and Dam Safety inspected the RTP Dam, sediment pond, flume, flow through drains, diversion ditches, outfalls, and spillways.

DNR staff arrived at 9:00am where we met with Russell Gossett (Environmental Manager) and James Meyers (Sr. Environmental Coordinator) to discuss field inspection objectives. It was decided that the LMPT inspection of the surface disturbance and reclamation (Maps 1-5) would begin at ORTW followed by the 1380 portal, DSTF, RTP, and RTP Dam. After the inspection was completed, LMPT toured the surface operations of Upper Camp including the Mill, Main Substation, Administration area, ABC Wing, and 1875 and 2150 portals (Photos 18 and 19), Lower Camp including 1525 Portal, Outfall 002 (Photos 21 and 22), Goodpaster River Bridge, and Food Waste Storage and Kinetic Testing area (Map 1).

After all team inspections were completed, a short meeting was held with Mr. Gossett and Mr. Meyers to discuss the inspection. We also met with Alan Lipka (Manager – Projects and Growth) concerning current Pogo projects, mine expansion, and growth.

¹ Northern Star Resources, (2023), *Revisions to Documents in Support of Renewal of Northern Star Resources (Pogo) LLC's Plan of Operations*, Northern Star Resources.

Findings:

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

1. Inspection of Active Areas of Disturbance

- 1.1. 1380 Portal: The portal development progresses with increasing amounts of waste rock (WRD) being placed on the pad outside of the portal (Maps 1 and 3, Photos 4,5, and 6).
- 1.2. DSTF: The DSTF (Maps 1 and 4, Photos 9 through 16) contains approximately 40% of all mineralized waste rock and dewatered flotation tailings; the remainder is placed underground as a paste backfill. There are two flow-through drains at the DSTF with perimeter diversion ditches preventing runoff water from entering the facility. Tailings and mineralized development rock are co-disposed year-round in the general placement area. The mineralized rock is encapsulated in the tailings to minimize oxidation of sulfide minerals. At the time of inspection there was no major activity occurring on the DSTF. It was in good condition and well maintained.
- 1.3. RTP and RTP Dam: The RTP and RTP Dam (Maps 1 and 5, Photos 13, 16, and 17) are located just downstream from the DSTF to collect any potential seepage. At the time of inspection, the water storage was below normal level. The spillway was well above the water level and free of any major or obvious debris.

2. Water Management

- 2.1. ORTW: At the northern end of the mine is the ORTW consisting of two ponds (Maps 1 and 2, Photos 1, 2, 3, and 8). The inlet pond has connectivity with the Goodpaster River, which pumps fresh water into the mixing pond via a pump station. The ORTW pump station has a mixing chamber where effluent water from the treatment plant mixes with fresh water before discharging into the mixing pond. The mixing pond serves as a final zone where larger suspended particles from treated waters may precipitate out before reaching the outfall. Water from the outfall discharges back into the Goodpaster River. At the time of inspection, the ORTW was operating normally.
- 2.2. Outfall 001: The outfall (Maps 1 and 2, Photos 1 through 3) was operating normally at the time of inspection.
- 2.3. Outfall 002: The outfall (Map 1, Photo 22) was operating normally at the time of inspection.

Violations:

All observed activities followed Northern Star Resources Ltd. Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan Approvals (F20249500POOA.1 and F20249500RPA.1. No violations were observed, and inspection sites were in good working order and well maintained.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

DNR finds Pogo mining operations in good condition and consistent with industry standards. The operator facilitates activities in a manner which prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of State land and water resources and is responsive to requests made by the department.

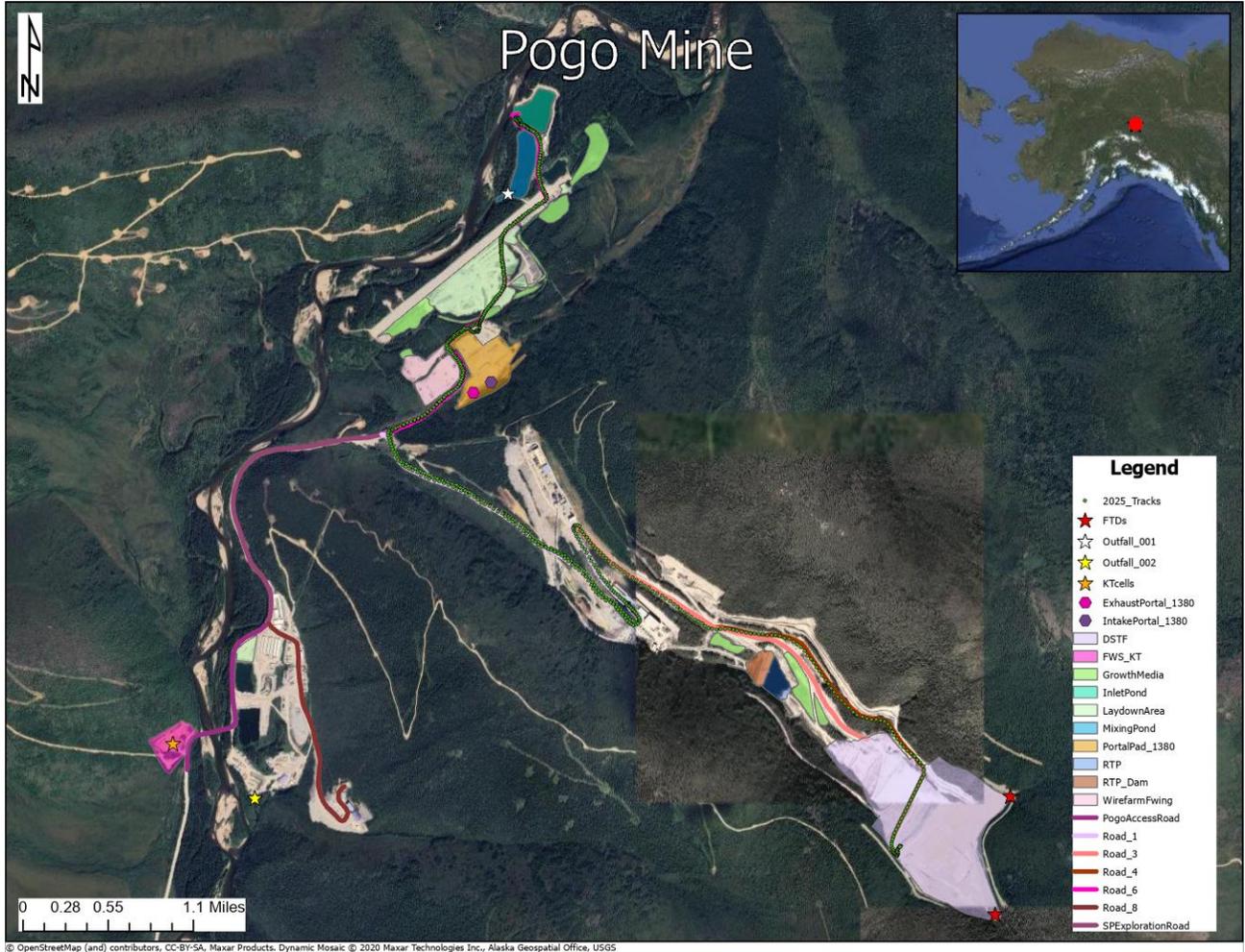
Report prepared by: Jesse Garnett White

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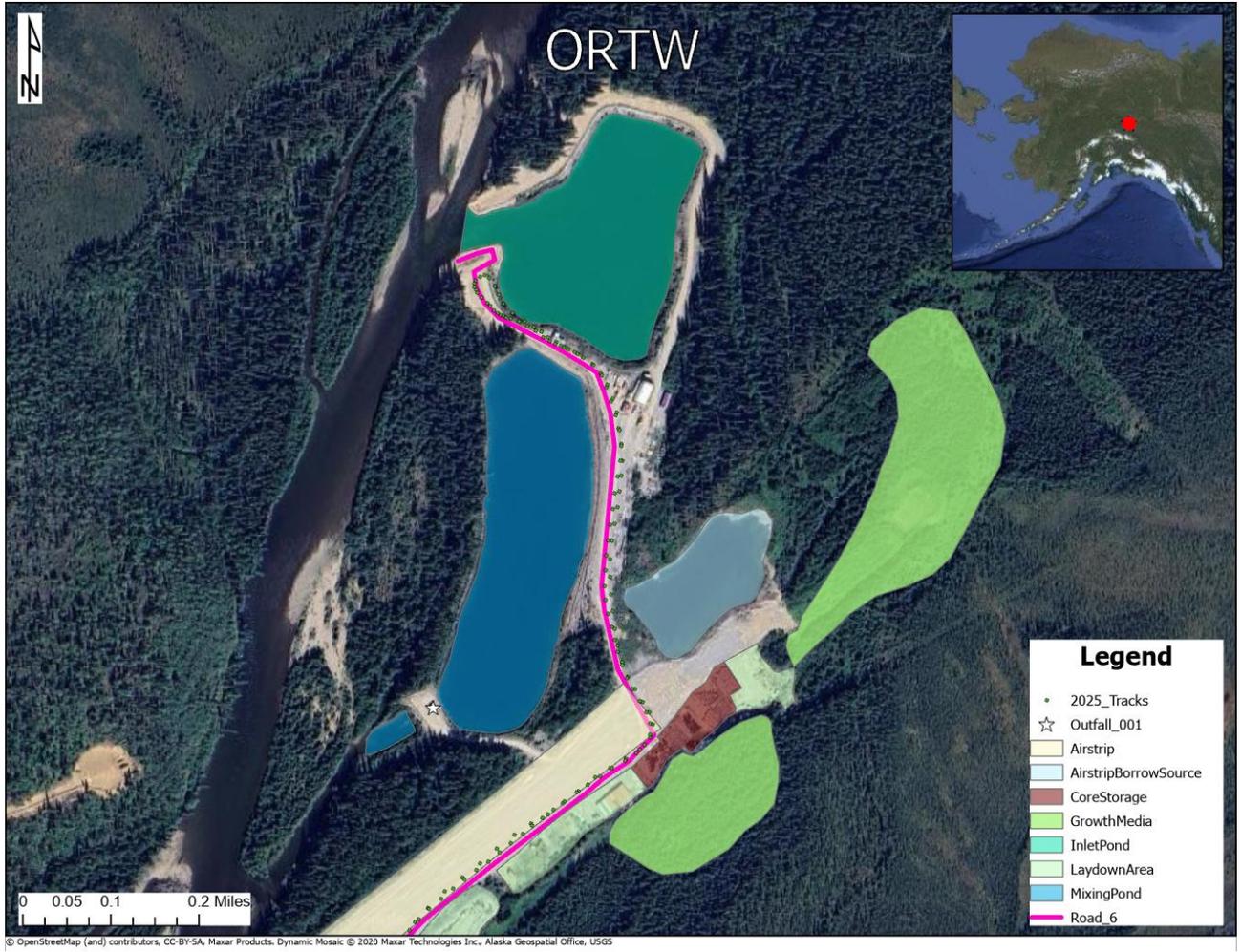
Kate Harper (DNR),
James Hyun (DNR),
Steve Buckley (DNR),
William Groom (DNR),
Ben Wagner (DNR),
Jenny March (DNR),
Jonathan Kummer (DNR)
Carolyn Curley (DNR),
Aaron Kruse (DNR),
Allan Nakanishi (DEC),
Tim Pilon (DEC),
Audra Brase (ADF&G)

Appendix A

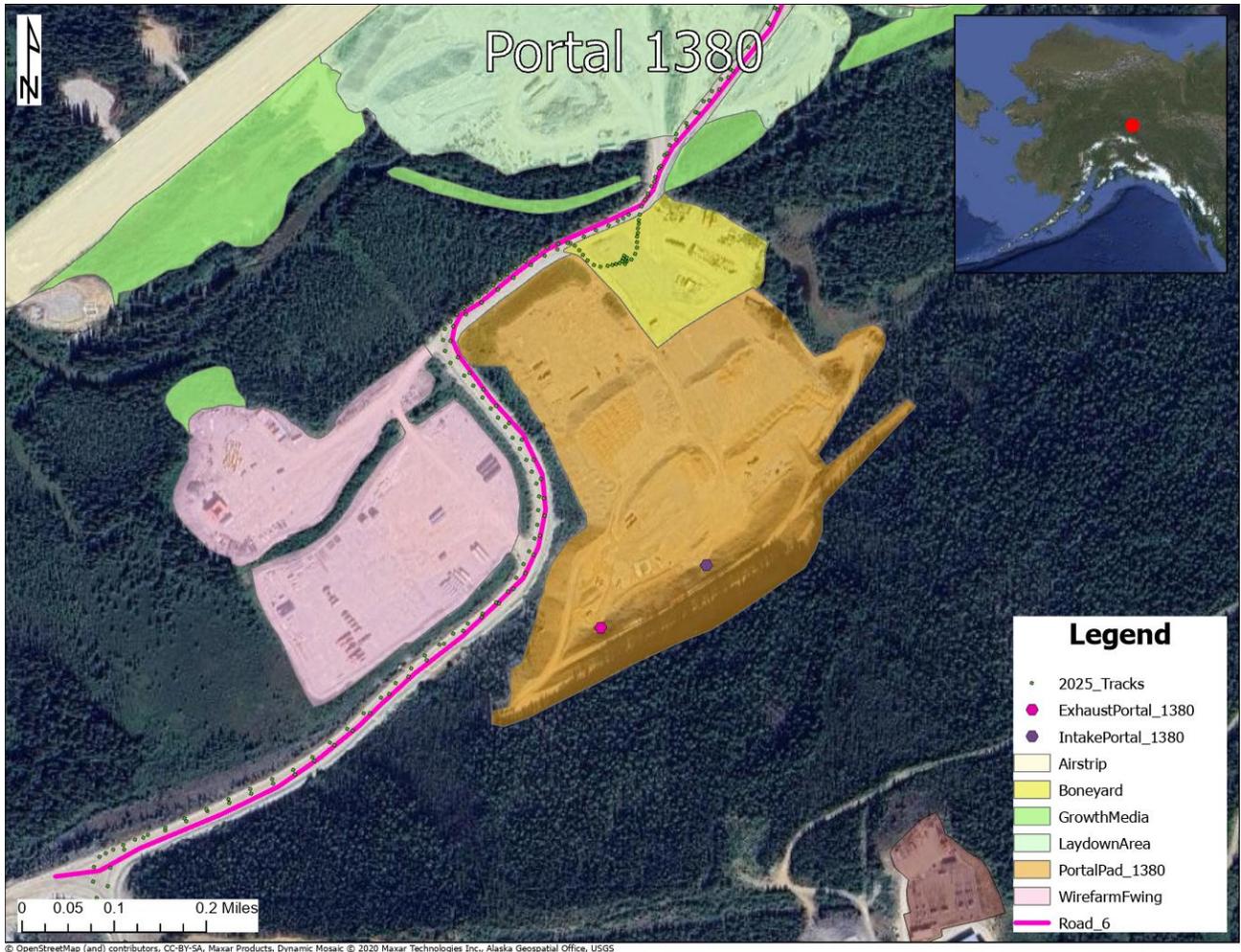
Inspection Maps and Observations of Note



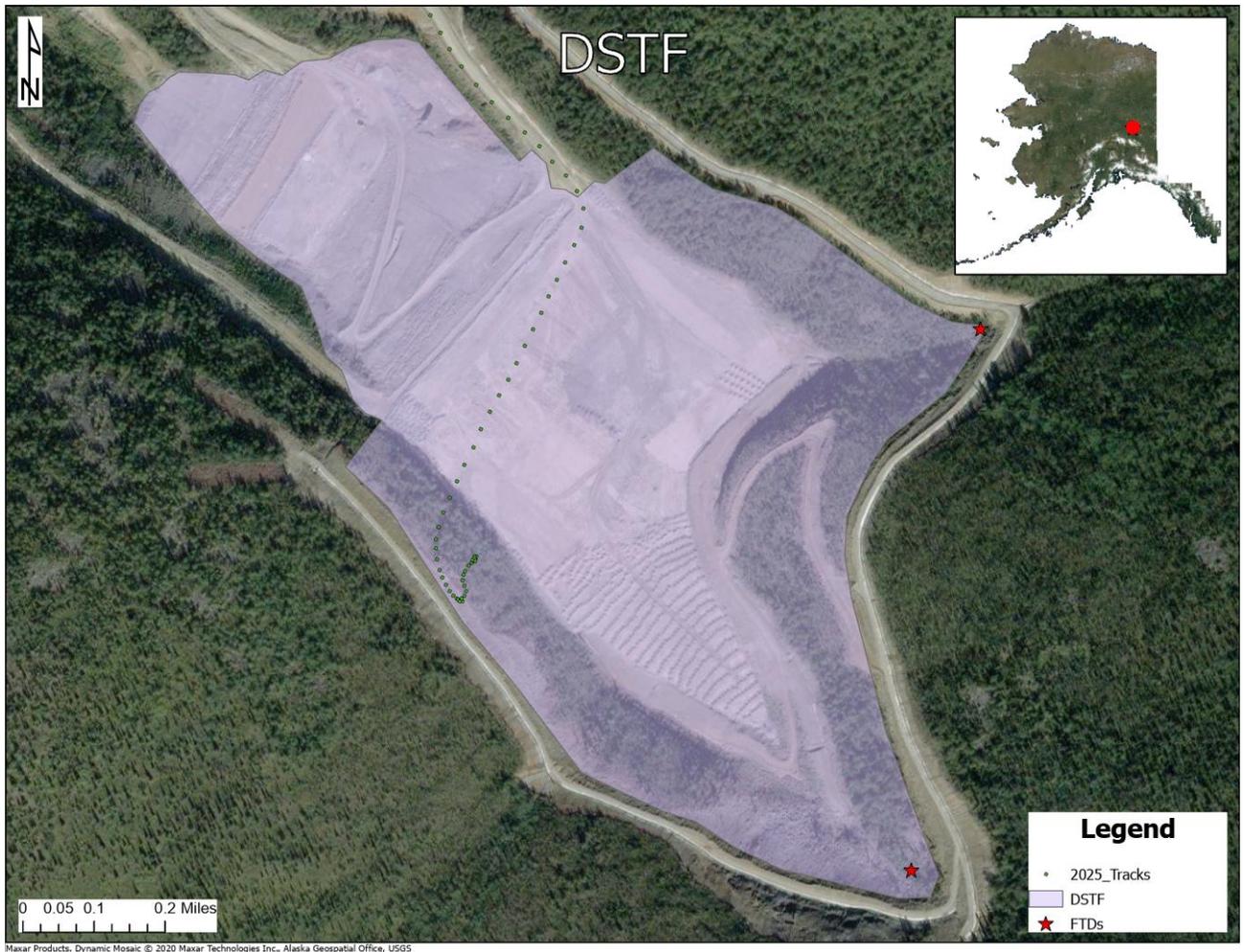
Map 1: Pogo Mine 08/2025 Surface infrastructure inspection tracks and location. KT – Kinetic Testing, FTDs – Flow through drains, FWS – Food waste storage, SP – South Pogo.



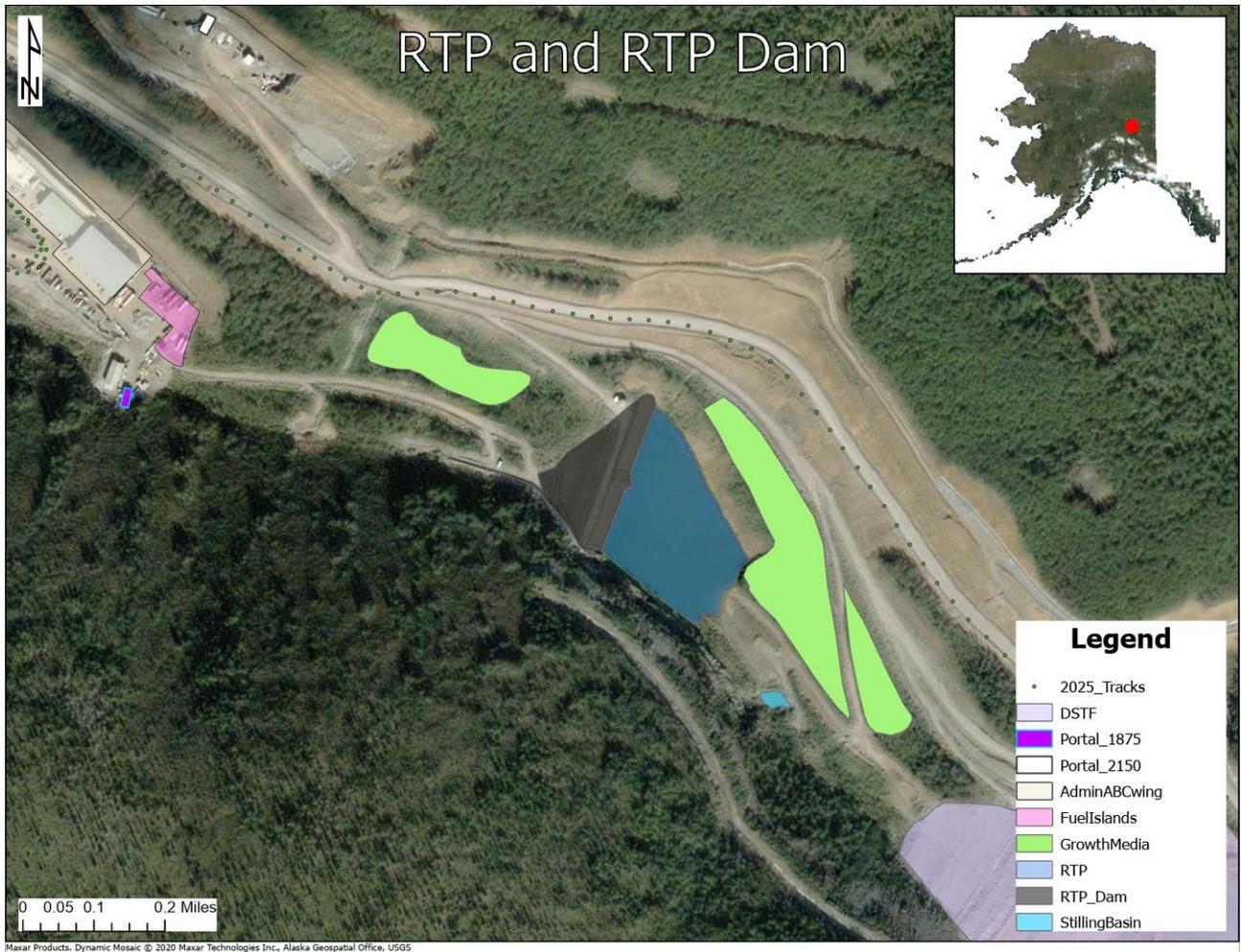
Map 2: Pogo Mine 08/2025 ORTW inspection tracks and location.



Map 3: Pogo Mine 08/2025 1380 Portal inspection tracks and location.



Map 4: Pogo Mine 08/2025 DSTF inspection tracks and location including FTDs.



Map 5: Pogo Mine 08/2025 RTP/RTP Dam inspection tracks and location.

Field Inspection Observations

Photo 1: ORTW: Includes southerly views of the Inlet Pond, Mixing Zone Pond, and Outfall 001. Also, in view is Growth Media 08 (GM 08), exploration core stockpile, laydown yard, and partial views of the 1380 Portal, airstrip, and Goodpaster River.



Photo 2: ORTW: View of the Mixing Zone Pond, Outfall 001, water filled borrow pit, and southern end of the Inlet Pond. Also, in view is the exploration core stockpiles, northern end of the airstrip, and a section of the Goodpaster River.



Photo 3: A northerly view of the ORTW including Outfall 001, Mixing Zone Pond, and Inlet Pond.

Also, in view is the exploration core stockpile, northern end of the airstrip, runway protection zone, GM 08, and a section of the Goodpaster River.



Photo 4: View of the 1380 Portal and associated “green rock” dumps for the portal pad with partial views of the boneyard, road #6, and a partial view of the wire farm and F Wing (see photo 7).



Photo 5: View of Intake Portal 1380.



Photo 6: A different view of one of the “green rock” dumps for the portal pad in front of the 1380 intake portal.



Photo 7: View of the Wire Farm, F Wing and Road #6.



Photo 8: View of the airstrip, laydown area, boneyard, and core storage with partial views of the ORTW and Goodpaster River.



Photo 9: View of the DSTF from the ground. Note the location of the southeast flow drain (red star).



Photo 10: Another view of the DSTF from the ground. Note the location of the east flow through drain (red star).



Photo 11: View of the DSTF, associated roads, flow through drains, and diversion ditches.



Photo 12: Another view of the DSTF, associated roads, east flow through drain, and partial view of the north diversion ditch. Note the RTP location below the DSTF.



Photo 13: Down valley view of the DSTF face. Note the locations of RTP, RTP Dam, diversion ditches, Road #4, 2150 Portal, and Upper Camp.



Photo 14: Up valley view of the DSTF, Road #4, diversion ditches, and flow through drain locations.



Photo 15: View of Road #4 on the face of the Dry Stack.



Photo 16: Up valley view of the face of the DSTW, RTP and RTP dam. Note the location of the growth media stockpiles (GM 12-15), Road #4, stilling basin, and RTP head tanks.



Photo 17: View of the RTP and RTP Dam.



Photo 18: View of the 2150 Portal.



Photo 19: View of Upper Camp including locations of the Mill, conveyor, paste pipeline, 1690, 1875, and 2150 portals, stormwater pond, light vehicle repair shop, fuel island, mobile equipment maintenance and warehouse building, administration building, and A, B, and C wing dorms.



Photo 20: 1876 Portal with a partial view of the light vehicle repair shop.



Photo 21: View of the 1525 Portal.



Photo 22: Outfall 002

