



HARRISON CREEK RECLAMATION

Yukon-Koyukuk Borough, Alaska

CLIENT
Bureau of Land
Management

CONTRACT
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YEAR COMPLETED
2010

In 2004, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) embarked upon a project to reclaim approximately 11 miles of abandoned placer-mined lands in the Harrison Creek valley near Central, Alaska. Placer-mined lands reclamation efforts performed up to that time had been generally inadequate in restoring disturbed valley ecosystems. Historically, reclamation efforts were concentrated on attempts to design stable stream channels.

The BLM contracted with USKH to perform work for Phase I of the Harrison Creek Reclamation project. The work included performing literature and field reviews, and conducting interviews with parties experienced in placer-mined valley reclamation. The information gathered under those tasks was used to produce a reclamation report that (a) summarized major issues involved in placer-mined stream valley reclamation; (b) provided an assessment and review of past and current reclamation practices, approaches, and techniques; (c) presented recommendations regarding the field assessment of stream channel and valley stability, and recovery potential in previously reclaimed valleys; and (d) developed updated reclamation approaches with applications to the reclamation of Harrison Creek.

The updated reclamation approaches were applied to the development of design plans for a first phase reclamation of a portion of the Harrison Creek valley, with construction in 2006. Lessons learned from the 2006 reclamation design and construction were applied to the phase II and III designs that were constructed in 2009. Further design and construction refinements were made to the Phase IV reclamation design, based on lessons learned from the phase II and III design and construction efforts. The construction of the Phase IV reclamation design will be completed in autumn 2010.



1. USKH Hydrologist, Hans Arnett, at Harrison Creek
2. Wetlands survey