

Appendix 20-C

Historical Heritage Report

HARPER CREEK PROJECT

**Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate /
Environmental Impact Statement**

**A HISTORY OF GRAZING AND OTHER LAND-USE
BY THE MOILLIET AND MITCHELL FAMILIES IN THE
PROPOSED HARPER CREEK MINE DEVELOPMENT AREA**

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May 31, 2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The following report outlines the scope and results of an historical research study focused on archival sources and family history data obtained, in part, through interviews with members of the Moilliet and Mitchell families of Vavenby and Barriere, British Columbia.

The study area focused on the location and potential impact areas of an open pit copper-gold-silver mine development (the “Harper Creek Project”) being proposed by the Harper Creek Mining Corporation in the Harp Mountain locale of the North Thompson River valley, approximately 150 km. northeast of the interior B.C. City of Kamloops. The nearest settlements to the proposed mine development are Vavenby – at roughly 10 kilometres to the northeast - and Clearwater at about 20 kilometres to the northwest.

Interviews with members of two local ranching families were conducted to provide some history to non-aboriginal land use and occupation of the local study area and the mine site. The Moilliet family was among the original non-aboriginal settlers of the North Thompson valley and have been sheep ranching in the area for over 100 years. The Mitchell Family has been active in cattle ranching and has held a grazing tenure in the mine site area since 1966.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF MINE DEVELOPMENT AREA

A detailed description of the proposed Harper Creek Project is not provided. It is described in detail in Project Description and Overview in the EAC/EIS Application. This report describes existing grazing areas utilized by the Moilliet and Mitchell ranching operations and forms the background of research and subsequent interviews of family members.

The project development area covers an area of approximately 3,500 hectares at Harp Mountain, bordered on the west by Harp Creek and to the east by Bear Creek. The Project proposal also includes a 25 kilometre truck haul road between the open pit mine at Harp Mountain and the former Weyerhaeuser Mill property at Vavenby, where mine ore concentrate will be loaded into rail cars and shipped to the Port of Vancouver.

The mine site and its associated infrastructure will occupy a large part of the Mitchell Cattle Company’s Harp Mountain grazing lease #RAN077435, issued by the B.C. Forest Service on January 12, 2012. Portions of the mine site and the proposed haul road will also impact on B.C. Forest Service “Agreement #RAN077140” issued on January 10 of 2010, to Ian Keir Moilliet (see following copies of grazing tenure maps).

3.0 RESEARCH SCOPE AND SOURCES OF HISTORICAL DATA

The present study was based on both a comprehensive background review of archival and historical data relating to the settlement of the North Thompson Valley by non-aboriginal

people after about 1850, and by the results of interviews with members of two area families. The research includes some of the agricultural history of the area relating to the history of cattle ranching by the Mitchell family, operators of the Mitchell Cattle Company in Barriere, and the 100 year-plus sheep herding and ranching operation by four generations of the Moilliet family, at Aveley Ranch near Vavenby.

Information contained in this report includes historical information collected by Muriel Poulton Dunford in the year 2000, entitled **North River, The Story of British Columbia's North Thompson Valley and Yellowhead Highway 5**, published by Sonotek Publishing of Merritt, B.C. Dunford's book provides information on the history of settlement history of the North Thompson valley and summaries of the history for most of the families who settled in this area, including the Moilliet and Mitchell families.

The research also includes information from the Barriere and District Heritage Society's "Exploring Our Roots: North Thompson Valley, McLure to Little Fort" 2004, publication, and the Clearwater and District History Committee's "Upper North Thompson reflections", published in 1996. Both focus on local area and family histories. We also acknowledge the contributions of the Mitchell and the Moilliet families to the list of historical sources for the settlement of the North Thompson Valley. Both families have produced their own family history books, including the Moilliet's "Memories of Aveley Ranch", by John and Theodore Moilliet and Madelaine Rendell. The Mitchell family's history book is also an excellent source for information about the operation of the Mitchell Cattle Company and the Mitchell family. Both families also maintain their own Website, where they include a summary of the history of their ranching enterprises. Both can be accessed though Google at *Mitchell Cattle Company, Barriere B.C. and Aveley Heritage Sheep Ranch, Vavenby, B.C.*

In addition to standard archival and historical sources related to the recent settlement history of the North Thompson Valley region, other more obscure sources of historical data, including government documents and regulatory information pertaining to the history of ranching and range management in the study area, were reviewed. This included early maps and survey records (see Bibliography Section at the end of this report). Some examples of these sources included early B.C. Forest Service "Reconnaissance Survey Reports" from the early to mid 1900', some of which contain information about early sheep and cattle grazing in the Harp Mountain area and other high country grazing locales.

Another source of information include the B.C. Forest Service's "Annual Operational Records", "Grazing Permit Reports", and the records of annual meetings of local area "Farmers Institutes" such as the "Upper North Thompson Farmer's Institute". Some of the latter sources note the presence and contributions of members of both the Moilliet and Mitchell families.

4.0 SUMMARY OF LOCAL SETTLEMENT FROM 1850 TO THE PRESENT

This report focuses on the history of settlement and land use as this pertains to the history of the Mitchell family, operators of the Mitchell Cattle Company at Barriere, B.C., and the Moilliet family's Aveley sheep ranching operation near Vavenby, B.C.

The early history of Eurocanadian settlement and land use in the North Thompson River valley is tied to the fur trade history of the Northwest Company (whose employees were referred to as the "Canadians" and the "Nor-Westers") and the Hudsons Bay Company (HBC). A permanent settlement was established at Tete-Jeune-Cache by a French Canadian fur trader by the name of Pierre Bostonais. Pierre is said to have had a striking head of blond hair and local lore has it that the name "Yellowhead Pass" refers to this aspect of Pierre's appearance (see Dunford, 2000; p.142). Historic records indicate that by the early 1800s, there were regular fur trading and exploratory excursions through the North Thompson River country to the south as far as present day Kamloops (see Dunford, 2000; pp. 18-38 for more detail).

Although a few individuals did settle in the North Thompson valley during the mid-1800s, the area that is the focus of this study, it was not until the end of the "Gold-Rush" era in British Columbia that settlement of this region began in earnest. From about the late 1860s to just before the turn of the century, several small farming settlements, along with small logging operations, winter fur trapping and other subsistence activities, began to appear. These were soon followed by registered homesteads, which were land grants given or sold by the recently established Government of British Columbia through their Land Pre-emption system that was designed to open up areas for settlement. One of the earliest of such pre-emptions was registered in 1886 by Frank Allingham on the north side of the North Thompson River across from what was then known as "Peavine Flats" (now called Vavenby). This pre-emption figures prominently in the history of local settlement of this area by the Moilliet Family, as will be seen later in this report.

In 1909, the Canadian Northern Pacific and the Grand Trunk Pacific both began construction through the Yellowhead Pass and west to Tete Jeune Cache. Here, the Grand Trunk Pacific line veered to the north to eventually terminate at the Port of Prince Rupert, while the Canadian Northern line continued in a southerly direction from Valemont down to Kamloops. The coming of the railroad energized the small farming communities along the river and brought in many newcomers who came seeking railway construction jobs, or other jobs such as cutting timber for ties, camp cooks and helpers, or as farmers who provided produce and other provisions for the railway gangs. One of the local companies who prospered from the railway construction was the Northern Construction Company.

This company, was an offshoot of the Continental Construction Company (Its timbermark and cattle and horse brands remained "CCC"), and arrived as a contractor for sections of rail line that progressed south down the north Thompson. It had logged the right of way and with completion of the railway, shifted to what was intended to be a major logging enterprise, based at the "Northern Ranch", purchased from Herman Peterson, its original homesteader. Large tracts of Crown-owned timber were

subsequently logged. Northern Ranch, situated just north of Barriere on the west side of the North Thompson, was sold to Thomas Dundas Mitchell in 1933. It was to become the home of “Mitchell Cattle Company” in 1991, operated by Thomas’s grandson Ian Mitchell.

4.1 Moilliet Family History and Land-Use

The published historical sources relating to recent settlement and land-use by the Moilliets in the Vavenby/Harp Mountain and surrounding areas give a general account of the Moilliet’s 100 year presence in the local study area. Interviews with Ian and Karen Moilliet and Ian’s sister, Valerie (Moilliet) Gerber, provided additional information about their land-use in and adjacent to the proposed Harper Creek Project. These interviews were carried out on January 21st 2014, at Aveley Ranch near Vavenby, B.C. Below is a summary of the notes and simultaneous camcorder tapes from the interviews.

Theodore Albert Moilliet (“TAM”), the founder of Aveley Ranch, first pre-empted (homesteaded) land on the south side of the North Thompson River in the Birch Island and “Peavine Flats” (now Vavenby) areas around 1905. Following this, TAM and his uncle and partner Hyde Finley, began clearing land for what was to become the Aveley Ranch. In 1941, John Moilliet bought the Allingham place from Frank Allingham’s estate. This was originally pre-empted by Frank Allingham on the North side of the North Thompson River from Peavine Flats. Frank Allingham who had arrived in the late 1880s from England and subsequently pre-empted this land on the north side of the river from Peavine Flats. This he called “Abberley Farm”. The Moilliet family has always referred to it as Allingham’s.

William Jones, who in around 1904 or 05, pre-empted property immediately west of what later became the Moilliet’s Aveley Ranch. The Jones property was eventually purchased (in 1939) by the Moilliet family and was added to the existing land already being farmed and ranched by the Moilliets. The Jones pre-emption was registered a few years earlier than when TAM and his uncle Hyde Finley, settled on their land immediately upriver from the Jones homestead. Although TAM and Hyde Finley arrived in the area a year or so before William Jones, they did not take up land there until later. Ian also noted that TAM also purchased the original Frank Allington pre-emption (being Lot 750) in about 1941. This property is situated on the north side of the river, opposite Vavenby, and is still owned by the Moilliet family.

The coming of the railway through the North Thompson River country in 1914, helped open up the country to settlement and made travel in and out of the area much easier. Prior to that, the main access through the North Thompson country was by the river itself, or via a rough wagon road that connected the area with Kamloops to the south. The newly constructed railway now provided an easy means for the Moilliets and other ranchers and farmers in the Vavenby and Birch Island areas to ship their stock to market. The coming of the railroad also resulted in a significant increase in the size of sheep flocks and other ranch and farm production, and the area began to prosper as a result.

Ian Moilliet remembers his father, John (Jack) Moilliet telling stories of his memories and of Jack's father's (TAM's) experience how he would employ local First Nations people around the years 1913-14. Most of these workers would arrive with their families in early summer from the Chu Chua area downriver and camp out in the farm fields down near the river. By late summer, they would pack up their belongings and make the return trip down river. Ian mentioned one particular couple from the Chu Chua Reserve who were employed for many years by TAM. Their family name was Eustache and they became regular summer ranch employees of the Aveley Ranch. There is a field down by the river where they lived and camped when they worked for the Moilliets that is still called the "Eustache Field". Ian told of how the women and children from Chu Chua often snared ground squirrels and that these were a staple in their diet. Simpcw First Nations members would pack up and leave the area to go berry picking. They would return to the Moilliet ranch with large baskets filled with huckleberries that would be offered for sale to the local ranch and farm families.

Ian noted that Simpcw First Nation people were the only group of First Nations people known of in the North Thompson area. He noted that they had a well-used trail that connected the Chu Chua to Foghorn Mountain. Parts of this trail was later used and maintained by the Moilliets to transport their sheep into the Granite Mountain pastures. Ian indicated that First Nations people did not use this trail much after about 1940.

Asked about the presence of stone piles or cairns in the Harp and Granite Mountain areas, Ian indicated that rock piles were often used as markers for land surveys and mineral exploration or could be fire pits and other features associated with old sheep camps. "I believe that my father and grandfather built some of the cairns on Harp Mountain. There is no history of native land-use within the mine site area since the Moilliets arrived and lived in the area, or evidence of occupation in any of the other areas occupied by the Aveley Ranch, at least not in the recorded memory of members of the Moilliet family."

Over the last 100 year history, Ian indicated that in addition to sheep ranching and hay production, the Moilliets keep bees for honey production, trapped and operated a store, beginning in about 1910. Although there has been some small scale logging operations and sawmilling in the area over the years, the Moilliets' main use of forest resources was limited to obtaining firewood and logs for building construction, animal pens and shelters.

The interview conducted with Valerie (Moilliet) Gerber touched on the sheep ranching operation to some extent but focused more on other land-use activities by the Moilliets, both in the past and present. In addition to involvement with the family sheep ranching operations, Valerie has been trapping fur animals since 1984. Her registered trapline spans an area of roughly 250 square miles and includes large parts of Foghorn, Harp and Granite Mountains (the latter being the farthest away), all located to the south of the ranch's home property at Vavenby. Valerie noted that much of her present trapline territory overlapped with the Moilliet family's traditional alpine grazing areas that have been trapped by Moilliet family members over their 100 year long presence in the local area, beginning in the early 1900s with Valerie's grandfather Theodore ("TAM")

Moilliet. She noted that trapping always provided an important supplement to the ranching and farming income of the Moilliet family over the years. She indicated that most of her own trapping activity is carried out during the winter months when she can access her trap lines by snowmobile and snowshoeing. During the trapping season, she checks her traps on a daily basis. Trapping within old burn and clear-cut logging areas tend to be the most productive.

Regarding sheep and the Aveley Ranch operation, on average the ranch runs a flock of sheep numbering around 1,000 to 1,200 head. The success and economic viability of the sheep ranch has varied over its 100 year history. Valerie indicated that a recent downturn since about 2003, was mostly due to the effects of a BSE outbreak. Recent periods of drought have also caused problems because of the impact on the abundance and quality of natural feed for sheep within the high country grazing areas. The ranch flock is presently down to about 500 ewes.

In addition to trapping, hay cultivation and sales, a new small agri-tourism operation, augments the more traditional means of generating ranch revenue. The agri-tourism component has been mostly tied to the lambing season and has been of particular interest to visitors with children. The ranch also offers Bed and Breakfast stays at the ranch.

Asked about the Aveley Farm's traditional sheep raising and herding operation, Valerie indicated that the norm is for the ranch's entire flock of sheep to be herded up into high alpine grazing areas in mid-July to mid-September. The flock is usually brought down off the mountain grazing areas by late mid-September. This traditionally included grazing areas on Harp, Granite, Foghorn and Vavenby Mountains. In addition, flocks were also put into recently clear-cut logging blocks after the first growth of ground cover. This is done as a means of encouraging new timber growth. Many of the traditional grazing areas have by now been logged, which has impacted access into traditional grazing areas. But in other areas, logging of large timber blocks has also created new growth of vegetation suitable for sheep fodder in the short term.

In the past, sheep herders would stay with the sheep for the entire grazing season in the alpine areas. Daily diaries were kept to record the state and condition of the herd and any significant events that happened on the mountain – such as severe storms and predator attacks. An original trap line cabin on Foghorn Mountain was often used as a base camp by Aveley Ranch sheep herders, but more mobile camps using tents were also common.

4.2 Mitchell Family Interview and History

4.2.1 Historical Context

The following summary of the Mitchell family's connection and history of cattle ranching in the Harper Creek mine development area is provided as context to the following sub-section (Sect. 4.2.2) that focuses on information provided by an interview

with three contemporary members of the Mitchell family – Marge Mitchell (Ian’s mother) and Ian and Anja Mitchell, of Barriere, B.C.

- The Mitchell Family connection with British Columbia and the North Thompson “Mitchell Ranch” operation began with the arrival of Thomas Dundas (“TD”) Mitchell in 1893, from Scotland, to take up work on a farm near Brandon, Manitoba. He married Elizabeth (“Bessie”) Arnott on January 1st, 1900 in “Hayfield”, Manitoba.
- In 1902, the Mitchell’s moved to Vancouver, B.C. to take up residence there. Two years later, TD purchased a large farm in the vicinity of Rayleigh, about 13 kilometers up the North Thompson River from Kamloops, B.C.
- In 1908, after selling the Rayleigh farm, the family, which by now included TD, Bessie and five daughters, moved back to Vancouver, where TD became involved in a flourishing real estate business.
- After suffering losses in a 1912-1913 economic downturn, TD moved to Westwold B.C. to manage the Hood Brothers Ranch. He was joined there by the rest of his family in 1915.
- Two years later, the Mitchell Family again moved, this time to Armstrong B.C. where TD worked as a cattle buyer for Pat Burns, and by 1919, the Mitchell’s had resettled to a farm near Ashcroft where TD became a partner in a dairy and ranching operation.
- The Mitchell family operated the Ashcroft dairy and ranching business until 1933, when TD acquired the “Northern Ranch” from the Northern Construction Company, whose business had failed in the early 1920s due to economic downturn, the loss of its “Seven Mile Mill” to fire, etc..
- From that time on, the Mitchell Family has been a major influence and contributor to the ranching history and economic development of the Barriere area and the surrounding North Thompson Region.

4.2.2 Mitchell Interview Content

The interview with Mitchell family members focused on the history of cattle production and grazing areas used by the family over the years since 1933. The following information was provided:

- The original ranch holdings were purchased from the Northern Construction Company, who had named it “Northern Ranch” The purchase included Lot 1456, and Lot 54 on the flats along the west side of the North Thompson River just after the bridge crossing of Highway #5 (“Yellowhead Hwy.”) north of Barriere. One of the deciding factors for T.D. Mitchell in his decision to acquire this particular parcel was the fact that Peterson Creek, important for irrigation, ran right through the property.
- Prior to the Northern Construction Company’s ownership of Lot 1456, the land had been pre-empted by brothers, Hilder and Herman Pederson (thus the name “Peterson Creek”) around the turn of the century. They had arrived in the area

along with several other Scandinavian homesteaders who took up land in the Chinook Cove area just north of what later became the town of Barriere.

- The original Mitchell Ranch cattle herd of roughly 40 head, arrived at the ranch in the fall of 1933 after being driven up from Ashcroft, via Kamloops. Most of this herd included cows that had been purchased by T.D. Mitchell in the Dog Creek area along the Fraser River, before being driven south to the farm in Ashcroft where the Mitchell family was based at that time.
- According to Marge Mitchell, the original herd was first grazed on the “home property” north of Barriere as well as crown land range permit in the Leonie Lake area and the Skull Mountain (also called “Skull Hill”) and Fish Trap Creek areas across the North Thompson from Barriere and south to Fishtrap Creek.
- Asked about when the Mitchell Ranch first began to use high country grazing areas around Harp Mountain, Marge indicated that sheep had been grazed there first, but that the Mitchell Ranch first used this area for summer and fall cattle grazing beginning in 1966 when it was opened up for cattle Marge noted that there was lots of very good grazing up in the alpine, and lower parts of Harp Mountain.
- The Harp Mountain grazing areas were first reached by driving the cattle from the home property, south along the highway, through Barriere, up the East Lake, then the North Barriere Lake Road to North Barriere Lake. From here a road was established over an old pack trail for 4 1/2 miles along the lake and a very basic switchback road for 8 1/2 miles up to the alpine part of Harp Mountain. Some of the routes have changed as logging roads began to penetrate the Harp Mountain area. Ian Mitchell also explained that several trails were cut out by Mitchell family and hired hands, so the access points and routes changed over time.
- Ian also noted that an old trail (used by the Hudson’s Bay Brigades as well as many locals) connected the Adams Lake/Barriere lakes area to Canoe to the northeast, running along the east side of Harp Mountain. Asked if any of the Mitchell’s had ever encountered First Nations people (or any evidence of ancient First Nations camps or other evidence of land use) in the course of their times spent with their cattle in the proposed mines site area and around Harp Mountain, Ian indicated that they never encountered First Nations using these areas.
- Marge and Ian both indicated that there was one cabin built and used regularly by their ranch hands that would stay up on site with the cattle. They also indicated that there should be evidence of temporary tent camps and other areas where ranch hands and cowboys would have made a fire, erected a tent camp, or stopped for a rest, leaving behind some physical evidence of their presence. The most obvious evidence would be in the form of rock fire pits, old tin cans, burnt areas, old firewood piles, remains of horse corrals or tethering places, blazed trees, and so on.
- It was noted by the interviewers that a recent survey of Harp Mountain by an archaeological consulting firm had found two rock features and the remains of a corral. Ian and Marge indicated that these are the remains of an old line camp used by Mitchell cowboys over the years and that this location was used every year up until fairly recently. Ian indicated that it was, in fact, an old camp site

- used regularly by Mitchell Ranch hand, Harry Hagan, who spent much time in the Harp Mountain area tending the herd.
- Asked about how many head of cattle the Mitchell's graze in the Harp Mountain range, Ian indicated that this is regulated by the B.C. Forest Service's Range Division and changes from time to time. The current grazing permit for the Mitchell Ranch is at about 300 head. The cattle do not have to be watched over on a regular basis, but are monitored on a regular schedule and are provided with salt licks as required. Ian noted that the cows are quite capable of finding their own way down the mountain, but are stopped by a cattle guard placed at a strategic point along the North Barriere Lake road. This is the point where the herd is trucked to these days and also where they are loaded into trucks for return to the home property at the end of the grazing season in the high country.
 - Ian also noted that the general time of year and the length of cattle grazing by the Mitchell Ranch at Harp Mountain, is from mid-July to about the end of September.
 - When asked about other observed or known land-uses in the Harp Mountain area, both Ian and Marge noted that there are a couple of trappers of fur-bearing animals in the area. It was also noted that ATVs and snowmobiles use of the area is ongoing. This has caused a lot of environmental damage that impacts their traditional cattle grazing areas.

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Includes interviews with Glen Heyes, Phil Youwe, and David Borth (with the kind permission of Lorne Hammond and Robert Griffin).

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