From: Bernard Johnson 17-07-11 3:39 PM
Subject:The Yukons Aviation Review is Irrational
To: George@yukonflying.com

Hi George;

I am going to send you 3 emails (I can't get more than 2 or 3 photos per email) with photos of the recent forest fire on Eldorado Creek, just south of Dawson. The photos show a small airstrip built and maintained by the local placer miners on Eldorado Creek. Yearly maintenance consists primarily of mowing the grass and willows 3 times a year (about 15 gallons of gas consumption).

This landing area was used as a staging area for the helicopters and fire crew equipment and trucks for the 2 weeks necessary to extinguish the fire. At $2600 per hour, the money saved by operating the helicopters from this site would have more than payed for both the building and the maintenance of the strip since it's inception.

This site has also been used by helicopters on numerous other occasions for both fire purposes and exploration purposes.

How anybody can recommend that airstrips should be closed and abandoned because of "negligible activity " is beyond comprehension. Saying that there are alternative airstrips 15 or 50 miles away is not acceptable. All these insignificant strips form a vital part of the "Yukon's Aviation Insurance Policy" for times of aviation need, whether it be a forest fire or just a place for an emergency landing. Having them available for recreational purposes is just a bonus.

If I get a government contract, I am required to pay to have many millions of dollars worth of insurance policies in place. All in the hope that I will never need to collect on it. Insurance is one of the biggest business expenses for my company, even though I hopefully will never need to get a penny back from the expense. The cost of maintaining basic flat clear areas for airplanes to use is no different.

I am presently up to my eyeballs with work, and don't have the time nor the email addresses to send this to the appropriate government personnel. Could I please get you to forward these emails to someone who might have influence in this matter. Maybe you can figure out how to get all the photos in one email, shrink their size or something.

Sincerely, Bernard Johnson, Director, Beron Placers Company Ltd.
(someone who is more than grateful to the fire crew that showed up to install sprinklers over his camp on Eldorado Creek, even though it subsequently was not used!)