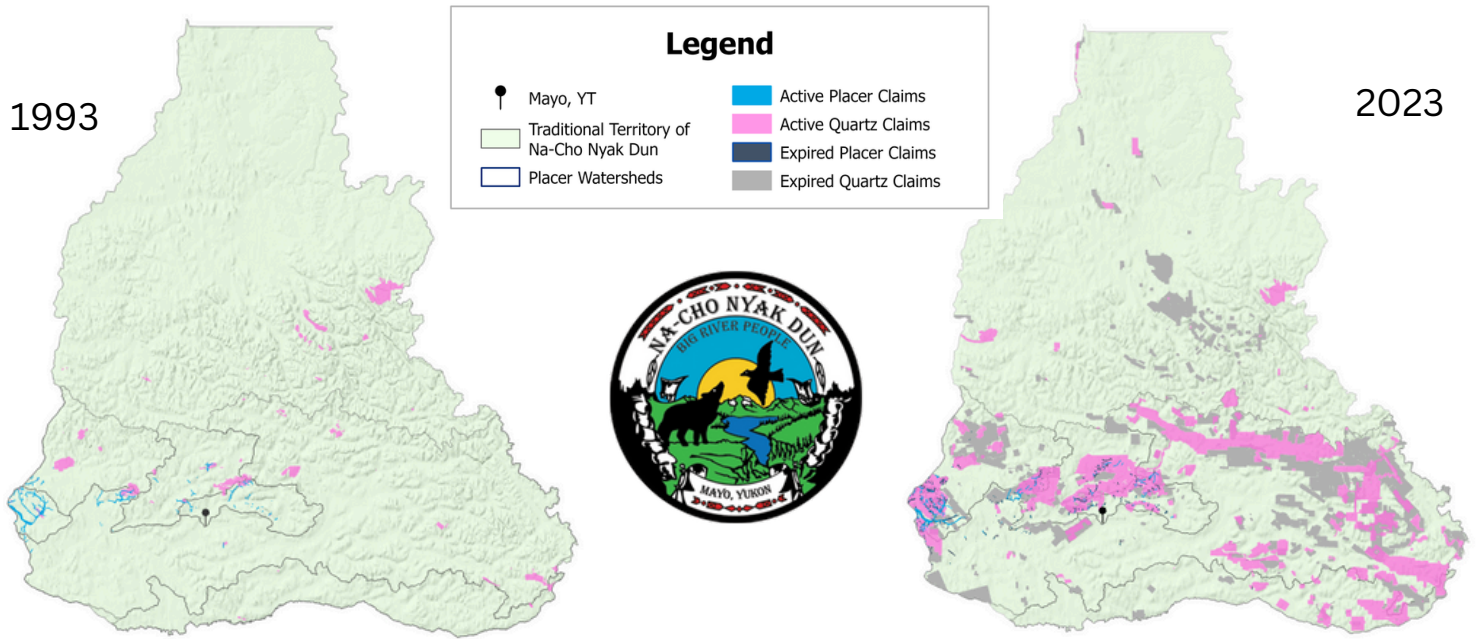


Free Entry Mineral Staking in the Traditional Territory of Na-cho Nyäk Dun

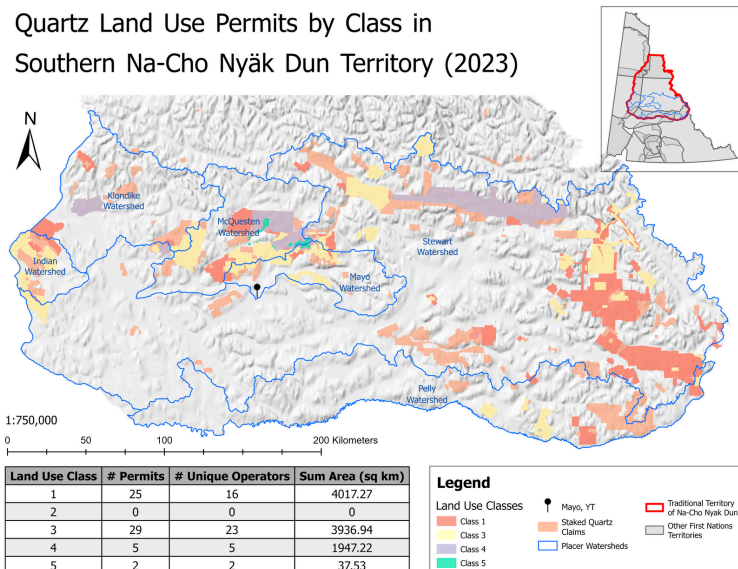
By Razz Routly, Supervised by Murray Richardson

In the 30 years since the Na-cho Nyäk Dun's Final Agreement was signed, the system of free-entry quartz and placer claim staking has led to the proliferation of mineral claims and development within the traditional territory. Claims can be staked by anyone over the age of 18 for a cost of \$10 by physically going to the site, clearing brush and planting stakes along the center line. No permission, assessment, or notice is required to be obtained from the nation ahead of time, violating the informed consent of the nation. The figure below shows the dramatic difference in area affected by the free-entry staking system between 1993 and 2023.



In addition to the issues of consent and self-governance surrounding free-entry staking, the broader system of quartz and placer land use licensing also needs to be addressed. Yukon has 4 types of Placer classes and 5 types of Quartz classes, with higher numbers indicating greater environmental impact. The figures below show the extent of mineral land use permits in the territory by watershed for 2023, and tabulates the total area, number of permits, and the number of unique operators involved at each regulatory level.

Quartz Land Use Permits by Class in Southern Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Territory (2023)



Placer Land Use Permits by Class in South-Western Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Territory (2023)

