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**North Shore Productions
The National Park Service**

"WHERE RIVERS MEET:
The Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve"

Final Script

"WHERE RIVERS MEET:
The Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

FADE IN:

1. A montage of aerial scenes, fading one into the other, that convey a sense of the Preserve's vast, rugged, remote frontier -- the broad Yukon meandering through high bluffs, stunning cliffs and heavily forested hills, the isolated, stream-cut valleys of the Charley, and beautiful unspoiled tributaries like the Nation and Kandik rivers.

MUSIC: Sounds and sound effects that capture the spirit of place **UP AND UNDER**

NARRATOR: (VOICE OVER)

THE YUKON.

... A NAME KNOWN

'ROUND THE WORLD.

FOR SHEER WILDERNESS,

RUGGED ADVENTURE,

GOLD, AND GRIZZLIES.

THE YUKON-CHARLEY

RIVERS NATIONAL

PRESERVE ...

PROTECTS TWO-AND-A-HALF

MILLION ACRES HERE ...

2. SUPERIMPOSE TITLE over an awesomely gorgeous scene.

TITLE: WHERE RIVERS MEET
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

... IN THE HEART OF THE
 WILD.

MUSIC UP AND OUT

dissolve to:

3. A sequence of spectacular rock formations that grace the Yukon within the Park boundaries, beginning about ten miles downriver from Eagle: Calico Bluff with spectacular folds and faults (around 10 miles); Limestone Hogback around the next bend (around 15 miles) ; the arches of Tahkandit Limestone (around 45 miles); the volcanic McGregor Bluff (around 100 miles, near to Slaven's; spires of Takoma Bluff (around 120 miles, near Circle).

A JOURNEY ON THESE RIVERS
 PASSES THROUGH AN
 ANCIENT LANDSCAPE.

NEARLY 800 MILLION YEARS
 OF GEOLOGIC HISTORY ARE
 EXPOSED IN A DIVERSE,
 UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL
 ARRAY OF ROCK
 FORMATIONS:

STUNNING CLIFFS,

VOLCANIC BLUFFS,
HOGBACKS, GRACEFUL
ARCHES, CASTLE-LIKE
SPIRES ...

... IN SHADES RANGING FROM
PALE ORANGE TO YELLOW-
GREEN TO BLACK.

4. An aerial over the Tintina Fault.

THE TINTINA FAULT
DIVIDES THE PARK INTO
TWO DISTINCT GEOLOGIC
AREAS.
ON ONE SIDE ... ONLY ON
THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE
FAULT ...
POCKETS OF GOLD
WERE FORMED AND
TRAPPED.

MUSIC: Period music from the Gold Rush
era **UP AND UNDER**

dissolve to:

5. A sequence of archival stills that depict the Gold Rush era in the Yukon.

NARRATOR: (VOICE OVER)

GOLD WAS DISCOVERED

HERE IN 1892 ...

FIVE YEARS BEFORE

THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH.

MINERS ... MEN AND WOMEN

... FLOODED TO THE YUKON

TO STAKE THEIR CLAIMS.

SOME OF THE RICHEST

PLACER DEPOSITS IN ALASKA

WERE FOUND IN THESE

PARTS.

6. Doug Beckstead is on camera, at the remains of an abandoned mining cabin or at the Coal Creek Dredge.

DOUG BECKSTEAD: (on camera)

[He talks about how those days were romantic and colorful, but placer mining was also back-breaking work.]

[There were more than 500 claims between Coal Creek and Woodchopper Creeks, but the people who really made it rich were the investors and the people selling supplies. Abandoned cabins throughout the Preserve are the visible signs of many broken dreams.]

7. Archival images of a woman miner whose story Doug tells.

DOUG BECKSTEAD: (VOICE OVER)

[Perhaps he tells the story of one remarkable woman miner and says how some actually played more significant roles than men ...]

dissolve to:

8. The Coal Creek Dredge -- wide shots that show the whole of it, then closeups of some fascinating elements.

[He tells how placer mining was mechanized by giant dredges that could process as much gravel in a day as a miner could do in a year.]

match dissolve to:

9. A series of photographs that show reassembling the Dredge, ending with the scene today.

[He mentions how the Coal Creek Dredge came from San Francisco and was reassembled on site.

In 25 years of operation, this dredge earned two investment companies the equivalent of nearly 60 million in today's dollars.]

SFX: Toot of a steam whistle

dissolve to:

10. Archival stills or film footage of some of the famous historic Yukon paddle steamers, like *The Sarah*, *The Susie*, and *The Nenana*.

MUSIC: Period piece **UP AND UNDER**

NARRATOR: (VOICE OVER)
DURING THE HEYDAY OF THE
GOLD RUSH ...
... MORE THAN TWO DOZEN
PADDLE STEAMERS
PLIED THE YUKON.

11. Archival film or photographs of Slaven's and possibly other roadhouses.

ROADHOUSES WERE BUILT
EVERY 20 MILES OR SO ...
ABOUT A DAY'S TRAVEL ...
ALONG THE RIVER.

... AND HAD A DISTINCTLY
ALASKA FLAVOR.

12. A sepia-tone photograph of Judge Wickersham.

ACCORDING TO ONE
FREQUENT VISITOR, THE
TRAVELING JUDGE
JAMES WICKERSHAM, ...

13. Archival photographs of roadhouses and possibly customers.

(Narrator changes style to the voice of a character:)

"Stew was prepared in a large kerosene can. Rabbit stew always simmered. As the hungry guests reduced its contents, more water, rabbit, caribou, bear or lynx was added. We ate it and paid two dollars each meal for it."

MUSIC UP AND OUT

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To see the complete script, contact me at matrazzo@msn.com
