



# Dredging for Gold NOME, ALASKA

In 2013, Cashman took on the unique challenge of digging for gold in Alaska. After extensive planning, it was decided to use the *Jay Cashman* dredge retrofitted with a wash plant. The remote location of Nome, AK was selected, and the task of transportation was sorted out before mobilization began in July. After arrival in Alaska, operations began in late August.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- The *Jay Cashman* dredge was stripped down the excavator and spud winches and the team installed a four-point anchor system, a 10-inch pump, two new auxiliary generators below deck, and an entire wash plant system for catching gold, including another 400-kw generator to power it.
- Material is dumped into a receiving hopper and washed across a shaking screen while getting hit with a high-pressure spray system. The material that passes through the screen is then in a slurry and flows down a channel lined with a carpet that collects the gold.
- Remoteness and exposure of the area left little room for mistake. It was imperative to keep the systems simple and have plenty of spare parts available.
- Once digging began, we quickly learned of new problem areas on the wash plant. Backups and clogs occurred, and we needed to address the design of the wash plant to improve digging efficiency. We added spray bars, redesigned grizzly bars, modified discharge chutes, and completed dozens of other changes to the screening plant.

Location:	Nome, AK
Contractor:	Liberty Mining (A Cashman JV)
Contract Dates:	2013
Wash Plant:	MSI Gold Mining Equipment

