

Montana Water Court  
PO Box 1389  
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389  
(406) 586-4364  
1-800-624-3270  
watercourt@mt.gov

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

41H-0399-R-2021

December 29, 2021

Montana Water Court

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION  
GALLATIN RIVER BASIN (41H)  
PRELIMINARY DECREE

\*\*\*\*\*

CLAIMANTS: Henderson Place LLC; Frank W. Morgan; TO  
LLC

**CASE 41H-0399-R-2021**  
41H 138778-00  
41H 138780-00  
41H 138717-00

**NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT**

This Master's Report was filed with the Clerk of the Montana Water Court. Please review this Report carefully.

You may file a written objection to this Master's Report if you disagree or find errors with the Master's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, or Recommendations. The above stamped date indicates the date this Master's Report was filed and sent. Rule 23 of the Water Right Adjudication Rules requires written objections to a Master's Report be filed within **10 days** of the date of the Master's Report. If this Master's Report was mailed to you, Rule 6(d) of the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure provides an additional 3 days to the 10-day objection period.

If you file an objection, you must mail a copy of the objection to all parties on the Service List found at the end of this Master's Report. The original objection and a certificate of mailing to all parties on the Service List must be filed with the Water Court. *If you do not file a timely objection, the Water Court will conclude that you agree with the content of this Master's Report.*

## MASTER'S REPORT

Claim 41H 138778-00 is a domestic groundwater claim and claim 41H 138780-00 is a stock groundwater claim owned by Henderson Place LLC. Claim 41H 138717-00 is a filed stock claim owned by Henderson Place LLC, TO LLC, and Frank W. Morgan. The claims appeared in the Preliminary Decree for Basin 41H (Gallatin) with Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) issue remarks. The claims were consolidated into Water Court Case 41H-0399-R-2021.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

#### **Claims 41H 138778-00 and 138780-00**

1. Claim 138778-00 received the following issue remark:

THE TYPE OF HISTORICAL RIGHT MAY BE QUESTIONABLE. DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED WITH THE CLAIM INDICATES A FILED APPROPRIATED RIGHT.

2. The Statement of Claim for claim 41H 138778-00 includes an attached Notice of Vested Groundwater Rights. The Notice provides that the groundwater well is used for both domestic and stock purposes. The well has a priority date of 1900 and a flow rate of 10 gpm.

3. Accordingly, claim 41H 138778-00 is a filed right, not a use right.

4. Additionally, claims 41H 138778-00 and 138780-00 received an issue remark stating that the claims may be multiple uses of one another.

5. The claims both rely on the same Notice of Vested Groundwater Rights in their Statements of Claim. Both claims are filed rights. In addition, both claims have the same priority date and flow rate.

6. Furthermore, the following multiple use remark should be added to claims 41H 138778-00 and 41H 138780-00:

THE WATER RIGHTS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE MULTIPLE USES OF THE SAME RIGHT. THE USE OF THIS RIGHT FOR SEVERAL PURPOSES DOES NOT INCREASE THE EXTENT OF THE WATER RIGHT. RATHER IT DECREES THE RIGHT TO ALTERNATE AND EXCHANGE THE USE (PURPOSE) OF THE WATER IN ACCORD WITH HISTORICAL PRACTICES.

## **Claim 41H 138717**

7. Claim 41H 138717-00 received an issue remark stating the source name was modified as a result of DNRC examination. No objections were filed to the modifications.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Montana Water Court has the authority to resolve issue remarks when the claim file and information available to the Court provide a sufficient basis to do so. Section 85-2-248(3), MCA.

2. A properly filed Statement of Claim for Existing Water Right is prima facie proof of its content. Section 85-2-227, MCA. This prima facie proof may be contradicted and overcome by other evidence that proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that an element of the prima facie claim is incorrect. This is the burden of proof for every assertion that a claim is incorrect. Rule 19, W.R.Adj.R.

3. The degree or weight of evidence needed to contradict or overcome the prima facie proof statute is a preponderance of the evidence. *Burkhartsmeier et al. v. Burkhartsmeier et al.*, Case 40G-2, (MT Water Court Memorandum Opinion and Order Adopting Master's Report, Mar. 11, 1997). The Montana Supreme Court has defined preponderance as "a relatively modest standard that the statutory criteria are 'more probable than not' to have been met." *Hohenlohe v. State*, 2010 MT 203 ¶ 33, 357 Mont. 438, 240 P.3d 628.

4. The Montana Water Court is permitted to use information submitted by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the statement of claim, information from approved compacts, and any other data obtained by the Court to evaluate water right claims. Section 85-2-231(2), MCA.

5. The issues raised by issue remarks must be resolved as part of the adjudication process pursuant to Section 85-2-248, MCA.

6. When resolving issue remarks, the Montana Water Court must weigh the information resulting in the issue remark and the issue remark against the claimed water right. Section 85-2-247(2), MCA.

7. For the above-mentioned reasons, the claims in this case should be modified to accurately reflect historical use of the rights; the issue remarks to all claims have been resolved.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the changes recommended above in the Findings of Fact should be adopted for claims 41H 138778-00, 41H 138780-00 and 41H 138717-00.

Post Decree Abstracts of Water Rights Claim are served with this Report to confirm that the recommendations have been made in the State's centralized water right record system.

---

Julia J. Nordlund  
Senior Water Master

#### **Service via USPS Mail:**

Henderson Place LLC  
1300 Mount Ellis Ln  
Bozeman, MT 59715-9249

Frank W. Morgan  
1300 Mount Ellis Ln  
Bozeman, MT 59715-9249

TO LLC  
27600 Rocky Mountain Rd  
Belgrade, MT 59714

**WATER COURT  
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM  
GALLATIN RIVER  
BASIN 41H**

**Water Right Number:** 41H 138717-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

**Version:** 3 -- POST DECREE

**Status:** ACTIVE

**Owners:**

FRANK W MORGAN  
1300 MOUNT ELLIS LN  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715 9249

HENDERSON PLACE LLC  
1300 MOUNT ELLIS LN  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715 9249

TO LLC  
27600 ROCKY MOUNTAIN RD  
BELGRADE, MT 59714

**Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1887

**Type of Historical Right:** FILED

**Purpose (Use):** STOCK

**Flow Rate:** A SPECIFIC FLOW RATE HAS NOT BEEN DECREED BECAUSE THIS USE CONSISTS OF STOCK DRINKING DIRECTLY FROM THE SOURCE, OR FROM A DITCH SYSTEM. THE FLOW RATE IS LIMITED TO THE MINIMUM AMOUNT HISTORICALLY NECESSARY TO SUSTAIN THIS PURPOSE.

**Volume:** THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF WATER CONSUMPTIVELY USED FOR STOCK WATERING PURPOSES AT THE RATE OF 30 GALLONS PER DAY PER ANIMAL UNIT. ANIMAL UNITS SHALL BE BASED ON REASONABLE CARRYING CAPACITY AND HISTORICAL USE OF THE AREA SERVICED BY THIS WATER SOURCE.

**Source Name:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF DRY CREEK

**Source Type:** SURFACE WATER

SPRING HYDROLOGICALLY RELATED TO SOURCE.

**Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		SEENW	23	2N	4E	GALLATIN

**Period of Diversion:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Diversion Means:** LIVESTOCK DIRECT FROM SOURCE

**Period of Use:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Place of Use:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1			SEENW	23	2N	4E	GALLATIN

**WATER COURT  
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM  
GALLATIN RIVER  
BASIN 41H**

**Water Right Number:** 41H 138778-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM  
**Version:** 3 -- POST DECREE  
**Status:** ACTIVE

**Owners:** HENDERSON PLACE LLC  
1300 MOUNT ELLIS LN  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715 9249

**Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1900

**Type of Historical Right:** FILED

**Purpose (Use):** DOMESTIC

**Flow Rate:** 10.00 GPM

**Volume:** 2.60 AC-FT

**Households:** 2

**Maximum Acres:** 0.50

**Source Name:** GROUNDWATER

**Source Type:** GROUNDWATER

**Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		SENWNE	12	3N	4E	GALLATIN

**Period of Diversion:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Diversion Means:** WELL

**Period of Use:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Place of Use:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1	0.50		SENWNE	12	3N	4E	GALLATIN

**Total:** 0.50

---

**Remarks:**

THE WATER RIGHTS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE MULTIPLE USES OF THE SAME RIGHT. THE USE OF THIS RIGHT FOR SEVERAL PURPOSES DOES NOT INCREASE THE EXTENT OF THE WATER RIGHT. RATHER IT DECREES THE RIGHT TO ALTERNATE AND EXCHANGE THE USE (PURPOSE) OF THE WATER IN ACCORD WITH HISTORICAL PRACTICES.

138778-00      138780-00

**WATER COURT  
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM  
GALLATIN RIVER  
BASIN 41H**

**Water Right Number:** 41H 138780-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

**Version:** 3 -- POST DECREE

**Status:** ACTIVE

**Owners:** HENDERSON PLACE LLC  
1300 MOUNT ELLIS LN  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715 9249

**Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1900

**Type of Historical Right:** FILED

**Purpose (Use):** STOCK

**Flow Rate:** 10.00 GPM

**Volume:** THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF WATER CONSUMPTIVELY USED FOR STOCK WATERING PURPOSES AT THE RATE OF 30 GALLONS PER DAY PER ANIMAL UNIT. ANIMAL UNITS SHALL BE BASED ON REASONABLE CARRYING CAPACITY AND HISTORICAL USE OF THE AREA SERVICED BY THIS WATER SOURCE.

**Source Name:** GROUNDWATER

**Source Type:** GROUNDWATER

**Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		SEWN	12	3N	4E	GALLATIN

**Period of Diversion:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Diversion Means:** WELL

**Period of Use:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Place of Use:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1			SEWN	12	3N	4E	GALLATIN

---

**Remarks:**

THE WATER RIGHTS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE MULTIPLE USES OF THE SAME RIGHT. THE USE OF THIS RIGHT FOR SEVERAL PURPOSES DOES NOT INCREASE THE EXTENT OF THE WATER RIGHT. RATHER IT DECREES THE RIGHT TO ALTERNATE AND EXCHANGE THE USE (PURPOSE) OF THE WATER IN ACCORD WITH HISTORICAL PRACTICES.

138778-00      138780-00