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

**ELECTRONICALLY FILED** 

43P-0237-P-2019

November 28, 2022

Montana Water Court

### IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA YELLOWSTONE DIVISION BIGHORN RIVER, BELOW GREYBULL RIVER (43P)

CLAIMANTS: Big Horn Low Line Ditch Co.; Webber Farms Inc.

OBJECTORS: United States of America (Bureau of Indian

Affairs); Apsaalooke (Crow) Tribe; Timothy A.

Webber

CASE 43P-0237-P-2019

43P 165-00 43P 20997-00

**Implied Claim** 43P 30155759

#### ORDER AMENDING AND ADOPTING MASTER'S REPORT

Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated, § 85-2-233(5), the above entitled case was assigned to Water Master Nathan Block. The Water Master filed a report containing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law with the Clerk of Court. Copies of the report were served upon the parties on November 4, 2022. On November 10, 2022, the United States filed an Objection to the Master's Report concerning an error on the abstract for claim 43P 20997-00 attached to the Master's Report.

Specifically, claim 43P 20997-00 should be described as a 'statement of claim' instead of a 'reserved claim' and the remark placed on the claim should be corrected to the following:

A TOTAL OF UP TO 5,062.55 ACRES MAY BE IRRIGATED DURING ANY GIVEN IRRIGATION SEASON WITHIN THE HISTORICAL SERVICE AREA DESCRIBED IMMEDIATELY ABOVE.

The Court has reviewed the Water Master's Findings and Conclusions. Pursuant to Rule 53(e), Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court **ADOPTS** the Master's Report with the above referenced modifications.

Stephen Brown
Associate Water Judge

#### Service via USPS Mail:

Timothy A. Webber RR 1 Box 1103 Hardin, Montana 59034

Robert W. Snively Robert W. Snively, P.C. 802 W. Third St. P.O. Box 313 Hardin, MT 59034 (406) 665-5111

#### Service via Electronic Mail:

Bradley Bridgewater, Attorney Samuel D. Gollis, Attorney David W. Harder, Attorney Katherine M. Kane, Attorney U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division **Indian Resources Section** 999 18th Street, South Terrace Suite 370 Denver, CO 80202 (303) 844-1359 (303) 844-1351 (303) 844-1372 (303) 844-1378 bradley.s.bridgewater@usdoj.gov samuel.gollis@usdoj.gov david.harder@usdoj.gov katherine.kane@usdoj.gov Efile\_Denver.enrd@usdoj.gov

Nathan A. Espeland, Esq. Espeland Law Office, PLLC PO Box 1470 Columbus, MT 59019 (406) 322-9877 espelandnathan@gmail.com

#### **POST DECREE**

#### ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

### BIGHORN RIVER, BELOW GREYBULL RIVER

**BASIN 43P** 

Water Right Number: 43P 165-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

**Status: DISMISSED** 

Owners: WEBBER FARMS INC

% DARELL R WEBBER

RT 1 BOX 1103

HARDIN, MT 59034 9713

**Priority Date:** 

**Type of Historical Right:** 

Purpose (use): IRRIGATION

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: WASTE & SEEPAGE, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BIGHORN RIVER

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

#### Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

#### **POST DECREE**

#### ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

# BIGHORN RIVER, BELOW GREYBULL RIVER BASIN 43P

Water Right Number: 43P 20997-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: BIG HORN LOW LINE DITCH CO

% BECKY TORSKE 208 N CENTER HARDIN, MT 59034

Priority Date: NOVEMBER 2, 1907

Type of Historical Right: FILED

Purpose (use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

**Flow Rate:** 191.75 CFS

Volume: THE TOTAL VOLUME OF THIS WATER RIGHT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 1 - HIGH

Maximum Acres: 5,062.55

Source Name: BIGHORN RIVER

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

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 SWNESW 34 1N 33E BIG HORN

**Period of Diversion:** MARCH 15 TO NOVEMBER 15

**Diversion Means:** HEADGATE

Ditch Name: BIG HORN LOW LINE CANAL
Period of Use: MARCH 15 TO NOVEMBER 15

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u>	<b>Acres</b>	Govt Lot	<b>Qtr Sec</b>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	Rge	<b>County</b>
1				2	1N	33E	BIG HORN
2			NE	3	1N	33E	BIG HORN
3			NW	3	1N	33E	BIG HORN
4			SE	3	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
5			SE	9	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
6				10	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
7			NW	11	1N	33E	BIG HORN
8			N2N2	15	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
9			SE	21	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
10			SW	22	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
11			N2	27	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
12			NE	28	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>

13	NW	34	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
14	NW	1	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
15		2	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
16	E2	10	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
17		11	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
18		14	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
19	S2	15	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
20		22	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
21	NW	23	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
22	S2	23	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
23	W2	24	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
24	NW	25	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
25		26	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
26		27	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
27	E2	28	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
28		34	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
29		35	2N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
30	SE	35	3N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
31	SW	36	3N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>

A TOTAL OF UP TO 5,062.55 ACRES MAY BE IRRIGATED DURING ANY GIVEN IRRIGATION SEASON WITHIN THE HISTORICAL SERVICE AREA DESCRIBED IMMEDIATELY ABOVE.

#### Remarks:

IMPLIED CLAIM NO. 43P 30155759 WAS AUTHORIZED AND GENERATED BASED ON INFORMATION IN THIS CLAIM.

A PORTION OF THE WATER RIGHT INCLUDED IN THIS CLAIM IS USED FOR IRRIGATING LAWNS AND GARDENS WITHIN THE CLAIMED PLACE OF USE AND WITHIN THE CLAIMED FLOW RATE.

CLAIMANT ADDITIONALLY DIVERTS AND CONVEYS WATER OWNED BY THE BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT UNDER THE WATER RIGHTS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT THROUGH THE BIG HORN LOW LINE CANAL TO IRRIGATE 39.40 POST-1973 EXPANSION ACRES OWNED BY CLAIMANT'S SHAREHOLDERS AND SITUATED WITHIN CLAIMANT'S SERVICE AREA.

Water Right Number:

#### POST DECREE

#### ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

## BIGHORN RIVER, BELOW GREYBULL RIVER BASIN 43P

Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

Status: ACTIVE

43P 30155759 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Owners: BIG HORN LOW LINE DITCH CO

% BECKY TORSKE 208 N CENTER HARDIN, MT 59034

Priority Date: MAY 7, 1868

Type of Historical Right: RESERVED

THIS WATER RIGHT IS A WALTON RIGHT.

THIS WATER RIGHT IS NOT PART OF THE TRIBAL WATER RIGHT AS DEFINED IN

THE CROW COMPACT.

Purpose (use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 15.63 CFS

Volume: THE TOTAL VOLUME OF THIS WATER RIGHT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 1 - HIGH

Maximum Acres: 412.55

Source Name: BIGHORN RIVER

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

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 SWNESW 34 1N 33E BIG HORN

**Period of Diversion:** MARCH 15 TO NOVEMBER 15

**Diversion Means:** HEADGATE

Ditch Name: BIG HORN LOW LINE CANAL
Period of Use: MARCH 15 TO NOVEMBER 15

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	Govt Lot	<b>Qtr Sec</b>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<b>County</b>
1	52.80		N2SE	9	1N	33E	BIG HORN
2	68.25		S2NE	10	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
3	66.60		N2SE	10	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
4	71.50		N2SW	10	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
5	26.70		N2SW	11	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
6	6.00	2	SWNE	15	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
7	65.20		S2NW	15	1N	33E	<b>BIG HORN</b>
8	28.60		N2SW	15	1N	33E	BIG HORN

9 <u>26.90</u> E2NE 16 1N 33E BIG HORN Total: 412.55

Remarks:

THIS IMPLIED CLAIM WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE WATER COURT BASED ON INFORMATION IN CLAIM NO. 43P 20997-00.

A PORTION OF THE WATER RIGHT INCLUDED IN THIS CLAIM IS USED FOR IRRIGATING LAWNS AND GARDENS WITHIN THE CLAIMED PLACE OF USE AND WITHIN THE CLAIMED FLOW RATE.