Montana Water Court PO Box 1389 Bozeman, MT 59771-1389 1-800-624-3270 (406) 586-4364 watercourt@mt.gov FILE D 07/16/2024 Sara Calkins CLERK Montana Water Court STATE OF MONTANA By: D'Ann CIGLER 41K-0455-R-2023 White, Eugene 5.00

## IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION SUN RIVER BASIN (41K) PRELIMINARY DECREE

CLAIMANTS: Danielle M. Neal; Lloyd Neal

CASE 41K-0455-R-2023 41K 10764-00 41K 10765-00 41K 10766-00 41K 10767-00 41K 10769-00 41K 10774-00

## NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT

This Master's Report was filed with the Montana Water Court on the above stamped date. <u>Please review this report carefully.</u>

You may file a written objection to this Master's Report within **10 days** of the stamped date if you disagree or find errors with the Master's findings of fact, conclusions of law, or recommendations. Rule 23, W.R.Adj.R. If the Master's Report was mailed to you, the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure allow an additional 3 days be added to the 10-day objection period. Rule 6(d), M.R.Civ.P. If you file an objection, you must serve a copy of the objection to all parties on the service list found at the end of the 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**

All water right claims that appeared in the Preliminary Decree for Sun River (Basin 41K) were subject to "issue remarks" resulting from pre-decree examination by

the DNRC, objections, and counterobjections. The above-captioned claims received issue remarks during the DNRC's review of the claims.

The claims were consolidated into Case 41K-0455-R-2023 and an Order requiring the Claimants to work with the DNRC was issued by the Water Court to resolve the issue remarks.

# FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Claim 41K 10764-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

THE CLAIMS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT MAY BE A MULTIPLE USE OF THE SAME RIGHT. THESE CLAIMS MAY NEED A MULTIPLE USE REMARK. 41K 10764-00, 41K 10774-00.

THE CLAIMED PRIORITY DATE MAY BE QUESTIONABLE. THE PRIORITY DATE ON THE SUBMITTED DECLARATION OF VESTED GROUNWATER RIGHTS IS 1870.

Claim 41K 10765-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

IT APPEARS POINT OF DIVERSION NO. 2 MAY BE INCORRECT. THE EXISTENCE OF A HEADGATE CANNOT BE CONFIRMED FROM AVAILABLE DATA.

Claim 41K 10766-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

IT APPEARS POINT OF DIVERSION NO. 2 MAY BE INCORRECT. THE EXISTENCE OF A HEADGATE CANNOT BE CONFIRMED FROM AVAILABLE DATA.

Claim 41K 10767-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

IT APPEARS POINT OF DIVERSION NO. 2 MAY BE INCORRECT. THE EXISTENCE OF A HEADGATE CANNOT BE CONFIRMED FROM AVAILABLE DATA.

POINT OF DIVERSION NO. 3 APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT. THE POINT OF DIVERSION APPEARS TO BE IN THE SENESW SEC 33 TWP 21N RGE 7W LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY.

Claim 41K 10769-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

THE POINT OF DIVERSION APPEARS TO BE INCORRECT. THE POINT OF DIVERSION APPEARS TO BE IN THE SENESW SEC 33 TWP 21N RGE 7W LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY.

Claim 41K 10774-00 received the following substantive issue remarks:

THIS CLAIM SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A FLOW RATE QUANTIFICATION IN THE TEMPORARY PRELIMINARY DECREE. THE CLAIMANT CLAIMED A FLOW RATE OF

## 15.00 GPM.

## THE FLOW RATE IS MISSING.

# THE CLAIMS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT MAY BE A MULTIPLE USE OF THE SAME RIGHT. THESE CLAIMS MAY NEED A MULTIPLE USE REMARK. 41K 10764-00, 41K 10774-00.

2. On September 14, 2023, the Court consolidated the claims and issued an order requiring the Claimants to work with the DNRC to address and resolve the issue remarks.

3. On November 17, 2023, DNRC Water Resource Specialist Dixie Brough

filed a Memorandum pursuant to the Court's September 14, 2023 Order Requiring DNRC

Conference. In her Memo, Ms. Brough notes that at the time of filing, the DNRC had

received no contact or information from the Claimants. Ms. Brough goes on to state that

the DNRC makes the following recommendation to resolve the issue remarks appearing

on claims 41K 10764-00 and 41K 10774-00:

Claim 41K 10764-00:

Based on the above discussion, DNRC recommends the priority date be modified to 12/31/1870, and the priority date issue remark be removed as it is resolved.

## Claim 41K 10774-00:

Based on the above discussion, DNRC recommends the flow rate be corrected to 15.00 gallons per minute (gpm), and the FRIS and G10 flow rate issue remarks be removed as they are now resolved.

Claims 41K 10764-00 and 41K 10774-00:

After the priority date and flow rate are corrected for Claims 41K 10764-00 and 41K 10774-00, the DNRC recommends the Multiple Use claims be added to the related rights tab in the DNRC database, and the M20 issue remarks be removed as they are now resolved.

4. On April 23, 2024, the Court set a filing deadline for the claimants to file information or evidence if they disagreed with either the recommendations made by the DNRC, or the proposed modifications found in the issue remarks. Nothing was filed by the ordered deadline.

5. The April 23, 2024, Order Setting Filing Deadline included the following language:

ORDERED that the Claimants review this order and, *if necessary*, file information or evidence addressing the point of diversion issue remarks appearing on claims 41K 10765-00, 41K 10766-00, 41K 10767-00, and 41K 10769-00 or otherwise contact the Court by **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**. *If nothing is filed by the ordered deadline, this Water Master will conclude that the Claimants believe the point of diversion No. 2 for claims 41K 10765-00, 41K 10766-00, 41K 10766-00, are historically accurate, no modifications to the points of diversion No. 2 will be made to the claims, and the issue remarks will be removed. Further, the Court will conclude that the Claimants agree with the proposed modifications to point of diversion No. 3 for claim 41K 10767-00 and the point of diversion for claim 41K 10769-00, the point of diversion No. 3 for claim 41K 10767-00 will be modified to SENESW of Sec 33, Twp 21N, Rge 7W and the point of diversion for claim 41K 10769-00 will be modified to SENESW of Sec 33, Twp 21N, Rge 7W, and the issue remarks will be removed from the claims.* 

#### PRINCIPLES OF LAW

1. Section 85-2-248(2), MCA, requires that the Water Court resolve all issue remarks that are not resolved through the objection process. *See also* Rule 7, W.R.Adj.R.

2. The Water Court may use information submitted by the DNRC, the Statement of Claim, and any other data obtained by the Court to evaluate a water right. Sections 85-2-227, -231(2), MCA.

3. If a claimant fails to comply with an order issued by the Water Court, the Court may, upon motion or its own initiative, issue such orders of sanction with regard thereto as are just. Rule 22, W.R.Adj.R.

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. The information in the record is sufficient to resolve the substantive issue remarks appearing on claims 41K 210366-00 and 41K 210367-00. Based on the information contained Ms. Brough's *Memo*, along with the lack of response from the

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claimants, the claims should be modified as described in Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 5 and the issue remarks should be removed from the claims.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, this Water Master recommends that the Court modify the claims as described in Findings of Fact Nos. 3 and 5 and remove the issue remarks from the claims.

Post decree abstracts of the water right claims reflecting the recommended changes are attached to this Report.

# ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW.

<u>Service via USPS Mail:</u>

Danielle M. Neal Lloyd Neal P.O. Box 293 Augusta, MT 59410 \JUDHLNSRV-DATA\Share\JUDGALH2OSRV (Datavol)\Share\WC-BASIN FOLDERS\41K PD\41K Cases\455\41K-0455-R-2023 MR (multiple claims, 248 memo resolves IRs make changes per memo and remove IRs) 7-9-24 jbc.docx

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:	Water Right Number: 41K 10764-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM									
	Version:	Version: 3 POST DECREE								
		Status: ACTIVE								
Owners:	DANIELLE PO BOX 2 AUGUSTA									
	LLOYD NI PO BOX 2 AUGUSTA									
Priority Date:	DECEMBE	ER 31, 1870								
Type of Historical Right:	USE									
Purpose (Use):	DOMESTIC	DOMESTIC								
Flow Rate:	15.00 GPM	15.00 GPM								
Volume:	1.50 AC-F	1.50 AC-FT								
Households:	2									
Maximum Acres:	1.00									
Source Name:	SPRING, L	JNNAMED TRIBUTAR	YOFV	VILLOW	CREEK					
Source Type:	GROL	UNDWATER								
Point of Diversion and Me	ans of Diversion	1:								
<u>ID</u> 1	<u>Govt Lo</u>	ot <u>Qtr Sec</u> SWNWSW	<u>Sec</u> 26	<u>Twp</u> 21N	<u>Rge</u> 7W	<u>County</u> LEWIS AND CLARK				
Period of Diversion:	JANUARY	1 TO DECEMBER 31								
<b>Diversion Means:</b>	PUMP									
Period of Use:	JANUARY	1 TO DECEMBER 31								
Place of Use:										
11	<u>Cres</u> <u>Govt Lo</u> .00 .00	ot <u>Qtr Sec</u> SWNWSW	<u>Sec</u> 26	<u>Twp</u> 21N	<u>Rge</u> 7W	<u>County</u> LEWIS AND CLARK				

#### **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.

10764-00 10774-00

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:		41K 10765-00	STA	TEMENT	OF CLA	IM		
		Version: 4 -	- POS	T DECRE	E			
		Sta	atus:	ACTIVE				
Owners:		DANIELLE M N	EAL					
		PO BOX 293						
		AUGUSTA, MT	59410	)				
		LLOYD NEAL						
		PO BOX 293						
		AUGUSTA, MT	59410	)				
*Priority Date:		JUNE 1, 1903						
Type of Historical Right	nt:	FILED						
Purpose (Use):		IRRIGATION						
Irrigation Type:		FLOOD						
*Flow Rate:		1.50 CFS						
*Volume:		THE TOTAL VO					SHALL	NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT
<b>Climatic Area:</b>		5 - LOW						
*Maximum Acres:		170.00						
*Source Name:		WILLOW CREE	K, NC	RTH FOR	K			
Source Type:		SURFACE	WATE	ER				
*Point of Diversion and	Means	of Diversion:						
ID		<u>Govt Lot</u>		<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1				VSWSW	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion	:	APRIL 1 TO OC	TOBE	ER 1				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>		HEADGATE						
2				NWSW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion	:	APRIL 1 TO OC	стове	ER 1				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>		HEADGATE						
			OWNS	TREAM V	ATER I	JSERS.	THE CL	THIS RIGHT HAS NO ADVERSE IMULATIVE AMOUNT OF WATER
Period of Use:		APRIL 1 TO OC	тове	R 1				
*Place of Use:								
ID	Acres	Govt Lot		<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1	31.00	1		SWNW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
2	30.00			NWSW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
3	36.60			SENW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
4	33.90	1		NESW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK

5	_	38.50	S2S2	28	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLAR
	Total:	170.00					

#### **Remarks:**

THE WATER RIGHTS FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE SUPPLEMENTAL WHICH MEANS THE RIGHTS HAVE OVERLAPPING PLACES OF USE. THE RIGHTS CAN BE COMBINED TO IRRIGATE ONLY OVERLAPPING PARCELS. EACH RIGHT IS LIMITED TO THE FLOW RATE AND PLACE OF USE OF THAT INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. THE SUM TOTAL VOLUME OF THESE WATER RIGHTS SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

40705 00	40700 00	40770 00	40774 00
10765-00	10766-00	10770-00	10771-00
10/05-00	10100-00	10110-00	10//1-00

5

38.50

# POST DECREE ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:	4	1K 10766-00	STATEMENT	OF CLA	IM		
	V	ersion: 4	POST DECRE	E			
		Stat	tus: ACTIVE				
Owners:	D	ANIELLE M NE	EAL				
	Р	O BOX 293					
	A	UGUSTA, MT (	59410				
	L	LOYD NEAL					
	Р	O BOX 293					
	A	UGUSTA, MT	59410				
*Priority Date:	D	ECEMBER 31,	1891				
Type of Historical Rig	ht: D	ECREED					
Purpose (Use):	IF	RRIGATION					
Irrigation Type:	F	LOOD					
Flow Rate:	3.	.00 CFS					
*Volume:			LUME OF THIS L AND BENEFIC		-	SHALL	NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT
Climatic Area:	5	- LOW					
*Maximum Acres:	20	07.50					
*Source Name:	W	VILLOW CREE	K, NORTH FOR	K			
Source Type:		SURFACE	WATER				
*Point of Diversion and	Means of	Diversion:					
ID		<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	County
1			NWSWSW	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion	: A	PRIL 1 TO OC	TOBER 1				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>	Н	EADGATE					
2			NWSW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion	: A	PRIL 1 TO OC	TOBER 1				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>	Н	EADGATE					
	E	FFECT ON DC	-	ATER I	JSERS.	THE CU	THIS RIGHT HAS NO ADVERSE MULATIVE AMOUNT OF WATER S.
Period of Use:	A	PRIL 1 TO OC	TOBER 1				
*Place of Use:							
ID	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1	31.00		SWNW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
2	30.00		NWSW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
3	36.60		SENW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
4	33.90		NESW	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK

S2S2

28

21N

7W

LEWIS AND CLARK

6		14.10	SWNW	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
7		23.40	E2NE	32	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
	Total:	207.50					

#### **Remarks:**

THE WATER RIGHTS FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT ARE SUPPLEMENTAL WHICH MEANS THE RIGHTS HAVE OVERLAPPING PLACES OF USE. THE RIGHTS CAN BE COMBINED TO IRRIGATE ONLY OVERLAPPING PARCELS. EACH RIGHT IS LIMITED TO THE FLOW RATE AND PLACE OF USE OF THAT INDIVIDUAL RIGHT. THE SUM TOTAL VOLUME OF THESE WATER RIGHTS SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

10765-00 10766-00 10770-00 10771-00

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:		41K 10767-0	) STA		OF CLA	IM		
0				T DECREI				
			tatus:	ACTIVE				
Owners:		DANIELLE M	NEAL					
		PO BOX 293						
		AUGUSTA, M	T 5941(	0				
		LLOYD NEAL	-					
		PO BOX 293	T 50 44	<b>_</b>				
		AUGUSTA, M						
*Priority Date:		DECEMBER 3	31, 1873	3				
Type of Historical Righ		DECREED						
Purpose (Use):		IRRIGATION						
Irrigation Type:		FLOOD						
Flow Rate:		3.72 CFS						
*Volume:		THE TOTAL V TO HISTORIC				-	SHALL	NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT
Climatic Area:	:	5 - LOW						
*Maximum Acres:		319.40						
*Source Name:	,	WILLOW CRE	EK, NC	ORTH FOR	K			
Source Type:		SURFAC	E WAT	ER				
*Point of Diversion and	Means o	of Diversion:						
ID		Govt Lot		<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1				VSWSW	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion		APRIL 1 TO C	СТОВЕ	ER 15				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>		HEADGATE						
2 Decision for the formation				NWSW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion		APRIL 1 TO C	CIOBE	ER 15				
Diversion Means:		HEADGATE	-			<b>0</b> (1)		
3 Period of Diversion	:	APRIL 1 TO C		ENESW ER 15	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
<b>Diversion Means:</b>		HEADGATE						
			DOWNS	STREAM W	ATER	JSERS.	THE CL	THIS RIGHT HAS NO ADVERSE IMULATIVE AMOUNT OF WATER S.
Period of Use:		APRIL 1 TO C	СТОВЕ	ER 15				
*Place of Use:								
<u>ID</u> 1	<u>Acres</u> 45.90	<u>Govt Lot</u>		<u>Qtr Sec</u> S2NE	<u>Sec</u> 27	<u>Twp</u> 21N	<u>Rge</u> 7W	<u>County</u> LEWIS AND CLARK

July 10, 2024 41K 10767-00

2		48.40	N2SE	27	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
3		72.80	NW	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
4		84.50	SE	33	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
5		36.60	NWSW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
6		30.50	SENW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
7		0.70	SWNW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
	Total:	319.40					

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:	41K 10769-00	STATEMENT	OF CLA	IM		
	Version: 3 -	- POST DECRE	Ξ			
	Sta	atus: ACTIVE				
Owners:	DANIELLE M N PO BOX 293 AUGUSTA, MT					
	LLOYD NEAL PO BOX 293 AUGUSTA, MT	59410				
*Priority Date:	DECEMBER 31	, 1873				
Type of Historical Right:	DECREED					
Purpose (Use):	IRRIGATION					
Irrigation Type:	FLOOD					
Flow Rate:	2.00 CFS					
*Volume:		LUME OF THIS			SHALL	NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT
Climatic Area:	5 - LOW					
*Maximum Acres:	158.20					
*Source Name:	WILLOW CREE	K, NORTH FOR	К			
Source Type:	SURFACE	WATER				
Point of Diversion and Mean	s of Diversion:					
ID	Govt Lot	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	County
1		SENESW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
Period of Diversion:	APRIL 1 TO OC	TOBER 15				
<b>Diversion Means:</b>	HEADGATE					
Period of Use:	APRIL 1 TO OC	TOBER 15				
*Place of Use:						
<u>ID</u> <u>Acre</u>		<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1 102.0		NE	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
2 21.20		NESW	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
3 35.00		NWSE	34	21N	7W	LEWIS AND CLARK
<b>Total:</b> 158.20	U					

# SUN RIVER BASIN 41K

Water Right Number:	41K 10774-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM									
	Version:	3 POST DECRE	E							
		Status: ACTIVE								
Owners:	PO BOX 293	DANIELLE M NEAL PO BOX 293 AUGUSTA, MT 59410								
	PO BOX 293	LLOYD NEAL PO BOX 293 AUGUSTA, MT 59410								
Priority Date:	DECEMBER	31, 1870								
Type of Historical Right:	USE									
Purpose (Use):	STOCK									
Flow Rate:	15.00 GPM	15.00 GPM								
Volume:	STOCK WA	TERING PURPOSE AL UNITS SHALL B	S AT T E BASE	HE RATE ED ON R	E OF 30 EASON	DNSUMPTIVELY USED FOR GALLONS PER DAY PER ANIMAL ABLE CARRYING CAPACITY AND WATER SOURCE.				
Source Name:	SPRING, UN	NAMED TRIBUTA	RY OF V	WILLOW	CREEK	<				
Source Type:	GROUN	NDWATER								
Point of Diversion and Mean	ns of Diversion:									
<u>ID</u> 1	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u> SWNWSW	<u>Sec</u> 26	<u>Twp</u> 21N	<u>Rge</u> 7W	<u>County</u> LEWIS AND CLARK				
Period of Diversion:	JANUARY 1	TO DECEMBER 3	1							
<b>Diversion Means:</b>	PUMP									
Period of Use:	JANUARY 1	TO DECEMBER 3	1							
Place of Use:										
<u>ID</u> <u>Acr</u> 1	<u>es Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u> SWNWSW	<u>Sec</u> 26	<u>Twp</u> 21N	<u>Rge</u> 7W	<u>County</u> LEWIS AND CLARK				

#### **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.

10764-00 10774-00