

Montana Water Court
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IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION
BOULDER RIVER—TRIBUTARY OF THE JEFFERSON RIVER (BASIN 41E)
PRELIMINARY DECREE

CLAIMANT: Sam Scott

CASE 41E-0265-R-2024
41E 30147077

NOTICE OF FILING OF MASTER'S REPORT

This Master’s Report was filed with the Montana Water Court on the above stamped date. Please review this report carefully.

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, conclusion 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 to be added to the 10-day objection period. Rule 6(d), M.R.Civ.P. 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 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

Claim 41E 30147077 appeared in the Preliminary Decree with the following issue remarks:

THE CLAIMED MEANS OF DIVERSION CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED FROM AVAILABLE DATA.

THIS CLAIM APPEARS TO BE CLAIMING TWO SEPARATE SOURCES OF WATER. MORE THAN ONE WATER RIGHT MAY BE INVOLVED.

NO TYPE OF HISTORICAL RIGHT WAS CLAIMED. DOCUMENTATION TO SUPPORT THE TYPE OF HISTORICAL RIGHT WAS NOT SUBMITTED WITH THIS CLAIM.

The issue remarks were not addressed through the objection process. The Water Court is required to resolve the issues raised by each issue remark. Section 85-2-248, MCA.

Under Section 85-2-248(3), MCA, information in the claim file or other information obtained by the Court can be reviewed to determine if it provides a sufficient basis to resolve the issue raised by a remark and the Court can provide the claimant an opportunity to file additional information or evidence.

The March 4, 2024 Order Consolidating Case and Order Setting Deadlines Pursuant To Section 85-2-248(5), MCA set filing deadlines for the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation [“DNRC”] and the claimant. On May 10, 2024 the claimant’s response was filed. This is a copy of a previously filed Amendment form (from the claim file) with additional information and signature added. On May 20, 2024 the DNRC Memorandum was filed providing additional information about the meeting with Ms. Scott, background on the claim and its historical use, and making recommendations to resolve the issue remarks. These documents are viewable in the Court’s FullCourt Enterprise case management system.

APPLICABLE LAW

“All issue remarks to claims that are not resolved through the filing of an objection as provided in 85-2-233 must be resolved as provided in this section.” Section 85-2-248(2), MCA.

A properly filed Statement of Claim for Existing Water Right is prima facie proof of its content pursuant to 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 the elements of the claim do not accurately reflect the beneficial use of the water right as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. This is the burden of proof for every assertion that a claim is incorrect including for claimants objecting to their own claims. Rule 19, W.R.Adj.R.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Preliminary Decree states that the priority date is JUNE 1, 1932 and is blank at the type of historical right. The priority date should be APRIL 3, 1900 and the type of historical right should be USE. The type of historical right issue remark should be removed as addressed and resolved.

2. The DNRC and the claimant have confirmed this claim is for livestock direct from source on Kleinschmidt Gulch. The source and means of diversion do not require change. The source and means of diversion issue remarks should be removed as addressed and resolved.

3. The Preliminary Decree also includes the following notice remark:

THIS CLAIM NUMBER WAS NOT INCLUDED IN THE BASIN 41E DECREE ISSUED 06/20/1985.

The remark should be removed as having served its notice purpose.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The information provided by the DNRC and the claimant is sufficient to resolve the issue remarks without evidentiary hearing. Sections 85-2-248(3) and (11), MCA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law, this Master recommends that the Court make the changes specified in the Findings of Fact to correct the Preliminary Decree for this Basin. A Post Decree Abstract of Water Right Claim is served with this Report to confirm the recommended changes have been made in the state's centralized record system.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW

Service via USPS Mail:

Sam Scott
PO Box 314
Pablo, MT 59855

POST DECREE
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM
BOULDER RIVER, TRIBUTARY TO JEFFERSON RIVER
BASIN 41E

Water Right Number: 41E 30147077 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: SAM SCOTT
PO BOX 314
PABLO, MT 59855-0314

Priority Date: APRIL 3, 1900

Type of Historical Right: USE

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:** KLEINSCHMIDT GULCH

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		NWSESE	18	6N	5W	JEFFERSON

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			NWSESE	18	6N	5W	JEFFERSON