FILED

11/03/2025

Sara Calkins
CLERK

Montana Water Court
STATE OF MONTANA

By: D'Ann CIGLER

41F-0124-R-2024

Stradley, Anna

24.00

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

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

CLAIMANTS: Kevin D. Amberson; Michele Amberson;

Barbara B. Bunge; Stephen P. Bunge; Alex W. Dado; Suzanne M. Dado; Jennifer W. Davies; Sandi M. Decarli-Lennehan; Matthew T. Lennehan; Nanci A. Gardner Revocable Trust; Jeff Gerbing; Wendy Gerbing; Charles D. Hubbard; Jeanne G. Hubbard; Steven R. Wolf; Thomas W. Gardner Revocable Trust; Donald J. Dinnell; Cheryl G. Dinnell; William R. Lev; Jacqueline D. Lev; Timothy E. Holtzclaw; Shari L. Holtzclaw

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR: Devonna G. Owens Family Trust

CASE 41F-0124-R-2024

41F 138558-00

Split Claims:

41F 30172077

41F 30172079

41F 30172110

41F 30172111

41F 30172115

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 have **13 days** from the service date of the notice of filing of this report to file a written objection or request an extension of the objection period. Rule 23, Water Right Adjudication Rules; Rule 6, Montana Rules of Civil Procedure. 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 PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Irrigation claim 41F 138558-00 is currently owned by the above captioned claimants.

On July 11, 2025, the court issued an Order Setting Filing Deadline for the parties to review and comment upon three proposals before the court on how the prima facie 25.00 GPM flow rate and prima facie 35.00-acre place of use¹ identified by irrigation statement of claim 41F 138558-00 should be split. Nanci A. Gardner and Thomas W. Gardner, Trustees of their respective Revocable Trusts and Jennifer W. Davies filed comments.

FINDING OF FACT

Based upon the foregoing, irrigation claim 41F 138558-00 should be split as follows.

Parent Claim 41F 138558-00

OWNERS: Nanci A. Gardner Revocable Trust and Thomas W. Gardner Revocable Trust

FLOW RATE: 1.79 GPM

MAXIMUM ACRES: 2.50

PLACE OF USE:

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/2006FC, PARCEL 23-B, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Split Claim 41F 30172077

OWNERS: William R. Lev and Jacqueline D. Lev

¹ During initial claims examination, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, without explanation, modified the place of use to 331.00 acres.

FLOW RATE: 7.13 GPM MAXIMUM ACRES: 10.00

PLACE OF USE:

PARCEL ID
1ACRES
10.00GOVT LOT
E2NWSWQTR SEC
17SEC
4STWP
1WRGE
MADISONCOUNTY
MADISON

TOTAL: 10.00

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/290, PARCEL 10, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Split Claim 41F 30172079

OWNERS: Jennifer W. Davies

FLOW RATE: 5.35 GPM

MAXIMUM ACRES: 7.50

PLACE OF USE:

PARCEL ID
1ACRES
7.50GOVT LOT
E2SWNWOTR SEC
17SEC
4STWP
1WRGE
MADISON
MADISONTOTAL:7.50

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/2006FC, PARCEL 23-A, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Split Claim 41F 30172110

OWNERS: Timothy E. Holtzclaw and Shari L. Holtzclaw

 FLOW RATE:
 1.79 GPM

 MAXIMUM ACRES:
 2.50

PLACE OF USE:

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/2018FC, PARCEL 25A, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Split Claim 41F 30172111

OWNERS: Stephen P. Bunge and Barbara B. Bunge

FLOW RATE: 5.35 GPM MAXIMUM ACRES: 7.50

PLACE OF USE:

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/2018FC, PARCEL 25B, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Split Claim 41F 30172115

OWNERS: Donald J. Dinnell and Cheryl G. Dinnell

FLOW RATE: 3.59 GPM

MAXIMUM ACRES: 5.00

PLACE OF USE:

PARCEL ID
1ACRES
5.00GOVT LOT
E2NWNWOTR SEC
17SEC
4STWP
1WRGE
MADISONCOUNTY
MADISON

TOTAL: 5.00

Remarks: C.O.S. 7/290, PARCEL 26, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. 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. Mont. Code Ann. § 85-2-231(2) (2025).
- 2. A properly filed Statement of Claim for Existing Water Right is prima facie proof of its content. § 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. A preponderance of the evidence is evidence that demonstrates the fact to be proved is "more probable than not." *Hohenlohe v. State*, 2010 MT 203, ¶ 33, 357 Mont. 348, 240 P.3d 628.

Because the modifications to the original claim in this proceeding did not constitute challenges to the prima facie status of the claim and only sought to split elements that held prima facie status, the burden of proof does not apply. The accurate representation of the split of claim 41F 138558-00 in this proceeding was sufficient information to complete the split of claim 41F 138558-00.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions 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. Abstracts of Water Right Claim accompany this report to confirm implementation of the recommendations in the state's centralized water right record system.

The court includes the Bozeman Regional Office, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on the service list for this Report so it can update the geocodes for the claims.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW.

Service Via USPS Mail:

Jennifer W. Davies PO Box 95 McAllister, MT 59740-0095

Nanci A. Gardner Revocable Trust Thomas W. Gardner Revocable Trust 1101 Duncan Dr Winter Springs, FL 32708

Donald J Dinnell Cheryl G Dinnell 177 E Mount Whitney Ave Laton CA 93242-9416

William R Lev Jacqueline D Lev PO Box 80 McAllister, MT 59740-0080

Timothy E. Holtzclaw Shari L. Holtzclaw 1634 Nimblewill Church Rd Dahlonega, GA 30533-3730

Last Order: Kevin D. Amberson Michele Aberson PO Box 318 McAllister, MT 59740 Last Order: Alex W. Dado Suzanne M. Dado 111 Parnell Rd Confluence, PA 15424-2101

Last Order: Sandi M. Decarli-Lennehan Matthew T. Lennehan 15056 SW Hazelcrest Way Portland, OR 97224-3824

Last Order:
Jeff Gerbing
Wendy Gerbing
4715 Woodrow Pl
Arrington, TN 37014-1420

Last Order: Charles D. Hubbard Jeanne G. Hubbard PO Box 406 McAllister, MT 59740

Last Order: Steven R. Wolf PO Box 93 McAllister, MT 59740

Service Via Email:

Barbara B. Bunge Stephen P. Bunge Steve59740@yahoo.com

Calli J. Michaels Michaels Law, PLLC cmichaels@mlawmt.com (Atty for: Devonna G. Owens Family Trust) This Order Only:
Bozeman Regional Office, DNRC
kstrasheim@mt.gov
jackson.alvey@mt.gov
james.fleming@mt.gov

Note: Caption and Service List Updated 10-31-2025

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 138558-00 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

> Version: 3 -- SPLIT POST DECREE

> > **Status: ACTIVE**

Owners: GARDNER, NANCI A REVOCABLE TRUST

1101 DUNCAN DR

WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708

GARDNER, THOMAS W REVOCABLE TRUST THOMAS & NANCY GARDNER, TRUSTEES

1101 DUNCAN DR

WINTER SPRINGS, FL 32708-4307

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): **IRRIGATION**

> **Irrigation Type:** SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 1.79 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

Maximum Acres: 2.50

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK

GROUNDWATER Source Type:

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID **Govt Lot** Otr Sec **County** Sec <u>Twp</u> Rge 1

SWSWSW 8 **4S** 1W **MADISON**

Period of Diversion: **APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30**

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: **APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30**

Place of Use:

ID **Acres Govt Lot** Otr Sec Sec <u>Twp</u> Rge County 1 2.50 **SESWNW** 17 **4S** 1W **MADISON**

Total: 2.50

C.O.S. 7/2006FC, PARCEL 23-B, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Remarks:

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30172077 30172079 30172110 30172111 30172115

THE SPLIT CLAIMS LISTED FOLLOWING THIS STATEMENT WERE AUTHORIZED AND GENERATED BASED ON INFORMATION IN THIS CLAIM. 41F 30172077, 41F 30172079, 41F 30172110, 41F 30172111, 41F 30172115.

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 30172077 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: JACQUELINE D LEV

PO BOX 80

MCALLISTER, MT 59740-0080

WILLIAM R LEV PO BOX 80

MCALLISTER, MT 59740-0080

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 7.13 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

Maximum Acres: 10.00

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK

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 SWSWSW 8 4S 1W MADISON

Period of Diversion: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Place of Use:

IDAcresGovt LotQtr SecSecTwpRgeCounty110.00E2NWSW174S1WMADISON

Total: 10.00

C.O.S. 7/290, PARCEL 10, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Remarks:

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ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 30172079 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

> Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

> > **Status: ACTIVE**

Owners: JENNIFER W DAVIES

PO BOX 95

MCALLISTER, MT 59740-0095

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

USE Type of Historical Right:

IRRIGATION Purpose (Use):

> **Irrigation Type:** SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 5.35 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

7.50 **Maximum Acres:**

SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK **Source Name:**

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID **Govt Lot County** Otr Sec Sec <u>Twp</u> Rge 1

SWSWSW 4S 1W **MADISON** 8

Period of Diversion: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: **APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30**

Place of Use:

<u>ID</u> Acres **Govt Lot Otr Sec Sec** Twp Rge **County** 1 7.50 E2SWNW 17 **4S** 1W MADISON

Total: 7.50

C.O.S. 7/2006FC, PARCEL 23-A, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

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.

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ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 30172110 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: SHARI L HOLTZCLAW

1634 NIMBLEWILL CHURCH RD DAHLONEGA, GA 30533-3730

TIMOTHY E HOLTZCLAW

1634 NIMBLEWILL CHURCH RD DAHLONEGA, GA 30533-3730

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 1.79 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

Maximum Acres: 2.50

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

IDGovt LotQtr SecSecTwpRgeCounty1SWSWSW84S1WMADISON

Period of Diversion: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Place of Use:

IDAcresGovt LotQtr SecSecTwpRgeCounty12.50NWNWNW174S1WMADISON

Total: 2.50

C.O.S. 7/2018FC, PARCEL 25A, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Remarks:

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ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 30172111 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: BARBARA B BUNGE

PO BOX 65

MCALLISTER, MT 59740

STEPHEN P BUNGE

PO BOX 65

MCALLISTER, MT 59740

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 5.35 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

Maximum Acres: 7.50

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK

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 SWSWSW 8 4S 1W MADISON

Period of Diversion: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Place of Use:

 ID
 Acres
 Govt Lot
 Qtr Sec
 Sec
 Twp
 Rge
 County

 1
 7.50
 W2NWNW
 17
 4S
 1W
 MADISON

Total: 7.50

C.O.S. 7/2018FC, PARCEL 25B, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Remarks:

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ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MADISON RIVER

BASIN 41F

Water Right Number: 41F 30172115 STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 1 -- ORIGINAL RIGHT

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CHERYL G DINNELL

177 E MOUNT WHITNEY AVE LATON, CA 93242-9416

DONALD J DINNELL

177 E MOUNT WHITNEY AVE

LATON, CA 93242-9416

Priority Date: APRIL 1, 1910

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: SPRINKLER/FLOOD

Flow Rate: 3.59 GPM

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

TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 4 - MODERATELY LOW

Maximum Acres: 5.00

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF NORTH MEADOW CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

IDGovt LotQtr SecSecTwpRgeCounty1SWSWSW84S1WMADISON

Period of Diversion: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Diversion Means: HEADGATE

Period of Use: APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30

Place of Use:

 ID
 Acres
 Govt Lot
 Qtr Sec
 Sec
 Twp
 Rge
 County

 1
 5.00
 E2NWNW
 17
 4S
 1W
 MADISON

Total: 5.00

C.O.S. 7/290, PARCEL 26, AKA SHINING MOUNTAINS WEST

Remarks:

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