

Montana Water Court
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MONTANA WATER COURT
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION
YELLOWSTONE RIVER, FROM BRIDGER CREEK TO CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE
BASIN 43QJ
SECOND PRELIMINARY DECREE

* * * * *

CLAIMANT: Springtime Land LLC

CASE 43QJ-0132-R-2025

43QJ 45566-00

OBJECTOR: United States, DOI Bureau of Land Management

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

United States, DOI Bureau of Land Management objected to Springtime Land LLC claim 43QJ 45566-00. On December 2, 2025 the parties filed a Stipulation To Resolve Objections. The Stipulation is viewable in the Court's FullCourt Enterprise case management system.

APPLICABLE LAW

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.

FINDING OF FACT

As requested by the parties, the following remark should be added to the place of use:
THE PLACE OF USE IS LIMITED TO PRIVATE LAND.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The settlement filed by the parties is sufficient to contradict and overcome the *prima facie* claim.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the above Finding of Fact and Conclusion of Law, this Master recommends that the Court make the change specified in the Finding of Fact to correct the Second 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:

Springtime Land LLC
PO Box 427
Reed Point, MT 59069

Service Via Electronic Mail:

Mark J. Widerschein, Trial Attorney
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(*Atty for: United States, DOI Bureau of Land Management*)

POST DECREE
ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM
YELLOWSTONE RIVER, FROM BRIDGER CREEK TO CLARKS FORK YELLOWSTONE
BASIN 43QJ

Water Right Number: **43QJ 45566-00** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 3 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: SPRINGTIME LAND LLC
PO BOX 427
REED POINT, MT 59069

Priority Date: OCTOBER 30, 1934

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): IRRIGATION

Irrigation Type: FLOOD

Flow Rate: 8.02 CFS

***Volume:** THE TOTAL VOLUME OF THIS WATER RIGHT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNT PUT TO HISTORICAL AND BENEFICIAL USE.

Climatic Area: 2 - MODERATELY HIGH

Maximum Acres: 274.00

Source Name: YELLOWSTONE RIVER

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1	4	NW	27	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS

Period of Diversion: MARCH 1 TO NOVEMBER 1

Diversion Means: PUMP

Period of Use: MARCH 1 TO NOVEMBER 1

Place of Use:

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1	45.00		SW	26	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS
2	172.00		S2	27	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS
3	25.00		NW	26	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS
4	10.00		NW	27	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS
5	22.00		NE	27	1S	17E	SWEET GRASS
Total:	274.00						

THE PLACE OF USE IS LIMITED TO PRIVATE LAND.

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.