

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

CLAIMANT: Greg H. Langford

CASE 43QJ-0169-R-2025

43QJ 185598-00

43QJ 185600-00

**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**

Greg H. Langford claims 43QJ 185598-00 and 43QJ 185600-00 each appeared in the Second Preliminary Decree with the following issue remark:

THE SOURCE, POINT OF DIVERSION AND PLACE OF USE MAY BE INCORRECT ON THIS CLAIM.  
PLEASE REFER TO DNRC MEMO DATED 2/26/1998 AND COURT LETTER DATED MARCH 21, 2008.

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. On November 5, 2025 the claimant filed his Response To Order Setting Filing Deadline stating agreement with the changes detailed in the 1998 Memo. The Response is 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. For claim 43QJ 185598-00, the Second Preliminary Decree states that the source is SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF WORK CREEK. The source name should be SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF WHISTLE CREEK. The point of diversion and place of use for this claim do not require change. The issue remark should be removed as addressed and resolved.

2. For claim 43QJ 185600-00, the Second Preliminary Decree states that the source is SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF WORK CREEK. The source name should be SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF WHISTLE CREEK.

The Second Preliminary Decree states that the legal description for the point of diversion and place of use is NENWSE section 33, T2S, R18E, STILLWATER. The legal description

should be NENWSE section 33, T1S, R18E, STILLWATER.

The issue remark should be removed as addressed and resolved.

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

The information provided by the claimant is sufficient to resolve the issue remarks without evidentiary hearing. Section 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 Second Preliminary Decree for this Basin. A Post Decree Abstract of Water Right Claim for each 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 Electronic Mail:

Christopher T. Scoones  
Scoones Law PLLC  
chris@scooneslaw.com  
(Atty for: Greg H. Langford)

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

**Water Right Number:** **43QJ 185598-00** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

**Version:** 4 -- POST DECREE

**Status:** ACTIVE

**Owners:** GREG H LANGFORD  
145 LOWER SWEET GRASS RD  
BIG TIMBER, MT 59011-7773

**Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1958

**Type of Historical Right:** USE

**Purpose (Use):** STOCK

**Flow Rate:** 30.00 GPM

**\*Volume:** THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF WATER CONSUMPTIVELY USED FOR STOCKWATERING 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:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF WHISTLE 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		NESESW	34	1S	18E	STILLWATER

**Period of Diversion:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

**Diversion Means:** PIPELINE

**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				34	1S	18E	STILLWATER

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

**Water Right Number:** **43QJ 185600-00** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

**Version:** 4 -- POST DECREE

**Status:** ACTIVE

**Owners:** GREG H LANGFORD  
145 LOWER SWEET GRASS RD  
BIG TIMBER, MT 59011-7773

**Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1958

**Type of Historical Right:** USE

**Purpose (Use):** STOCK

**Flow Rate:** 50.00 GPM

**\*Volume:** THIS RIGHT INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF WATER CONSUMPTIVELY USED FOR STOCKWATERING 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.

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<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
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1			NENWSE	33	1S	18E	STILLWATER