FILED
10/15/2026
Melissa Lockman
CLERK
Montana Water Court
STATE OF MONTANA
By: D'Ann CIGLER
41I-0706-R-2026
Brown, Stephen R
9.00

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MONTANA WATER COURT
UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION
MISSOURI RIVER ABOVE HOLTER DAM
BASIN 41I
PRELIMINARY DECREE

* *

CLAIMANT: Catlin Ranch LP

CASE 41I-0706-R-2026

41I 30136432	41I 30136600
41I 30136480	41I 30136689
41I 30136484	41I 30136694
41I 30136485	41I 30136698
41I 30136589	41I 30136766
41I 30136597	41I 30136767
41I 30136599	

CLOSING ORDER AND ORDER RECONSOLIDATING CLAIMS

The Water Court decreed the claims in this case in the Preliminary Decree for the Missouri River Above Holter Dam (Basin 41I) issued on June 24, 2022. Catlin Ranch LP ("Catlin") owns these claims. Each claim describes a domestic water right, a livestock direct from source use, or other stock water use. The water sources for the claims are various springs in the Battle Creek drainage, as well as Battle Creek itself. Battle Creek is a tributary of Sixteen Mile Creek in Meagher County.

The preliminary decree abstracts for each of the claims contain issue remarks. The claims did not receive objections. The Water Use Act requires the Water Court to resolve these potential issues prior to including the claim in a final decree for this basin.

On February 13, 2026, the Court consolidated the above-captioned claims to resolve the remarks. The Court's consolidation order quotes each of the issue remarks and requested a response from Catlin. After several extensions, Catlin filed a response on

August 7, 2026, agreeing that the duplicate claims should be dismissed. Catlin's response includes the following:

1. **Duplicate claim remarks.** Each of the claims received some form of a duplicate claim or redundant claim remark. Catlin's response agrees that the issue remarks properly identify claims that should be dismissed by the Court. Based on the response, the Court dismisses the following claims: 41I 30136432, 41I 30136589, 41I 30136597, 41I 30136600, 41I 30136689, 41I 30136694, 41I 30136698, and 41I 30136767.

Dismissal of these claims resolves the duplicate claim remarks on claims 41I 30136480, 41I 30136484, 41I 30136485, 41I 30136595, 41I 30136599, 41I 30136602, 41I 30136687, 41I 30136692, 41I 30136697, and 41I 30136766.

2. **Prior decree remarks.** Each of the claims received a remark stating the claim was not included in the Basin 41I decree issued on March 8, 1995. These claims were filed under the claim filing extension the Legislature provided for certain water rights previously exempt from filing. The filing post-dated the date of the Basin 41I Temporary Preliminary Decree. The remark provided basin-wide notice, and no one objected, so the remark may be removed.

3. **Type of right.** Most of the claims received the following type of right remark:

> THE TYPE OF HISTORICAL RIGHT MAY BE QUESTIONABLE. DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED WITH THE CLAIM INDICATES A USE AND A DECREED RIGHT.

Type of right is an evidentiary issue used to establish the evidentiary basis for the claim. Section 85-2-224(2), MCA. Catlin's response notes that stock water rights rarely were specifically mentioned in old district court decrees. Catlin requests that the type of right be recognized as a use right. Given the lack of any objection, Catlin's response resolves the remark and a use right type is added to each claim that is not dismissed.

4. **Priority date remarks**. Claims 41I 30136480, 41I 30136484, 41I 30136595, 41I 30136687, 41I 30136692, and 41I 30136766 received a remark stating that the priority date is questionable whether it should be 1881 or 1882 or 1937. The

claims were decreed with a December 31, 1882 priority date, which Catlin accepts so the remark is resolved.

5. **Missing priority date remark.** Claims 41I 30136599 and 41I 30136602 received a remark stating that no priority date was claimed. The priority date should be December 31, 1882 based on the evidence from Catlin's other stock water claims.

6. **Source.** Most of the claims received a remark questioning the claimed source as inconsistent with what was decreed by the district court in Meagher County case 3731. With the modification to a use right, this remark is moot. The springs and tributaries claimed are prima facie evidence of the source and the remark is resolved.

7. **Additional remarks.** Claims 41I 30136595, 41I 30136602, 41I 30136687, 41I 30136692, and 41I 30136697 each received several substantive issue remarks. Catlin's response does not contain information necessary to resolve the substantive remarks on these claims. The Court reconsolidates these claims into a new case with other claims from other cases to address this remark.

ORDER

Therefore, it is ORDERED that:

1. Claims 41I 30136432, 41I 30136589, 41I 30136597, 41I 30136600, 41I 30136689, 41I 30136694, 41I 30136698, and 41I 30136767 are DISMISSED;

2. Claims 41I 30136480, 41I 30136484, 41I 30136485, 41I 30136599, and 41I 30136766 are MODIFIED as provided in this Order, with all remarks removed;

3. Claims 41I 30136595, 41I 30136602, 41I 30136687, 41I 30136692, and 41I 30136697, are removed from the caption and RECONSOLIDATED into case 41I-0765-R-2026 and will be addressed in separate orders in that case.

4. Claims 41I 30136432, 41I 30136480, 41I 30136484, 41I 30136485, 41I 30136589, 41I 30136597, 41I 30136599, 41I 30136600, 41I 30136689, 41I 30136694, 41I 30136698, 41I 30136766, and 41I 30136767 and this case are CLOSED.

Post decree abstracts of each of the closed claims are included with this Order to confirm the modifications have been made in the State's centralized water rights record system.

Electronically Signed By:
Hon. Judge Stephen R Brown
Thu, Oct 15 2026 11:30:43 AM

Service via Electronic Mail

Colleen Coyle
Coyle Law Firm
colleen@coylelawmt.com
(Attorney for Catlin Ranch LP)

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136432** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

Priority Date:

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): DOMESTIC

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136480** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1882

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: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

***Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1		SENWSW	30	7N	7E	MEAGHER

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:**

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1			SENWSW	30	7N	7E	MEAGHER

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136484** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1882

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:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1		S2SW	29	7N	7E	MEAGHER

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:**

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1			S2SW	29	7N	7E	MEAGHER

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136485** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1882

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:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF SMITH RIVER, SOUTH FORK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

***Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1		NENE	29	7N	7E	MEAGHER

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:**

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1			NENE	29	7N	7E	MEAGHER

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136589** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136597** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136599** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

Priority Date: DECEMBER 31, 1882

Type of Historical Right: USE

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate: 35.00 GPM

***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:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

***Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1		SWNENWSW	22	7N	6E	MEAGHER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: PUMP

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Place of Use:

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1			NWSW	22	7N	6E	MEAGHER
2			SWSW	22	7N	6E	MEAGHER

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.

30136599 30136602

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136600** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

Priority Date:

Type of Historical Right:

***Purpose (Use):** STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136689** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136694** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136698** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: SURFACE WATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136766** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: ACTIVE

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:** DECEMBER 31, 1882

***Type of Historical Right:** USE

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate: 35.00 GPM

***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:** SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

ALSO KNOWN AS STOCK TANK NO. 4

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1		NESE	25	7N	6E	MEAGHER

Period of Diversion: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Diversion Means: PIPELINE

Period of Use: JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31

Place of Use:

ID	Acres	Govt Lot	Qtr Sec	Sec	Twp	Rge	County
1			NESE	25	7N	6E	MEAGHER

POST DECREE

ABSTRACT OF WATER RIGHT CLAIM

MISSOURI RIVER, ABOVE HOLTER DAM

BASIN 41I

Water Right Number: **41I 30136767** STATEMENT OF CLAIM

Version: 2 -- POST DECREE

Status: **DISMISSED**

Owners: CATLIN RANCH LP
3660 HWY 12 W
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MT 59645

***Priority Date:**

Type of Historical Right:

Purpose (Use): STOCK

Flow Rate:

Volume:

Source Name: SPRING, UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF BATTLE CREEK

Source Type: GROUNDWATER

Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

Period of Use:

Place of Use:

Remarks:

THIS CLAIM WAS DISMISSED BY ORDER OF THE WATER COURT.