

# 'USDA FOREST SERVICE – MONTANA COMPACT'

## DECREE INDEX INSTRUCTIONS

The attached index is designed to help a person research and find water rights included in the decree. The decree consists of a computer-printed abstract for each individual water right decreed. Depending on the number of water rights, the decree may be in one or more volumes. Each volume is organized numerically by a water right identification (ID) number.

Whenever a water right is referred to or discussed, use the entire water right ID number. This is the best way to be sure that everyone is communicating about the same water right.

Example of ID number: 41D 30026653

41D Code for drainage basin.  
30026653 Specific identification number assigned to each water right by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

There are five sections to the index. Each section is organized in a different manner, as outlined below.

### 1. SOURCE NAME INDEX

This index lists all water rights alphabetically by the source name (source at point of diversion). If the point of diversion of a water right is not on the "main stem" of the source listed, a two letter tributary code will be shown immediately to the left of the source name. For example, UT West Gallatin River means the water right is diverted from an Unnamed Tributary to the West Gallatin River. Additional tributary codes are: SP (spring), WS (waste and seepage), SI (subirrigation), NP (natural pit), MP (manmade pit).

Some sources have more than one commonly used name but only one has been selected as the standardized name. Standardization was based on names designated by the United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Survey, or that in most common local usage. It is recommended that all known names be checked. Also keep in mind that some source names (Spring Creek, Deer Creek, etc..) might identify more than one stream in a basin.

Water rights with the same source name are listed chronologically by enforceable priority date. This secondary Sort is useful in identifying the seniority of water rights on a specific source. 'B' designated late claims are sorted last within a source listing.

### 2. OWNER NAME INDEX:

This index organizes all water rights alphabetically by all owner names. If you want to locate John Q. Public's water rights, look under "P" for Public. If a partnership or corporation is involved, such as Big Sky Angus Ranch, look under "B" for Big. Be sure to look for all likely owner names (ranch name, estate name, etc.) when you use this index as some owners filed rights both under a corporate name and individually.

3. POINT OF DIVERSION INDEX:

In this index, every point of diversion for each water right is listed by legal land description. The land descriptions are listed from lowest numbered township and range to highest numbered township and range. Within each township and range the sections are listed numerically.

Water rights with the same point of diversion are listed chronologically by priority date. This secondary sort is useful in identifying the seniority of water rights diverted at a particular location.

4. ENFORCEABLE PRIORITY DATE INDEX:

All water rights listed from earliest to latest enforceable priority date according to month/day/year. Where no priority date has been decreed, the index shows no date in the Priority Date column.

Water rights with the same priority date are organized alphabetically by source name. For example, all June 15, 1865, water rights from the West Gallatin River would be together.

5. WATER RIGHT ID INDEX:

Every water right has been assigned an identification number, for example, 41D 30026653. This index organizes all water right ID numbers in numerical order from lowest to highest.

SUMMARY:

If you have questions about how to look up water right information in these indexes or how to read the decree abstracts, please contact the DNRC Water Resources Regional Office listed in the Notice of Entry for the decree of this basin.

If you have questions about the correctness of any information in a particular water right, contact the Water Court and perhaps file an objection. How to file an objection is outlined in the Notice of Entry for the decree in each basin.



Page 3 - Index Instructions

WATER RIGHT ID	VERSION	LATE STATUS	HISTORICAL CLAIM	USE TYPE	FLOW RATE	VOLUME	ENFORCEABLE PRIORITY DATE	POINT OF DIVERSION QTR SEC SEC TWP RGE CN	TRIB SOURCE NAME	OWNER NAME
76J	30026817	ACTV		RESERVED PG	4,490.00 GPM	4,245.59	02/22/1897	NWSWSE 19 25N 15W FL	ADDITION CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41D	30026653	ACTV		RESERVED IS	5.00 GPM	0.01	11/05/1906	SESWSW 11 1S 13W BE SP	ALDER CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76H	30026813	ACTV		RESERVED ST		0.25	10/03/1905	SENWNW 18 9N 18W RA	AMBROSE CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76J	30026835	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	0.01	02/22/1897	SWSWSW 20 28N 17W FL	ANNA CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76J	30026819	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	0.01	02/22/1897	NENWNW 14 19N 12W PW	BASIN CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41F	30026869	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	1.50	03/07/1906	NESWNE 12 8S 1E MA SP	BEAR CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76H	30026811	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	0.01	10/03/1905	NWSESW 36 7N 19W RA SP	BEARTRAP CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41I	30026685	ACTV		RESERVED ST		0.25	10/03/1905	N2N2NW 5 12N 1W LC &	BEAVER CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
42C	30026737	ACTV		RESERVED ST		0.25	03/02/1907	NWNENW 6 2S 47E PR SP	BEAVER CREEK, EAST FORK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76G	30026798	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	1.50	05/05/1908	SWNESE 22 3N 10W SB SP	BEEFSTRAIGHT CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41Q	30026729	ACTV		RESERVED ST	4.49 GPM	0.25	11/06/1906	NWSE 1 14N 7E CS SP	BELT CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41K	30026701	ACTV		RESERVED IS	3.14 GPM	0.26	02/22/1897	SESESW 9 20N 10W LC	BENCHMARK CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41K	30026701	ACTV		RESERVED ST	3.14 GPM	0.26	02/22/1897	SESESW 9 20N 10W LC	BENCHMARK CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41K	30026704	ACTV		RESERVED ST		0.24	02/22/1897	N2 16 20N 10W LC &	BENCHMARK CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41K	30026703	ACTV		RESERVED ST	0.45 GPM	0.25	02/22/1897	NWSESW 9 20N 10W LC SP	BENCHMARK CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
43A	30026741	ACTV		RESERVED IS	10.00 GPM	0.01	08/10/1906	SWNESW 24 5N 10E PA	BENNETT CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76J	30026834	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	0.01	02/22/1897	NWSESE 27 28N 17W FL	BETTY CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
43B	30026747	ACTV		RESERVED IS	10.00 GPM	0.01	03/07/1906	SWSWSE 13 6S 6E PA UT	BIG CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
43B	30026748	ACTV		RESERVED LG	35.90 GPM	9.20	03/07/1906	E2SWSWSE 13 6S 6E PA UT	BIG CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
76J	30026824	ACTV		RESERVED IS	4.49 GPM	0.01	02/22/1897	NENESW 10 20N 15W MS	BIG SALMON CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
43B	30026752	ACTV		RESERVED IS	10.00 GPM	0.01	08/19/1906	NENE 12 3N 12E SG	BIG TIMBER CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)
41K	30026699	ACTV		RESERVED IS	2.00 GPM	0.01	02/22/1897	NWNENE 9 21N 11W LC SP	BLACK BEAR CREEK	USA (DEPT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE)



Page 4 - Index Instructions

NOTE: This is a sample of the Source Name Index. The other indexes have the same seven (7) columns except for the Issue Remarks Index.

Column *WATER RIGHT ID*: This is the water right identification number. This number is necessary to look up a water right abstract in the decree. The best way to request information from either the Water Court or the DNRC for a particular Water right is to use this entire number.

Column *USE*: This two-letter code designates what the water is used for in this water right. The most common codes are ST for stockwater, DM for domestic, and IR for irrigation. A list of all use codes is on page 4 of these instructions.

Column *FLOW RATE*: This number designates the flow rate for this water right. The letter "CFS" after the number means the flow rate is measured in cubic feet per second. A letter "GPM" means gallons per minute. A blank means the Water Court did not quantify a flow rate for this right. Reasons for this can be found in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law for the decree.

Column *ENFORCEABLE PRIORITY DATE*: This is the enforceable priority date for this water right written month/day/year. A missing priority date is explained on the abstract for that right.

Column *POINT OF DIVERSION*: This column gives the point of diversion for this water right. All indexes except the Point of Diversion Index list only one point of diversion for each right regardless of the number of diversions claimed. The legal land description is in the format: Quarter Section-Section-Township-Range-County. Counties are listed as two-letter codes. A list of county codes is on page 5 of these instructions.

Column *SOURCE NAME*: This is the name of the source of water for the right. A blank space usually indicates a problem with identifying the claimed source. Some names have a two letter code to the left of the source name. This indicates the diversion is on a tributary of the named source listed. These tributary codes are: (UT) Unnamed Tributary, (SP) Spring, (WS) Waste and Seepage, (SI) Subirrigation, (MP) Manmade Pit, and (NP) Natural Pit.

Column *OWNER NAME*: This is the owner or owners of this water right. All owners of each right are listed.

USE CODES

AS	agricultural spraying	MC	municipal
CM	commercial	MD	multiple domestic
DM	domestic	MN	mining
DW	dewatering	NV	navigation
EC	erosion control	OF	oil well flooding
FC	flood control	OT	observation & testing of groundwater aquifer
FP	fire protection	PA	pollution abatement
FR	fish raceways	PG	power generation
FW	fish and wildlife	RC	recreation
GE	geothermal heating	SC	sediment control
IN	industrial	SG	storage
IR	irrigation	ST	stockwater
IS	institutional	WF	waterfowl
LG	lawn and garden	WI	wildlife

COUNTY CODES

BE	Beaverhead	MC	McCone
BH	Big Horn	ME	Meagher
BL	Blaine	MI	Mineral
BR	Broadwater	MS	Missoula
CA	Carbon	MU	Musselshell
CH	Chouteau	PA	Park
CR	Carter	PE	Petroleum
CS	Cascade	PH	Phillips
CU	Custer	PI	Prairie
DA	Daniels	PO	Pondera
DL	Deer Lodge	PR	Powder River
DW	Dawson	PW	Powell
FA	Fallon	RA	Ravalli
FE	Fergus	RI	Richland
FL	Flathead	RO	Roosevelt
GA	Gallatin	RS	Rosebud
GF	Garfield	SA	Sanders
GL	Glacier	SB	Silver Bow
GR	Granite	SG	Sweet Grass
GV	Golden Valley	SH	Sheridan
HI	Hill	ST	Stillwater
JB	Judith Basin	TE	Teton
JE	Jefferson	TO	Toole
LA	Lake	TR	Treasure
LC	Lewis and Clark	VA	Valley
LI	Liberty	WH	Wheatland
LN	Lincoln	WI	Wibaux
MA	Madison	YE	Yellowstone
		YP	Yellowstone Park