



WATER-RIGHT DOCKET

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site

Docket No: 10

UNNAMED SPRING, IRRIGATION

State Water Rights Documentation

00-00-0000: statement of claim for existing water rights: irrigation; for the water courts of the state of montana 76g-w-162343-00

Form No. 76-1 R2/80

STATEMENT OF CLAIM FOR EXISTING WATER RIGHTS

76G-W-162343-00

IRRIGATION

For the Water Courts of the State of Montana

United States of America
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1. Owner of Water Right Grant-Kohrs Ranch National/ Historic Site /

Last First Middle Initial

Co-Owner or Other
Interest Owner

Last First Middle Initial

Address P.O. Box 790

City Deer Lodge State Montana Zip Code 59722

Home Phone No. Business Phone No. (406)846-2070

2. Person completing form Taylor / Jimmy / D.

Last First Middle Initial

Address P.O. Box 790

City Deer Lodge State Montana Zip Code 59722

Home Phone No. Business Phone No. (406)846-2070

3. Name of ditch, creek or river Unnamed

Use: ☒ Irrigation

4. Method of Irrigation Use: ☐ Sprinkler ☐ Furrow ☒ Flood

5. Source of Water: (Check Only One)

☒ Spring Name Unnamed

☐ Well Name

☐ Stream Name Tributary of

☐ Lake Name Stream

Tributary of

☐ Reservoir Name Stream

Tributary of

6. Point of Diversion: County Powell

W 1/2 NE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 33, T 8 N R 9 W

Lot Block Subdivision

7. Means of Diversion: Natural flood irrigation from seeps.

☐ Pump Capacity gpm

☐ Headgate and ditch or pipe

☐ Flood and dike

8. Means of Conveyance:

☐ Ditch

☐ Pipeline

☒ Other: Explain Natural flow over area from seeps.

9. Place of use and acres irrigated. County Powell

5 acres, Lot, Block, W 1/2 NE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 33, T 8 N/S R 9 E/W

4 acres, Lot, Block, SE 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 33, T 8 N/S R 9 E/W

acres, Lot, Block, 1/4 1/4 1/4, Section, T N/S, R E/W

acres, Lot, Block, 1/4 1/4 1/4, Section, T N/S, R E/W

acres, Lot, Block, 1/4 1/4 1/4, Section, T N/S, R E/W

9 Total acres. Subdivision

10. Flow rate claimed: 1 ☐ cubic feet per second
☐ gallons per minute
☒ miner's inches

11. Volume claimed: 18 acre-feet per year

12. Period(s) of use: January / 1 to December / 31
Month Day Month Day

13. Check one: ☐ Decreed Water Right Priority date or date of first use
☐ Filed Appropriation Right 1 / 1 / 1862
Hour Month Day Year
☒ Use Water Right

14. Attach copies of the Decree, Record of Filing or Proof of Use Right.

15. Attach copies of aerial photographs, U.S. Geological Survey maps or such other documents necessary to show point of diversion, place of use, place of storage, and conveyance facilities.

16. Notarized Statement signed by claimant.

STATE OF ~~MONTANA~~ COLORADO)
) ss.
 County of ~~POWELL~~ Jefferson)

I, William L. Mekeel, having been duly sworn, depose and say that I, being of legal age and being the claimant of this claim of existing water right, and the person whose name is signed to it as the claimant, know the contents of this claim and the matters and things stated there are true and correct.

William L. Mekeel

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 26th day of MARCH, 19 82.

Robert S. Prokop
 Notary Public for the State of ~~Montana~~ COLORADO

Residing at 11245 W 8TH AVE, ARVADA, CO
 My Commission expires JAN 10, 1984

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE



TED SCHWINDEN GOVERNOR

1537 AVENUE D, SUITE 121

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 248-6540

BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102

This statement is used to show receipt of
Statement of Claim form(s) from Natl Park Service
on the following property:

Filing of water rights for all Natl Park Service
areas in the State of Montana
Both appropriative and reserved rights.

DATED this 29th day of April, 1982.

Karla Fennhoff
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Other Supporting Information

JOHN F. GRANT -3-

Grant states in his memoirs (1886 Interview) that he had seven wives. At least four of these wives were Indian; his first wife was the daughter of a Snake Indian. Other wives included a sister of Tendoy (a Snake chief), a wife who was a relation of Chief Pushigan, and Quarra, a Bannock Indian.

Grant wintered in the Deer Lodge Valley in 1857, leaving in the spring. [He most likely went back to the Soda Springs area or to Utah to trade on the Immigrant Road, but this is presumption and not fact]. As few immigrants were on the road, he returned to the Deer Lodge Valley in the fall of 1859 and built a house at the junction of the Little Blackfoot River and Deer Lodge Rivers about 11 miles north of the present ranch. He had just recently married Quarra. No information has been found as to what happened to previous wives. His nearest neighbor was 135 miles away at Bitter Root. This location was a good one for trading, as seven tribes of Indians passed through the area on their way to hunt buffalo. Grant's table was open to all and he maintained friendly relations with the Indians. In this way, the Indians generally left his cattle and horses alone. In 1859, he had 800 head of cattle and a herd of 250 horses.⁶

Between his shrewd trading with the Indians and his fast-growing herds of horses and cattle, Grant soon built up a sizeable fortune for those days and this country.⁷

[Grant]..never locked a door nor lost a dollar through theft, though at times he had thousands of dollars in his cabin. A man who knew him in those days said he was a kind hearted and generous friend to those he trusted, but harsh with those he disliked. He never kept any books and loaned large sums of money to those he trusted. With others he went into the cattle business on shares, furnishing the cattle for half the increase, and in this manner, some of the herds were taken to the Bitter Root Valley.⁸

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6. Extract from Memoirs
 7. Dedication of Monument
 8. Shaw

In 1861, Grant gave his house away and moved to Cottonwood (present town of Deer Lodge) where the other traders had settled. Several sources state that Grant had two log cabins on the junction of the Little Blackfoot and Deer Lodge Rivers.

In the fall of 1862, I [Grant] built a house in Cottonwood afterwards called Deer Lodge. It cost me a pretty penny. I hauled my lumber from the Flathead reserve which was 150 miles away. The square of the house was made of hewed logs with posts in the corners. It was sixty four feet long, thirty feet wide and sixteen feet high. I paid five dollars a day to McLeod the hewer and to the carpenter, Alexander Pambrun, I paid nine dollars per day. Now came the plastering. There was no lime to be had. I did not know limestone when I saw it. Some people said it was one color and some said it was another. So I went up on the mountain and picked up stones of different colors and put them in the stove to burn. The one that slacked I knew to be limestone. I then went with a wagon and hauled plenty more of this kind and burnt it. Now that I had lime, a plasterer was needed. I got one and he charged me 150 dollars to plaster the first story but it was very well done. I went back to the house 20 years after and the plaster was still sound as ever. At first I had only homemade furniture, but about four or five years after, I bought Captain Lebarge's freight and among the lot, there were some parlor chairs. I paid 20 dollars each for these chairs and ten dollars each for four other chairs.* I also bought 10,000 dollars worth of flour and groceries from him. My house was not finished until 1863, but we lived in it before it was completed and Quarra, my little wife, showed a wonderful skill in taking care of it. She was a good cook and could make very nice butter and sew as well as any tailor.¹³

The home attracted a great deal of attention in the early years of the Territory and it is true that no house could compare with it for years to come, but the house is patterned after the many scattered trading posts of the American Northwest and Canadian provinces that were built by the military and the Hudson Bay Company and French Catholic missionaries.¹⁴

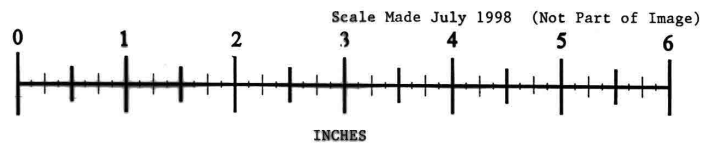
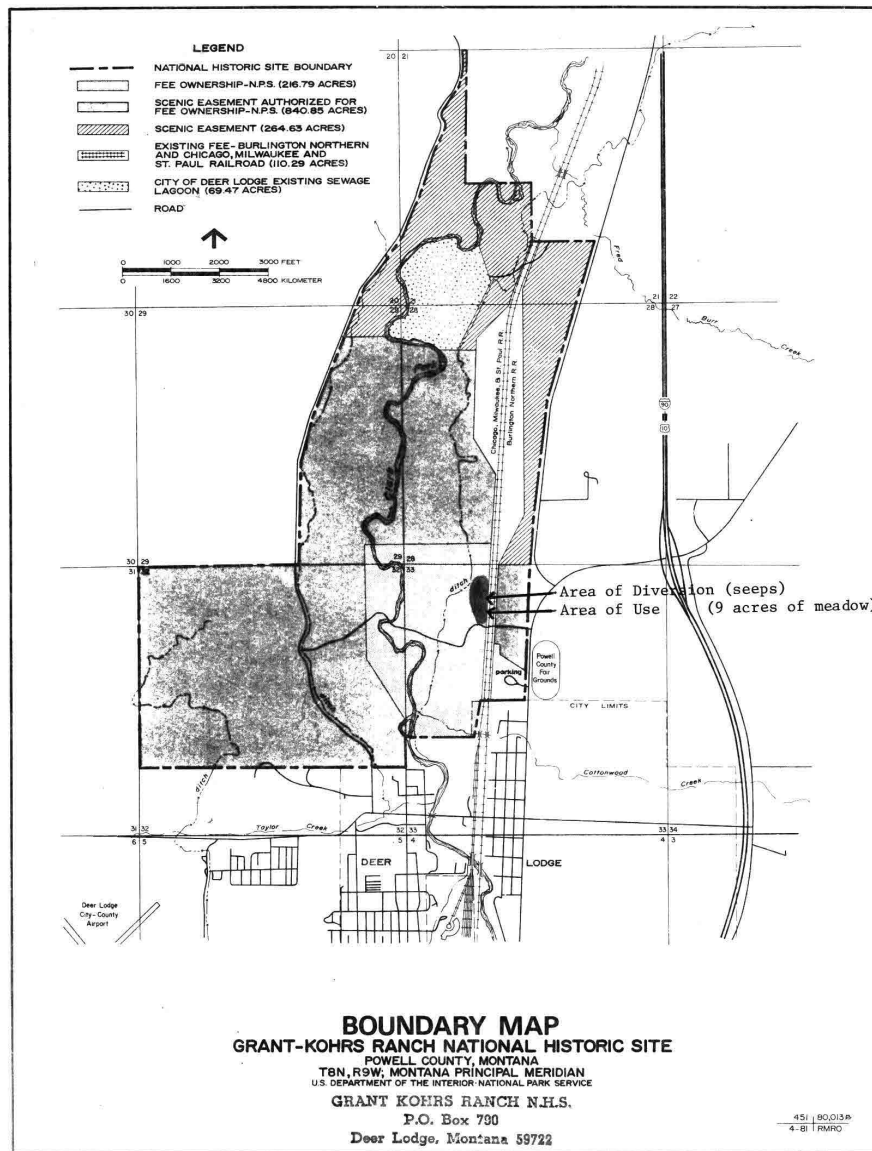
The country was very wild at this time. Highwaymen and robbers infested the country and Vigilantes cleaned them out by hanging many of them. Indians stole horses.

12. (cont.) Deachenault, Leon Iuesnelle, Louis Demirs, and Michand Leclair.

* There is some discrepancy in this statement, as Grant lived in the Deer Lodge house for four years only; possibly, he meant four to five years after he came to the area, as he first wintered in the Valley in 1857.

13. Extract from Memoirs

14. Snell, 1977



Docket Information

Number of Documents in Docket 6

Documents Dated from to

Docket Compiled: 3/28/2011