

STATE OF MONTANA
NATURAL STREAMBED AND LAND PRESERVATION ACT
OFFICIAL COMPLAINT

1. Alleged Violator Rich Shine and Darryl Thompson

Address 57 Dolan Ln **City** [Columbus]

State MT **Zip** 59019 **Phone** [

2. Location of activity: Name of perennial stream Stillwater River - historic side/flood channel

General location approximately 106 Dolan Lane to 7 Riverside Drive, Columbus, MT

Legal description]

3. Nature of complaint. Please give specific written description of the activity and draw a sketch of the site.

Please note any landmarks. Provide photos if available.

Reported activity: In May 2026, work was reportedly completed without prior written consent under the 310 Law within a historic side or flood channel of the Stillwater River associated with the Dolan Subdivision area. The reported work involved use of a mini excavator to remove accumulated silt, vegetation, and road gravel from the channel and to redistribute removed material along the banks. The project materials for Application 26-012 describe approximately 750-800 linear feet of channel work, generally about 3 feet wide, with an estimated 250-267 cubic yards of material removed or redistributed. The work was reportedly intended to restore water flow through the historic side/flood channel for agricultural water-right users after sediment, vegetation, and gravel accumulation following the 2022 flood restricted or stopped flow. The reported work date is **May 2026**, not July 2026. See Application 26-012, project plan, maps, and supporting documentation. A site sketch and photographs may be attached or added after inspection.

4. Verification of alleged violation. Please state whether you have personally viewed the site of the alleged violation, and the date of the viewing. If you have not viewed the site, please state the basis that forms your belief that an alleged violation is occurring.

I have not personally verified the full extent of the reported May 2026 work before filing this complaint. The matter was reported to me in my capacity as Stillwater Conservation District Administrator. My belief that activity may have occurred without a valid 310 permit is based on the report received by the District and the information submitted for Application 26-012, including the project description and plan documenting work within a historic side/flood channel of the Stillwater River. This complaint is submitted for investigation and Board review and is not a final violation determination.

5. Complainant's Signature Sharon Fletmetis

Please print name Sharon Fletmetis

Address PO Box 48 **City** Columbus **State** MT **Zip** 59019

Phone 406-290-1544

TO BE COMPLETED BY TEAM MEMBER

INSPECTION REPORT

Complaint # 26-016C

Application # 26-012

Date: _____

1. The following is the determination of the team member who conducted the on-site inspection of the alleged violation site.

2. Determination

_____ activity has been initiated on a perennial flowing stream without a valid permit.

_____ activity violates emergency procedures.

_____ activity is outside the scope of a permit.

_____ activity is not a violation as defined by district rules.

3. Recommended course of action

Team Member _____

Date _____