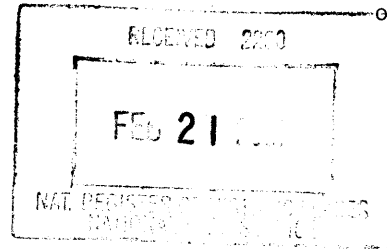


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

323



1. Name of Property

historic name: Crow Creek Water Ditch

other name/site number: Crow Creek Ditch, Kelly and Brothers Ditch, Kelly and Ford Ditch, Kelly Flume Ditch/24BW735.

2. Location

street & number: Helena National Forest; Headwaters Resource Area

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: n/a

city/town: Five miles west of Townsend, MT

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Broadwater

code: 007

zip code: 59644

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

12/27/2000
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

USDA Forest Service, Region I

State or Federal agency and bureau

01-08-01
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Bureau of Land Management

State or Federal agency and bureau

2/21/01
Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register

see continuation sheet

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper
Elson H. Beall

Date of Action

3/29/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public - Federal	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Structure	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	___	___ building(s)
	___	___ sites
	<u>3</u>	___ structures
	___	___ objects
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	<u>3</u>	___ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Functions:
Industry/Processing/Extraction – Waterworks	Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Water Supply and Control System	foundation: n/a
	walls: n/a
	roof: n/a
	other: earthen ditch, wooden flume, rubble stone dam

Narrative Description

Summary Description

The Crow Creek Water Ditch is a water transportation system that was built between 1866 and ca.1875 (Helena Daily Herald, July 14, 1875). The ditch was built using shovels, picks and axes (Stoner 1999) and is approximately three feet wide and one foot deep. The ditch system included in its eleven-mile length: two hand-dug ditch sections containing rock reinforced walls, a spectacular 1,578 foot long wooden flume (Hassel Canyon Flume), and a rubble stone diversion dam (Giant Hill Diversion Dam). In addition, the system included a three-mile long section where the water runs down natural gullies and draws where no improvements or digging was done (Stoner 1999). At its highest elevation, the ditch is 6,300 ft above mean sea level (a.m.s.l.) where it begins along Eureka Creek. At its terminus near the present-day Broadwater County transfer station, the elevation is 4,500 feet a.m.s.l (Stoner 1999).

For purposes of National Register nomination, two discontinuous segments of the system, including the complete eight mile section which was constructed for water conveyance and diversion, are included. The natural watershed which was used to advantage by this water transport system is not encompassed.

The Crow Creek Water Ditch

In 1866 gold was discovered in and around Indian Creek in the Elkhorn Mountains of southwestern Montana. The St. Louis mining camp (later renamed Hassel after a local miner) was the center of the strike, but excellent placer deposits were also located lower down the mountain on Indian Creek (Schell 1966; USDI-Bureau of Mines 1950). In the Indian Creek area mining camps with names like Hog'em, Cheat'em, Rob'em, Beat'em and Sinch'em sprang up (Stoner 1999). These small camps needed more water than Indian Creek could furnish, so the idea to bring in water from Eureka Creek by a ditch and flume system was conceived. The Crow Creek Ditch brought water from Eureka Creek to placer mining claims on the lower stretches of the Indian Creek drainage. This area was also known as the Union Mining District and then later the Warm Springs and Park-Indian Creek Mining Districts. Although called the Crow Creek Water Ditch, the source of water was in fact Eureka Creek near its headwaters, with Crow Creek being in an entirely different drainage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, Montana

Page 1

Several men constructed the ditch with the most prominent and often mentioned being John Murray (Stoner 1999). Others that participated in the construction included Cyrus Collier, Joe McElroy, Charles Cooke, Jesse Ford, and three brothers: Richard, Randolph, and "R" Kelly (Schriner 1966).

Description of Specific Ditch Features

Crow Creek Ditch: Of its 11 mile length the ditch includes: 8 miles of hand dug ditch with two segments of rock re-enforced walls, 3 miles of free flowing water where no water containment system other than stream beds exists (this 3-mile stretch is located .5 miles east of the Giant Hill Diversion Dam and the Hassel Canyon Flume), and 1,578 feet of wooden flume in the Indian Creek Canyon. The attached map shows the exact location of the various ditch features and segments.

The privately owned three-mile free-flowing section is a non-contributing element of this National Register ditch system nomination because it consists only of a stream bed that was not altered or contained in any way. The free flowing section was (and continues to be) heavily mined. Mining activities have changed the natural course of Indian Creek and its appearance along this free flowing segment.

The Giant Hill Diversion Dam: This dam consists of a battered rubble stone wall, which forms its downstream face on the north side (McCormick and Quivik 1990). The upstream face on the south side consists of an earthen embankment. Below the dam there are two different ditches flowing downstream. From the dam the water could be ditched a short distance into two tributaries of Indian Creek, one emerging one half mile above the old mining camp of St. Louis and the other following Yellowstone Gulch and emerging at the west end of the St. Louis camp. The dam features two control structures: one is located near the middle of the dam and consists of a steel pipe valve with a wood plug mounted on a screw-stem at its downstream end; the other is located at the east end of the dam and includes the remains of a wood frame which probably held a sliding gate (McCormick and Quivik 1990). The valve and the control gate at the outlet suggest the operators of the structure could divert the water into either or both of the two downstream ditches (Stoner 1999). Water from the dam could also follow a third course straight down the hill, free flowing without the benefit of ditching, eventually entering Indian Creek near the St. Louis camp. The dam is in excellent condition except for a recently built road that has breached the dam near its west end (McCormick and Quivik 1990). This damage did not compromise the integrity of the taller east end of the dam nor did it have an effect on the valve or outlet works, which were the operable parts of the dam.

The Hassel Canyon Flume: Remnants of the wooden flume that ran through the lower part of Hassel Canyon can still be seen hanging from the canyon walls and in the canyon bottom. By far the most spectacular part of the whole Crow Creek Ditch system, the flume conveyed water directly from Indian Creek at a point near the middle of Hassel Canyon (Stoner 1999). The flume was 1,578 feet in length and was an engineering marvel for its time. In many instances the flume was attached to the canyon wall which rose at almost a 90-degree angle from the canyon bottom. The flume was 20-30 feet above the canyon floor and was built with two-inch thick planks. The flume box measured about two feet wide by one foot tall. The box had wooden supports on top of it spaced at approximately one-foot intervals to prevent it from collapsing under the weight of the large volume of water that was transported. The flume box was fastened to the vertical canyon wall with heavy wire anchored to steel pins driven into the rock and by wooden props from below the flume. Some of the wooden props were wedged into rocks on the canyon face while others extended all the way to the ground. The trestle that crossed the canyon extended an estimated 25 feet above the canyon floor and crossed over the main wagon road up Indian Creek. Historic photographs indicate that the trestle was made from planed lumber and was of a simple, wood-braced truss design. The trestle no longer exists.

Exactly when the flume was built is unknown. On July 31, 1873, the Helena Weekly Herald stated that "parties are now surveying a ditch" to bring water from Crow Creek to the Cheat'em diggings. In writing about her father John Murray, Mary Murray states that "in 1876 John Murray and Joe McElroy opened up the Murray Placers on Indian Creek Bar about three miles below the old town of St. Louis. They built a flume along the rocks of the canyon to carry water from Indian Creek" (as quoted in Stoner 1999:13).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, Montana

Page 2

Condition and Integrity of the Crow Creek Ditch

For a century-old water ditch system, the Crow Creek Water Ditch is remarkably intact and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The hand-dug ditch itself is in good condition and contiguous along its original length across a distance of 7 miles on the west end and an additional mile on the east end. Because it has not been used in almost 100 years, it is overgrown along some sections but still easily visible and can be followed along its full length. In addition, the stonework of the Giant Hill Diversion Dam is nearly intact except where a dirt road has breached the west end. As one would expect, the wooden flume in Hassel Canyon has deteriorated due to lack of use and maintenance, and exposure to the elements. Even so, portions of the flume can still be seen hanging from the high limestone walls of the canyon, while fallen portions of the flume are visible at the base on the canyon, as are pieces of wire and iron fasteners used to secure the flume to the steep canyon wall. The trestle that carried the flume across Indian Creek and above the backcountry roadway to the upper Indian Creek drainage was removed long ago.

The setting and feeling of the area surrounding the Crow Creek Ditch remains unspoiled and wild. Small-scale mining activities continue to dot this landscape, especially in the vicinity of the three-mile free flowing watershed of Crow Creek where water was historically diverted by the Giant Hill Dam to various mineral claims.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Areas of Significance: Industry; Engineering

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1866-1900

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1866

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: John Murray, Cyrus Collier, Joe McElroy, Charles Cooke, Jesse Ford, Richard Kelly, Randolph Kelly, and "R" Kelly

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

The Crow Creek Ditch, built between 1866 and 1875, is an extensive human-made water artery that brought hydraulic mining to life on the northeastern flanks of the Elkhorn Mountains in southwestern Montana. The dearth of water in this dry area made exploration of potential placer lodes rich with gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper nearly impossible (Johnson 1994). With the construction of the Crow Creek Water Ditch, miners were provided with a constant and secure water source enabling them to tap into the rich ore supply the area offered. The availability of water in turn affected the location and density of settlements that grew up around the larger mining claims. For its association with mining activities in the Elkhorns, the Crow Creek Water Ditch is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level.

The construction of the Crow Creek Ditch required a high level of engineering skill and ingenuity to complete. The engineering feats displayed in the construction of the ditch—flumes hanging off steep rocky cliffs, the crossing of a canyon over 100 feet in depth, and one man (name unknown) falling to his death during the construction—reflect the tenacity of miners who would not let any obstacle stand in the way of getting water to potentially valuable claims. Although the wooden portions of the system have deteriorated over time, the entire system was a carefully designed and crafted structure that remains impressive in its scale, ingenuity, precision and simplicity. For these reasons, the ditch is also eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C as a premier example of mining design and technology.

Narrative History

The Crow Creek Ditch lies within the historic Park-Indian Creek Mining District (Johnson 1994). This 25,600 acre district was determined ineligible for National Register listing in 1994, because it was felt the district had lost too much of its original integrity (Huppe 1994). However, cultural resource survey investigations within the district have resulted in the location of individual mining properties that are recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Johnson 1994; McCormick and Quivik 1990). Various water transport systems within the district were included as properties recommended as National Register-eligible (Johnson 1994).

The Crow Creek Ditch is representative of 19th century metals mining in Montana, as described in detail below. The historical context developed for the Park-Indian Creek Mining District identified four "periods of significance". These include: 1) early placer (1866-1880); later placer (1880-1940); initial lode development/production (1867-1910); and reemergent lode production (1910-1950). Horstman (1995, 1998) developed several more expansive historical themes for various areas within the Helena National Forest and these generally apply to all southwestern Montana mining districts (such as the Park-Indian) with only a few exceptions. From this perspective, the Crow Creek ditch reflects the Pioneer Placer and Lode Mining Period (1867-1890), as defined by Horstman (1995). This period saw the development of placer mining ventures such as the Crow Creek and Park Ditches (see Criterion C discussion below) and the initiation of early lode mining as the rich placer deposits played out. The Crow Creek Ditch was almost defunct by subsequent time periods (i.e. Peak Lode Activity and Production: 1890-1910 and Depression Era to World War II Strategic Metals Boom: 1930-1945).

The varied and colorful ownership of the ditch between 1867 and 1900 (see below), as documented in the Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's Office records, shows that no one person ever owned the ditch. Ownership was strictly a partnership deal with partners owning equal or fractional shares. During its 33 years in operation, the Crow Creek Ditch witnessed an evolution in mining exploration and processing, beginning with small scale placering by individual miners and terminating with its use by large scale hydraulic and lode operations such as the Diamond Hill Mine and Mill. The Crow Creek Ditch made an essential contribution to the development of placer mining and settlement in the Hassel area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 1

Criterion A: Historical Background and Significance of the Crow Creek Ditch, Hassel and the Park-Indian Mining District

The Indian Creek region of the Elkhorn Mountains in southwestern Montana has been the scene of exploration and extraction of precious metals since March of 1866 (Stoner 1999). Prospectors who first found placer deposits in Indian Creek were attracted to the Elkhorn Mountains by significant gold discoveries in Last Chance Gulch in Helena and at Confederate Gulch in the Big Belt Mountains (McCormick and Quivik 1990). Frank Heald, John Cull and others, owners of the Empire Mining Company, first discovered gold near the west fork of Indian Creek in March of 1866. The discovery immediately attracted more prospectors who congregated into a settlement that took the name St. Louis. St. Louis was later renamed Hassel in the 1890s.

By the mid-1870s, St. Louis included housing for miners, a well-stocked store, two hotels, a church, a school, and a Knights of Good Templar Hall (McCormick and Quivik 1990). On July 14, 1875, a newspaper reporter from the Helena Daily Herald visited the mining camp and stated that water for hydraulicking, drifting, and "bar digging" was primarily furnished by Indian Creek via a 3000-foot long flume set on bedrock and that additional water was being brought to the area through a system of earthen ditches from Crow Creek. The "flume" was actually a very long sluice box built to utilize water from Indian and Eureka Creeks (Stoner 1999). This sluice box no longer exists but once sat in the creek bottom of Indian Creek and was used by miners to wash gravel (John Stoner: personal communication, March 6, 2000). In 1876, John Murray and Joe McElroy erected another wooden flume (a portion of the Crow Creek Ditch) to divert Indian Creek to their placer diggings. This portion of the ditch, which snakes along the steep canyon walls of Indian Creek, is now called the Hassel Canyon Flume.

By the turn of the century, the Indian Creek area is estimated to have produced between two and eight million dollars in precious metals. The Little Giant Mine was one of the most actively developed mines in the area. This mine was located about a mile east of Hassel on Giant Hill. F.D. Heald, Fletcher Foster, W.J. Clark, and E.A. Morrison filed the claim on this mine. Hassel's largest and most speculative gold mining ventures occurred in clusters of claims on Diamond Hill about a half-mile northwest of the town. In the early 1890s, the Diamond Hill Mining Company erected a 40-stamp mill to process ore recovered from one of its larger glory holes. An article in the June, 1895 issue of *Northwest Magazine* stated that that the Diamond Hill Mine obtained water through "an open ditch, boxes and iron pipes, from a distant source" (Smalley 1895, in Stoner 1999). In 1897, the company was purchased by a group of investors from Glasgow, Scotland. The new owners expanded its operations with the construction of a \$400,000 dollar 120-stamp mill and electric plant. The new stamp mill was powered with water-generated electricity from the Crow Creek power plant located at the base of Power Gulch. Once the new water supply and electric system were up and running, use of the Crow Creek Ditch discontinued. These developments at Diamond Hill breathed new life into the community of Hassel. New buildings went up, several new businesses opened, and of course, saloons flourished. But prosperity was short-lived and immediately after the new mill opened, it was shut down because of the water supply was insufficient. By 1900 the mill had only produced \$500,000 dollars worth of ore. An August issue of the weekly Townsend Star newspaper carried the story of the Diamond Hill Plant closure and sale to a Boston company who moved the facility to mines near Pony, Montana. After 1900, the town of Hassel became a ghost town.

Ownership of the Crow Creek Ditch between 1867 and 1900

Ownership of the Crow Creek Ditch was varied and complex. It was never owned by a single individual and it changed hands frequently. The constant change in ownership reflects the nature of the mining business between 1866-1900 in that people tried their hand in a certain area and if quick profits did not arise, they moved on to other areas, selling their interest to other hopeful parties. Appendix A contains a list of the owners of ditch between 1866 and 1897.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 2

Criterion C: Engineering, Construction and Design of the Crow Creek Ditch System

The Crow Creek Ditch is an example of a late nineteenth century placer mining water transportation system. In areas where topography permitted (approximately 3 miles in length), miners used it to their engineering and design advantage and allowed the ditch to be free-flowing and unhampered. Approximately 7.7 miles of the ditch was hand dug reflecting the available technology (or lack thereof) of the time. Within Indian Creek Canyon, the 1,578-foot long wooden flume that in many areas literally hangs from the rock face of the canyon approximately 60 feet above the ground, shows the tenacity of the miners to achieve their goal of getting water to their claims. The construction danger and engineering feat associated with this flume underscores the importance of the ditch to successful mining ventures.

The Giant Hill Diversion Dam, which is a part of the Crow Creek Ditch, is an excellent example of a historic mining structure that was used to divert the flow of water to distant placer mining claims and mills. Many other water conveyance systems used by miners simply moved water from one source to a single site (McCormick and Quivik 1990). The Crow Creek Ditch, with its three different diversion courses near Giant Hill, was built by small-scale miners to reach and serve a number of mining operations and mills. Other examples of mining ditches are available on the Helena National Forest but none are as intact nor are in such good condition as the Crow Creek Ditch.

Integrity

West-central Montana is replete with water ditch system remnants related to early mining in southwestern Montana. Some 20 miles of water ditch remains are recorded on the Helena National Forest but this is probably nowhere near the number of miles of ditch systems in operation when placer mining flourished in this area. Between 1862 and 1885, over 21 ditches were constructed on lands now managed by the Deerlodge and Helena National Forests (Beck 1988). These ditch and flume systems supported extensive placer and hydraulic mining operations and short-lived camps and communities in the Big Belt Mountains (i.e., Confederate Gulch) and the Continental Divide Range (i.e., Washington Gulch, Nevada Creek) and other mountain ranges. While some ditch systems remain to be fully inventoried and recorded, it is evident that the integrity of many have been severely compromised by erosion, road construction, and logging. It is difficult to walk the entire length of many ditch systems to the placer mining areas and communities they served. The Crow Creek Ditch is one of the few exceptions and is noteworthy for its strong integrity.

The Park Ditch (24LC1048), located in the mountains south of the community of Helena, may be the best and most comparable ditch system to the Crow Creek Ditch in this area of Montana in terms of origin (mining), age (1870-1890), mining technology (placer/hydraulic), and construction detail (ditch and flume). This ditch system was financed by a consortium of local miners and businessmen who recognized the importance of bringing water to the placer workings south of Helena. The ditch was nearly twice as long as the Crow Creek Ditch but by the time construction was completed, its value as a water transportation system for placer mining had diminished. Some segments of the ditch system have been obliterated by past human activities. The Park Ditch is probably National Register-eligible but lacks the impressive diversion dam and flume features of the Crow Creek Ditch.

Inventory records from four adjacent National Forests (Deerlodge, Lewis and Clark, Lolo, and Bitterroot) show that the Crow Creek Ditch is one of the best surviving, intact examples of a late nineteenth century water transport system in west-central Montana. Though many ditches are recorded on the four above-mentioned forests, most are overgrown and lack the dam, flume, and rock reinforced wall features that the Crow Creek Ditch still possesses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 3

Appendix A Ownership of the Crow Creek Ditch, 1866-1897

Based on the records of the Broadwater County Clerk and Recorder's office (includes all information that appears in quotes) the following people owned the Crow Creek Ditch between 1866 to 1897 (Stoner 1999):

1867.... Charles Cooke, Randolph Kelly, and Jesse Ford filed a notice of intent to "locate, preempt, and commence to appropriate the water of Eureka Gulch and all streams intervening between said Eureka Gulch and Union District, Jefferson County, Montana Territory, for mining, milling, and irrigating purposes, and we hereby notify all persons that we have been, and will proceed to construct a ditch to conduct water from Eureka Gulch at or near where our stake now stands, to Union District, conducting all the water above the line of our said ditch in the Eureka Gulch, all streams intervening between said Eureka Gulch and to the said Union District."

1869.... J.L. Ford sold C.T. Collier a one third interest in the Crow Creek Ditch, then known as the "Kelly and Ford Ditch."

1870.... Frederick Miller and Abraham Pherson gave notice to appropriate the water of Eureka Gulch for mining, milling, and irrigation purposes and "to construct a ditch to conduct the amount of 500 inches of the water of said Eureka Gulch from a point at or near the forks of said gulch to the mines of Indian Creek... We also give notice that we claim the water of all streams intervening between said Eureka Gulch and said Indian Creek for the purpose of conducting the same through said ditch to the point or points above named."

1871.... R.M. Kelly, R.H. Kelly, and R. Kelly sold to C.B. Pierce a "two ninths interest in a water ditch known as Kelly Brothers ditch. Said ditch being taken out of Eureka Gulch and emptied [sic] into Indian Creek."

1874.... James Thompson sold John Keating and David Blacker a "three-eighths interest in the Crow Creek Ditch."

1875.... John Murray sold to the Murphy Neel and Company, comprised of John Murray, Samuel Neel, and W.W. Higgins, "all of my un-divided three-eighths interest in the Crow Creek Water Ditch being built to carry water from Eureka Creek and tributaries to the Warm Springs Mining District."

1876.... Alex O'Neil, Pat Bowen, and Ed Woods made notice that "we the undersigned claim one thousand inches of the above named creek (Crow Creek) and it's tributaries for mining, milling, agricultural, and other purposes, the same to be conducted and through a ditch to Bars and Gulches on Indian Creek and vicinity-staring point of ditch one mile (or thereabouts) above the point where Eureka empties into Crow Creek."

1877.... Cyrus T. Collier sold Richard H. Kelly and "un-divided one third interest in the Crow Creek Water Ditch, known as the Kelly & Ford Ditch."

1880.... Richard H. and Lizzie Kelly sold William V. Meyers "a certain water ditch constructed and leading from Crow Creek, known as the Kelly and Ford Ditch."

1882.... R.E. Slawson sold Issac Weston "a one half interest in the Kelly & Ford water ditch."

1886.... John and Anne Murray sold Samuel T. Hauser "a one half interest in the Crow Creek Ditch."

1892.... The Murray Placer Mining Company (John Murray and Samuel T. Hauser) sold to the Sapphire & Ruby Company of Montana, Ltd. "the waters of Indian Creek, and all ditches and water rights and interest therein."

1892.... The Murray Placer Mining Company (a corporation, John Murray, President and Samuel T. Hauser, Vice-President) sold The Montana Gold and Gem Exploration Company, Ltd. "All the interest in and to the Crow Creek Ditch."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 4

1893.... John Miller and John Wilson of Helena and Angus McDonald of Phillipsburg all of the Diamond Hill mine purchased the water rights to the Eureka or Crow Creek Ditch along with "all boxes, attachments, fixtures and appliances, flumes, ditches, spurs or nlets."

1897.... The Sapphire and Ruby Company of Montana, Ltd. Sold to The Eldorado Gold and Gem Company "all Indian Creek water, ditches, flumes, pipes, etc." the Sapphire & Ruby Company of Montana, Ltd.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
[X] Federal agency
Local government
University
Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data (X see continuation sheet)

Acreage of Property: 4 acres

UTM References: (see continuation sheet)

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): (see continuation sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series map (includes Crow Creek Falls Quadrangle, Giant Hill Quadrangle, and Townsend Quadrangle) showing location and extent of ditch.

Boundary Justification

The Crow Creek Ditch measures 11 miles in length and is three feet wide. It is being nominated as a discontinuous resource encompassing the man-made portions of the system, including the hand-dug ditch, flume remnants, and diversion dam. For purposes of nomination, a boundary of 100 feet in width, 50 feet on either side of the ditch, is used.

The three-mile free flowing section of the Crow Creek ditch system was not included within the property boundaries. This privately-owned property, while utilized for water conveyance associated with the Crow Creek Ditch, consists only of a streambed that was not altered or contained in any way. In addition, this free flowing section was (and continues to be) heavily mined. These later mining activities have changed the natural course of Indian Creek and its appearance along this free flowing segment. Thus any associative qualities of design, setting and feeling have been eliminated.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sara Scott and John Stoner (volunteer)
organization: U.S. Forest Service/Helena National Forest date: May 2000
street & number: 2880 Skyway Drive telephone: (406) 449-5201
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59601

Property Owner

name/title: U.S. Forest Service/Helena National Forest
street & number: 2880 Skyway Drive
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59601
telephone: (406) 449-5201

name/title: U.S. Bureau of Land Management/Headwaters Resource Area
street & number: 106 North Parkmont
city or town: Butte state: MT zip code: 59702
telephone: (406) 494-5059

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Crow Creek Water Ditch
Broadwater County, MT

Page 1

UTM References: Zone: 12	Easting:	Northing:
Point 1*	mE443080	mN5133720
Point 2	mE442040	mN5131670
Point 3	mE443160	mN5131020
Point 4	mE443840	mN5132020
Point 5	mE443420	mN5130180
Point 6	mE444300	mN5129980
Point 7	mE445520	mN5128600
Point 8	mE447420	mN5128320
Point 9	mE451980	mN5129910
Point 10	mE452340	mN5130240
Point 11	mE453480	mN5130840

*See topographic map for location of points

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):

Forest Service Lands:

T7N, R1W: The ditch begins in the NE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ of sec. 16, and continues through the S¹/₂SW¹/₄SW¹/₄ of sec. 16; W¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of Sec. 21; SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, W¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄ of sec. 20; NE¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 29; S¹/₂SW¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 28; E¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE of sec. 21; NE¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, NW¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, E¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄ of sec. 28; E¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄SW¹/₄NE¹/₄, N¹/₂SE¹/₄NE¹/₄, E¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 33; W¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄NW¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄NW¹/₄, N¹/₂NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄NE¹/₄SW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, N¹/₂SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄SE¹/₄SE¹/₄ of sec. 34; and the SWSWSE of sec. 35.

In T6N, R1W, the ditch traverses the N¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 3; the W¹/₂NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, SE¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄, S¹/₂NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NW¹/₄, W¹/₂NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, W¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, and SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of section 2.

The Giant Hill Diversion Dam is located in the SE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 2, T6N, R1W. For three miles beyond the dam, the ditch consists of the non-contributing free-flowing segment of the system. The contributing segments of the ditch resume on Bureau of Land Management lands in T7N, R1E.

Bureau of Land Management Lands:

The ditch traverses BLM lands in the SE¹/₄NW¹/₄NE¹/₄, S¹/₂NE¹/₄NE¹/₄, NE¹/₄NE¹/₄NE¹/₄ of sec. 32; NW¹/₄NW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of sec. 33; the SE¹/₄SW¹/₄SW¹/₄, W¹/₂SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, NE¹/₄SE¹/₄SW¹/₄, and S¹/₂NW¹/₄SE¹/₄ of sec. 28 in T7N, R1E.