

**MONTANA WATER COURT
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION
YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE BETWEEN BIGHORN AND TONGUE
RIVERS
BASIN 42KJ**

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF INTERLOCUTORY DECREE AND NOTICE OF
AVAILABILITY**

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR WATER RIGHTS

You received this notice to inform you that the Montana Water Court has issued a Decree (a list of water right claims) in the Yellowstone River Drainage Basin between the Bighorn and Tongue Rivers. This notice may include an abstract (a description of your water right claim as decreed).

- If an abstract is included with this notice, then your claim is part of the Decree.
- If an abstract is not included with this notice, then your claim is not part of the current Decree.

**WHAT IS THE INTERLOCUTORY DECREE AND SHOULD YOU FILE AN
OBJECTION?**

The Decree includes 458 water rights. The water rights were either not previously decreed by the Water Court or have issues that still need to be addressed. Review the abstracts. The Decree can be viewed at: <https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/Notices-Info/PublicNotices>. If you prefer to view a paper copy, please contact the Water Court or your DNRC office. See below for contact information.

If you believe any claims in the Decree do not reflect historical (before July 1, 1973) beneficial use, you should file an objection by **January 12, 2026**. Objections must be filed on the forms provided by the Water Court. The forms can be found at: <https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/LegalResources> or by contacting the Water Court: watercourt@mt.gov or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by **January 12, 2026**. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in the *Billings Gazette*, the *Independent Press*, and the *Miles City Star*.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Water Court will be offering an informal public meeting to explain the objection process on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 12:00 pm** via Zoom. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 854 8779 2591#, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 840630# *or* log in online using this link: <https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/85487792591?pwd=kO7Xk5Z89fo9XXjXbyQNr6h93N5Pag.1>

If someone objects to any of your water rights, the Court will notify you, and you will be allowed to file a counterobjection. After all notice periods have passed, the Water Court will address all

objections, counterobjections, and issue remarks. **Make sure your address is up to date with the DNRC.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Montana Water Court
1123 Research Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 586-4364
watercourt@mt.gov

Montana DNRC, Water Rights Adjudication Office
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-0560

DNRC Billings Regional Office
Airport Industrial Park
1371 Rintop Drive
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-4415

Remember, objections must be filed and received by the Water Court by January 12, 2026.

DATED this 16th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Stephen R. Brown
Chief Water Judge
Montana Water Court

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS, OTHERWISE,
YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS AFFECTING YOUR WATER RIGHT IS
LIMITED.**