



MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Helping to Protect, Utilize & Understand Montana's Water Resources

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

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Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation helps provide coordination, development and utilization of state water in order to protect existing uses and promote adequate future supplies for domestic, industrial, agricultural, recreation, conservation, and other beneficial uses of water.



WATER OPERATIONS

DNRC administers dam safety, floodplain management, and community assistance programs, and provides support to the Board of Water Well Contractors.

WATER SCIENCES

DNRC helps advance Montana's water conservation and management through research, measurement and technology. Our scientists collect and distribute surface water and ground water data to provide information about water in Montana. DNRC studies water use through innovative science, research, and collaboration with a diverse group of people across the state.



PLANNING AND COMMUNICATIONS

DNRC's work involves planning for the future of water in Montana, and we work with stakeholders to inform state planning efforts, build drought resilience and support local management of water resources. Communication and outreach strategies play a key role in our planning.



COMPACT IMPLEMENTATION

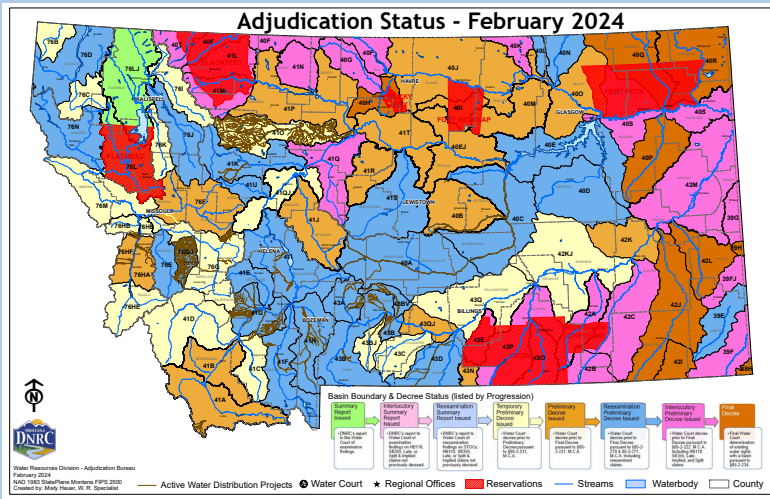
Montana negotiated compacts to settle all the federal reserved water rights claims in the State. DNRC supports the implementation of these 18 tribal and federal water compacts.

STATE WATER PROJECTS

DNRC oversees state-owned water projects including 22 dams, approximately 250 miles of irrigation canals, and one hydropower facility.



Adjudication Status - February 2024



ADJUDICATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND DISTRIBUTION

DNRC provides technical support to the Water Court with the adjudication of pre-July 1973 water rights. The Department also has a concerted effort to address enforcement needs and provide technical and administrative assistance to distribution projects.

WATER RIGHTS

DNRC administers the permitting process for new water rights and changes in existing water rights. The Department also oversees water rights ownership updates; maintenance of the constitutionally-mandated centralized water rights database; and implementation of data quality standards for entry of water rights information into the database.



To learn more about Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Water Resources Division visit:

dnrc.mt.gov



Water Resources