

**IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
SHIELDS RIVER - BASIN 43A**

**NOTICE THAT OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN FILED
AND HEARINGS REQUESTED**

This is your notice that the Montana Water Court will hear objections, receive evidence, and review the historical beneficial use of water right claims in Shields River and its tributaries in Basin 43A. These claims were included in the Basin 43A Preliminary Decree issued February 14, 2019.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

An **Objection List** identifies the water right claims the court will review. Changes to the claims on the objection list may affect your water rights. If you are not the claimant or objector, and you want to be kept informed of the progress of a water right claim through the Water Court, or become involved as a third party in the claim proceedings, you must file a **Notice of Intent to Appear**.

YOU CAN SEE THE OBJECTION LIST FOR THIS BASIN AND OBTAIN FORMS FOR FILING A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW.

WHO MAY FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR?

If you are *not already involved* in a specific water right claim as the claimant or objector, but you wish to participate in the proceeding regarding a specific water right claim, you may file a **Notice of Intent to Appear**. If you file a **Notice of Intent to Appear** on a claim you will receive notice of all further proceedings regarding that claim. You may only file a **Notice of Intent to Appear** regarding claims on the objection list.

FILING DEADLINE

A **Notice of Intent to Appear** must be filed on the forms provided by the Water Court and must be filed with the Water Court, P.O. Box 1389, Bozeman, MT 59771-1389 by **March 17, 2020**.

WHERE TO SEE THE OBJECTION LIST AND OBTAIN FORMS

The Objection List may be reviewed and Notice of Intent to Appear forms may be obtained at the:

1. Montana Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation,
Water Rights Adjudication, 910 Helena Ave, Helena, MT (406) 444-0560
Bozeman Regional Office, 2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110, Bozeman, MT (406) 586-3136
2. Montana Water Court, 1123 Research Drive, Bozeman, MT (406) 586-4364

The Objection List and Notice of Intent to Appear form are posted on the internet at www.dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/adjudication www.dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/adjudication. After arriving at the site, scroll down to Basin 43A and click on Shields River, Preliminary Decree. Click on Notice of Intent to Appear Form or on Objection List. A free CD of the Objection List and Notice of Intent to Appear forms are also available from the Water Court upon request. A paper copy of the Objection List is available from the Water Court for \$5.

The **Objection List** does not contain all of the information included on an objection to a water right claim. To obtain a copy of a complete objection, contact the Montana Water Court at P.O. Box 1389, Bozeman, MT 59771-1389, watercourt@mt.gov, (406) 586-4364, or (800) 624-3270.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IS FILED?

The claimant, objectors and those who filed a Notice of Intent to Appear will be notified by the Court of the time and date set for the first status conference and all other Court proceedings. If you file a Notice of Intent to Appear, you will be expected to participate in Court proceedings.

If you do not participate in Water Court proceedings, your right to appeal adverse Water Court decisions is limited by the provisions of Section 85-2-235, MCA.

BASIN MEETINGS WITH THE WATER COURT

The Water Court will host two **telephone conference calls**: one on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and one on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.. At the date and time of the meetings, dial the toll-free telephone number: **1-877-526-1243**. At the prompt, enter the participant pin code of: **46309676#**.

Any Questions? Call the DNRC Adjudication Office at (406) 444-0560 or call the Water Court at (406) 586-4364 or (800) 624-3270.

DATED this 17th day of January, 2020.

**Russ McElyea
Chief Water Judge
Montana Water Court
P. O. Box 1389
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389**

REMINDER: Notice of Intent to Appear forms must be filed by March 17, 2020.