

**MONTANA WATER COURT  
CLARK FORK DIVISION  
CLARK FORK RIVER BETWEEN THE BLACKFOOT RIVER AND  
FLATHEAD RIVER  
BASIN 76M**

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**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY DECREE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR WATER RIGHTS**

The Montana Water Court issued a Decree (a list of water rights) in your Basin. This notice may include an abstract (a description of your water right as decreed).

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

**WHAT IS THE PRELIMINARY DECREE?**

The Decree includes abstracts of existing water rights on all sources of water within Basin 76M. These water rights were reexamined by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) pursuant to Water Court orders. The DNRC may have made changes or identified potential problems on your abstract by placing "issue remarks" on the abstract.

Review the abstracts. The Decree, which consists of Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and abstracts of the water rights, 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 water rights in the Decree do not reflect historical (before July 1, 1973) beneficial use, you must file an objection by **April 7, 2025**. 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 Court: [watercourt@mt.gov](mailto:watercourt@mt.gov) or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by April 7, 2025. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in the Missoulian, Mineral Independent, and Sanders County Ledger.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The Water Court will be offering informal public meetings to explain the objection process on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm in person** at The Dennison Theatre at the University of Montana, 1098 Maurice Avenue, Missoula, MT 59812
- **Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 12:00 pm via Zoom**. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 894 4084 7890#, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 844571#

If someone objects to your water rights, the Court will notify you, and you may file a counterobjection to your objector's water rights in this decree. After all notice periods pass, the Water Court will address all objections, counterobjections, and issue remarks. **Make sure your address is up to date with the DNRC.** You can contact the DNRC at the address below:

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

Montana DNRC, Water Resources Regional Office  
2705 Spurgin Road, Bldg. C  
PO Box 5004  
Missoula, MT 59806-5004  
(406) 721-4284

**Remember, objections must be filed and received by the Water Court by April 7, 2025.**

DATED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2024

/s/ Russ McElyea  
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.**