

**MONTANA WATER COURT
UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION
RUBY RIVER
BASIN 41C**

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 41C. Water right claims in the Temporary Preliminary Decree issued in 1990 were reexamined by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) pursuant to Water Court orders. Water right claims filed after the Temporary Preliminary Decree was issued, are also included. They were examined by the DNRC pursuant to the Water Right Claim Examination Rules. 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/>. 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 **December 22, 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 or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by December 22, 2025. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, *The Madisonian*, and *Dillon Tribune*.

WHAT'S NEXT?

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

- **Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 6:00 pm in person** at the Alder Fire Hall, 129 Upper Ruby Road, Alder, MT.
- **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 12:00 pm via Zoom**. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 849 8033 1980#, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 619711# or join online at <https://mt.gov.zoom.us/j/84980331980?pwd=a8bd3vValja3ctqoBnHr6XRpks90RL.1>

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 9th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-0560

Montana DNRC, Water Resources Regional Office
2273 Boot Hill Court, Ste. #110
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 586-3136

Remember, objections must be filed with the Water Court by December 22, 2025.

DATED this 25th day of June, 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.**