

**MONTANA WATER COURT  
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION  
YELLOWSTONE RIVER, BETWEEN CLARKS FORK, YELLOWSTONE AND  
BIGHORN RIVERS  
BASIN 43Q**

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

The Montana Water Court has entered the Interlocutory Decree for Basin 43Q. The Interlocutory Decree includes 836 water right claims. The only water right claims in the Interlocutory Decree are those not previously decreed by the Water Court or that have issues that still need to be addressed. The Interlocutory Decree does not include water rights that were fully adjudicated in the Preliminary Decree.

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

The Interlocutory 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 water right claims in the Interlocutory Decree do not reflect historical (before July 1, 1973) beneficial use, you should file an objection by **December 22, 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](mailto:watercourt@mt.gov) or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by **December 22, 2026**. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in the *Laurel Outlook*, *Yellowstone County News* and *Billings Gazette*.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The Water Court will be offering an informal public meeting to explain the objection process on **Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 12:00 pm via Zoom**. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 882 0249 4249 #, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 968173 # *or* log in online using this link: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88202494249?pwd=DhwjFacDfuT3JkpkyqfSxpx1aG1FJ.1>

If any of your water right claims in the Interlocutory Decree receive objections, the Court will notify you, and you will be allowed to file a counterobjection. After all notice periods have closed, 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  
PO Box 1389  
Bozeman, MT 59771  
(406) 586-4364  
[watercourt@mt.gov](mailto:watercourt@mt.gov)

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

Montana DNRC, Billings Water Resources Regional Office  
1371 Rintop Drive  
Billings, MT 59105-1978  
(406) 247-4415

**Remember, objections must be filed and received by the Water Court by December 22, 2026.**

DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2026.

/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.**