

**IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA
YELLOWSTONE DIVISION
LITTLE BIGHORN RIVER (BASIN 430)**

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

This is your personal notice that the Montana Water Court will hear objections, receive evidence, and review the historical beneficial use of at least 1176 water right claims diverted or used in the Little Bighorn River. All of these claims were included in the Basin 430 Preliminary Decree issued in 2010.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

An **Objection List** has been prepared that identifies the claim number, the ownership, the water source involved, the names of any objectors, and the general nature of the issues which the Water Court will review. Any of the claims on the list may change as a result of this review. *Changes to a neighbor's water right may affect your water rights.* After the Water Court completes its review of these claims, a water commissioner could be appointed to enforce the provisions of these claims on any of the sources involved. The purpose of this proceeding is to determine the historical beneficial use of the claims involved in this drainage. If you want to be kept informed of the progress of a water right claim through the Water Court, or to become involved as a third party in the claim proceedings, you need to file a **Notice of Intent to Appear**.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE OBJECTION LIST AND DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR. YOU CAN SEE THE OBJECTION LIST FOR THIS BASIN AND OBTAIN THE PROPER FORMS AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED BELOW.

WHO MUST 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 intervene and to participate in the proceeding regarding a specific water right claim, you must file a **Notice of Intent to Appear**. Those who timely file a **Notice of Intent to Appear** on a claim will receive notice of all further proceedings relevant to the Court's review of that specific claim.

FILING DEADLINE

A **Notice of Intent to Appear** must be filed on the forms provided by the Water Court and must be returned to the Water Court, P. O. Box 1389, Bozeman, MT 59771-1389 by **October 3, 2011**.

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, Montana. (406) 444-0560.
Water Resources Regional Office, 1371 Rimtop Drive, Billings, Montana. (406) 247-4415.
2. Montana Water Court, 601 Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, Montana. (406) 586-4364.

The Objection List and Notice of Intent to Appear form are also posted on the Internet at www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_rts/adjudication After arriving at the site, scroll down to Basin 430 and click on Little Bighorn River. 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 \$45.00.

The **Objection List** does not contain all of the information included on the objection form. To obtain a copy of an objection in its entirety, contact the Montana Water Court, P.O. Box 1389, Bozeman, MT 59771-1389, (406) 586-4364 or toll free (in Montana only) 1-800-624-3270.

ALL NOTICES OF INTENT TO APPEAR MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE MONTANA WATER COURT BEFORE 5:00 PM ON OCTOBER 3, 2011.

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

The claimant, objectors and those who filed a Notice of Intent to Appear form 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 actively in the 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

Two informal public meeting will be held by Bruce Loble, Chief Water Judge of the Montana Water Court, on **Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Big Horn County Extension Building, 317 N. Custer, Hardin MT, and at **7:00 P.M.** in Parlor Room 110 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Mullaney Lane, Billings, Montana. Bring your water right abstracts and questions to one of these meetings.

The Water Court will also host one **telephone conference call Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 8:00 P.M.** On this date at 8:00 P.M., dial the toll free telephone number: **1-866-479-6576**. At the prompt, enter the participant pin code: **46309676#**.

ARE WE USING YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS?

If the mailing label on the envelope in which this Notice was enclosed is incorrect, please mail the enclosed address correction form to the DNRC.

Any Questions? Call the DNRC Billings Unit Office at (406) 228-2561 or call the Water Court's toll free number 1-800-624-3270 (In Montana). Our regular office number is (406) 586-4364; it is not toll free.

DATED this 4th day of August, 2011.

**C. BRUCE LOBLE
Chief Water Judge
Montana Water Court
P. O. Box 1389
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389**

REMINDER: Notice of Intent to Appear must be filed by October 3, 2011.