



The Montana Department of
**Natural Resources
& Conservation**

Notice of Change in Appropriation Right for Stock Tanks

85-2-429(5), MCA

Form No. 656 (Revised 10/2025)

Application # _____ Basin _____

Received By _____

Fee Received \$ _____ Check # _____

Deposit Receipt # _____

Payor _____

Refund \$ _____ Date/Time _____

FILING FEE:

\$400.00

WHEN TO USE THIS FORM:

- To add, move, or remove stock tanks on an existing water right for stock use, or to change to stock tanks from a livestock direct from source water right.
- File this form within 60 days after the project is completed.
- Multiple water rights may be changed on one form if the place of use and purpose will be exactly the same for each water right, and all water rights will share a common conveyance system.
- This form cannot be used if the amount of water diverted from the source or the number of animal units will increase.

1. Water right owner(s) information:

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Note: If there are additional owners, attach the water right owner information labeled as Attachment #1.

Contact Person: ☐ Applicant ☐ Consultant ☐ Attorney ☐ Other _____

Contact Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____



Note: If a contact person is identified as an attorney, all communications will be sent only to the attorney unless the attorney provides written instruction to the contrary. Unless the contact person is an attorney, the water right owner will receive all correspondence, and a copy may be sent to the contact person.

2. Application details:

- a. **Date project was completed:** _____

Note: If more than 60 days have passed since the project completion you cannot use this form and will need to file Form 606-Application to Change a Water Right.

- b. **List all water right numbers included in this change in appropriation right:**

Note: Attach the water right abstracts and a narrative explaining details of the change in appropriation right and label as Attachment #2b.

Note: If you do not have a DNRC water right number, you may have an existing exempt water use. Water for stock use from groundwater sources (well or developed springs) or stock drinking directly from a surface water source were exempt from the general adjudication filing requirements for claims of existing water rights if they met either of the following criteria:

- For wells, the water was put to use prior to January 1, 1962, OR put to use between January 1, 1962, and July 1, 1973, and a notice was filed in the courthouse records.
- For stock drinking directly from the source and water was put to use before July 1, 1973.

If your stock use meets one of the above criteria, complete this form and a Non-Filed Water Project Addendum. You can obtain the addendum from the [Water Rights Forms and Resources webpage](#). If your use does not meet these criteria, contact your Regional Water Resources Office for more information (Regional Office contact information is on page 5).

- c. **How many stock tanks have been added through this change?**

Permanent_____ Temporary_____

Note: A temporary change in appropriation right for stock tanks may be authorized in accordance with 85-2-407, MCA.

- d. **Will the existing places of use (POUs) continue to be used?** ☐ Yes ☐ No



e. **New places of use: Provide the following information for all POU's being added in this change:**

Note: If necessary, attach additional geocode or legal land descriptions using another sheet and label as Attachment #2e.

i. Geocode(s) of the place(s) of use:

ii. Legal Land Description (LLD):

1. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

2. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

3. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

4. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

5. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

6. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

7. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____

8. ____ ¼ ____ ¼ ____ ¼ Section ____ Twp ____ ☐N ☐S Rge ____ ☐E ☐W County _____

of permanent tanks in LLD ____ # of temporary tanks in LLD ____



f. What are the types and numbers of animals that use the stock water system?

Refer to the [DNRC Water Calculation Guide](#) for information about animal unit (AU) calculations.

Note: If necessary, attach additional animal information using a separate sheet and label as Attachment #2.f.

Type of Animal _____ x # of Animals _____ = _____ AU

Type of Animal _____ x # of Animals _____ = _____ AU

Type of Animal _____ x # of Animals _____ = _____ AU

Type of Animal _____ x # of Animals _____ = _____ AU

Total Animal Units: _____

g. Provide the legal land description for new points of diversion (PODs), if the change involves going from livestock drinking direct from source to tanks:

____¹/₄____¹/₄____¹/₄ Section____Twp____☐N ☐S Rge____ ☐E ☐W County_____

____¹/₄____¹/₄____¹/₄ Section____Twp____☐N ☐S Rge____ ☐E ☐W County_____

____¹/₄____¹/₄____¹/₄ Section____Twp____☐N ☐S Rge____ ☐E ☐W County_____

____¹/₄____¹/₄____¹/₄ Section____Twp____☐N ☐S Rge____ ☐E ☐W County_____

h. Are you changing all water right(s) associated with the place of use? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If **No**, provide an explanation of how the rights will be operated to ensure no expansion of use:

Note: If necessary, attach additional narrative explaining details of associated rights and label as Attachment #2h.

i. Did you add stock tanks on State Trust Lands? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If **Yes**, you must include a copy of the DNRC Forestry and Trust Lands Division's *Authorization for Temporary Change in Appropriation Right Consent Form*. A change in authorization to add stock tanks on state trust land will be temporary for the duration of the lease term. If one FORM No. 656 is used to add permanent stock tanks on private land and temporary stock tanks on state trust land the form, attachments and map(s) must clearly identify the permanent POU's on private land and temporary POU's on state trust land.



3. Adequate infrastructure to control diversions:

Note: If stock tanks are being added to a livestock direct from source water right, the diversion must be shut off when the tank is full. If you will not have an automatic shut off on the tank, outflow water must be immediately directed back to the source.

a. How will the water be diverted from the source?

☐ Well ☐ Pump ☐ Gravity Flow ☐ Other

b. Identify the flow rate that will be diverted: _____ GPM

Note: If stock tanks are being added to a livestock direct from source water right, the maximum flow rate for the diversion to the tanks may not exceed 35 GPM (85-2-429(5)(b)(i), MCA).

c. How was the flow rate determined?

d. Provide evidence to show that the flow rate will be adequate for the new system.

Note: Attach evidence to the form and label it #3d.

e. Will a pipeline be used to convey water to the new tanks? ☐Yes ☐No

If **No**, explain the new means of conveyance:

f. Provide design plans for the stock tanks system from the point of diversion to the place of use (tanks). Include pump information, pipe size, pipe length, pipe material, flow shut off method, any valves or booster pumps used, depth pipelines will be buried, etc.

Note: Attach information to the form and label as Attachment #3e.



4. Map: Provide a map or maps depicting the changed stock water system;

Note: label map as attachment #4.

Aerial photos may be available from the DNRC, NRIS, NRCS, USGS, or other sources. Be sure to indicate which tanks are currently authorized and which tanks are being added via this form. The map also must show:

- North arrow, scale bar, section lines and numbers, and township and range.
- Labels for already authorized PODs, POUs and means of conveyance.
- Labels for new PODs, POUs and means of conveyance. The map should reflect the entire water right including the change and the remaining old use.

Signatures(s): All owners must sign the form.

I DECLARE UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY AND UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MONTANA THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

I AFFIRM STATEMENTS APPEARING HERE ARE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE TRUE AND CORRECT. I ALSO AFFIRM THAT I HAVE POSSESSORY INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY WHERE THE WATER IS TO BE PUT TO BENEFICIAL USE.

Water Right Owner Signature _____ Date _____

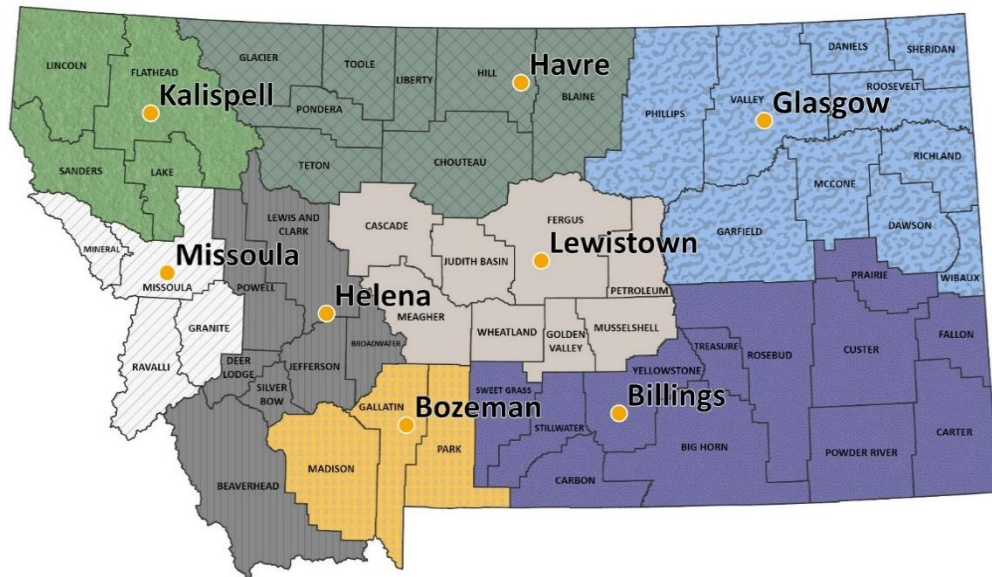
Printed Name _____

Water Right Owner Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____



WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICES



• BILLINGS

Airport Industrial Park, 1371 Rimtop Drive
Billings, MT 59105-9702
PHONE 406-247-4415 FAX 406-247-4416
EMAIL DNRCBillingsWater@mt.gov

Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, and Yellowstone Counties

• BOZEMAN

2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110
Bozeman, MT 59715-7249
PHONE 406-586-3136 FAX 406-587-9726
EMAIL DNRCBozemanWater@mt.gov

Gallatin, Madison, and Park Counties

• GLASGOW

222 6th Street South, P.O. Box 1269
Glasgow, MT 59230-1269
PHONE 406-228-2561
EMAIL DNRCGlasgowWater@mt.gov

Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley, and Wibaux Counties

• HAVRE

210 6th Avenue, P.O. Box 1828
Havre, MT 59501-1828
PHONE 406-265-5516
EMAIL DNRCHavreWater@mt.gov

Blaine, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, and Toole Counties

• HELENA

1424 9th Avenue, P.O. Box 201601,
Helena, MT 59620-1601
PHONE 406-444-6999 FAX 406-444-9317
EMAIL DNRCHelenaWater@mt.gov

Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Powell, and Silver Bow Counties

• KALISPELL

655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 4
Kalispell, MT 59901-1215
PHONE 406-752-2288
EMAIL DNRCKalispellWater@mt.gov

Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, and Sanders Counties

• LEWISTOWN

613 Northeast Main Street, Suite E
Lewistown, MT 59457-2020
PHONE 406-538-7459
EMAIL DNRCLewistownWater@mt.gov

Cascade, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum, and Wheatland Counties

• MISSOULA

2705 Spurgin Road Building C, P.O. Box 5004
Missoula, MT 59806-5004
PHONE 406-721-4284 FAX 406-542-5899
EMAIL DNRCMissoulaWater@mt.gov

Granite, Mineral, Missoula, and Ravalli Counties