

IN THE WATER COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
LOWER MISSOURI DIVISION  
BIG SANDY CREEK BASIN (40H)

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

This is your personal notice that objections have been filed and hearings have been requested on 352 water right claims found in the Big Sandy Creek Basin (40H) Preliminary Decree.

***WHAT IS HAPPENING?***

An Objection List has been prepared that sets out the claim number, the ownership and source of the claims that received an objection and further identifies the objecting party and the general nature of the objection. Any of these claims may be changed as a result of evidence submitted to the Water Court. *Changes to a neighbor's water right may affect your water rights.* Therefore, you may want to file a Notice of Intent to Appear in order to be kept informed of the progress of objections on certain water right claims or to become an active third party in the claim proceedings. After this decree has been modified by objections and hearings, it is enforceable.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE OBJECTION LIST. YOU CAN THEN DECIDE WHETHER YOU WANT TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR AND TAKE PART IN ANY CLAIM PROCEEDINGS. YOU CAN SEE THE OBJECTION LIST FOR THIS BASIN AT THE LOCATIONS LISTED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS NOTICE.

***WHO MUST FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR?***

If you are not already involved in a water right claim as the *claimant or objector* but you wish to participate in the proceedings regarding that water right claim, you must file a Notice of Intent to Appear. You will be limited to discussing the issues that have already been raised by the objections to the claim. Those who timely file a Notice of Intent to Appear on a claim will receive notice of all further proceedings relevant to the objections to that claim.

***A CLAIMANT AND OBJECTOR TO A WATER RIGHT CLAIM DO NOT HAVE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THAT CLAIM.***

***HOW TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR***

A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR MUST BE FILED ON THE FORMS PROVIDED BY THE WATER COURT. These forms can be found at the offices listed on the other side. Notices of Intent to Appear must be returned to the Montana Water Court, P. O. Box 1389, Bozeman, MT 59771-1389.

***ALL NOTICES OF INTENT TO APPEAR MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE MONTANA WATER COURT  
BEFORE 5:00 PM ON NOVEMBER 8, 2004.***

**(OVER)**

**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:

1. Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Water Resources Regional Office, 210 Sixth Avenue, Havre, Montana. Telephone (406) 265-5516.
2. Montana Water Court, 601 Haggerty Lane, Bozeman, Montana.

*You may obtain a copy of the 175 page Objection List from the Montana Water Court. The cost of this List is \$10.00. The Objection List and Notice of Intent to Appear Forms are also available from the Water Court on a computer disk in Microsoft Word and Corel WordPerfect for FREE. The Objection List and forms are also posted on the Internet at [www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm) Click on Water Rights, then Water Court Activity, then scroll down to Basin #40H and click on Big Sandy Creek, and finally click on Objection List.*

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.

**Basin Meeting with the Chief Water Judge**

An informal public meeting will be held by Bruce Loble, Chief Water Judge, on Thursday evening, OCTOBER 21, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. in the Big Sandy Senior Citizen's Center, 116 Johannes Avenue, Big Sandy, Montana. Representatives of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Land Management will also be present to answer your questions.

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

The claimant, objectors and those who filed a Notice of Intent to Appear 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.

**ARE WE USING YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS?**

If the mailing label on the envelope in which this Notice was enclosed is incorrect, please notify the DNRC Havre office.

**Any Questions?** Call the DNRC Havre office at (406) 265-5516 or call the Water Court's toll free number 1-800-624-3270 (In Montana). Our regular office number is (406) 586-4364 and it is not toll free.

**DATED this 8<sup>TH</sup> day of September, 2004.**

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**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 NOVEMBER 8, 2004.