MONTANA WATER COURT YELLOWSTONE DIVISION SHOSHONE RIVER BASIN 43N INTERLOCUTORY DECREE

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF INTERLOCUTORY DECREE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR WATER RIGHTS

You received this notice to inform you that the Montana Water Court has 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 claim is part of the Decree.
- If an abstract is not included with this notice, then your claim is not part of the current Decree.

WHAT IS THE INTERLOCUTORY DECREE AND SHOULD YOU FILE AN OBJECTION?

The Decree includes 15 water rights. The water rights were either not previously decreed by the Water Court or have issues that still need to be addressed. Review the abstracts. The Decree can be viewed at: <u>https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/Notices-Info/PublicNotices</u>. 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 claims in the Decree do not reflect historical (before July 1, 1973) beneficial use, you should file an objection by **MARCH 11, 2025.** Objections must be filed on the forms provided by the Water Court. The forms can be found at: <u>https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/LegalResources</u> or by contacting the Court: watercourt@mt.gov or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by **MARCH 11, 2025**. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in the *Billings Gazette*, *Carbon County News*, and *Big Horn County News*.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Water Court will be offering an informal public meeting to explain the objection process on the following date:

• **Tuesday, October 22, 2024,** at **12:30 pm** <u>via Zoom</u>. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 897 1494 1413#, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 529526# *or* login online using this link: <u>https://mt-gov.zoom.us/s/88444800730</u>

If someone objects to any of your water rights, the Court will notify you, and you will be allowed to file a counterobjection. After all notice periods have passed, 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 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 Airport Business Park 1371 Rimtop Drive Billings, MT 59105-1978 (406) 247-4415

Remember, objections must be filed and received by the Water Court by March 11, 2025.

DATED this 12th day of September 2024,

/s/ Russ McElyea 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.