### MONTANA WATER COURT LOWER MISSOURI DIVISION PEOPLES CREEK BASIN 40I

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# 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 right claims) for the Peoples Creek Basin. This notice may include an abstract (a description of your water right claim 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 13 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: <a href="https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/Notices-Info/PublicNotices">https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/Notices-Info/PublicNotices</a>. 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 **January 5, 2026.** Objections must be filed on the forms provided by the Water Court. The forms can be found at: <a href="https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/LegalResources">https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/LegalResources</a> or by contacting the Water Court: <a href="watercourt@mt.gov">watercourt@mt.gov</a> or (406) 586-4364.

A request to extend the objection deadline must be filed by **January 5, 2026**. If an extension is granted it will be advertised in *Phillips County News*, *Havre Daily News*, and *Blaine County Journal News-Opinion*.

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

The Water Court will be offering an informal public meeting to explain the objection process on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025,** at **12:00 pm** <u>via Zoom</u>. To take part in the telephone conference, dial (646) 558-8656, enter the Meeting ID 822 2011 3327#, then press # to skip participant ID, then enter the meeting password 533038# *or* log in online using this link: <a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/82220113327?pwd=hhKhuD6tXrfI7M2vEBfnltNkCatasb.1">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/82220113327?pwd=hhKhuD6tXrfI7M2vEBfnltNkCatasb.1</a>

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 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Helena, MT 59620 (406) 444-0560

Montana DNRC, Havre Water Resources Regional Office 210 Sixth Avenue Havre, MT 59501 (406) 265-5516

Remember, objections must be filed and received by the Water Court by January 5, 2026.

DATED this 9th day of July, 2025,

/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.