

Montana Water Court
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**MONTANA WATER COURT
CLARK FORK RIVER ABOVE BLACKFOOT RIVER
BASIN 76G
PRELIMINARY DECREE**

CASE BASIN-0005-76G-1982

**ORDER GRANTING SECOND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO
FILE OBJECTIONS**

The objection period for the Preliminary Decree in Basin 76G, the Clark Fork River Basin above the Blackfoot River, was set to close on May 13, 2025. On March 5, 2025, the Court extended the objection deadline to August 11, 2025, in response to a request from the Montana State Board of Land Commissioners (the “Land Board”).

On July 11, 2025, the United States of America, through the Department of Interior (Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service) and the Department of Agriculture (Forest Service) (collectively, “United States”) asked the Court to extend the objection deadline by another ninety days. As grounds for this request, the United States notes both staff turnover, and the number of basins currently or recently in objection periods for which the United States has an interest.

In addition to the United States’ request, the Court also received an extension request from Benjamin Elias. The Elias request notes the need to conduct additional

research to determine whether a relationship exists between this basin and an adjacent basin.

The Water Use Act authorizes the Court to grant up to two extensions to the objection period for a preliminary decree, provided good cause is shown and the request for extension is received before the end of the current objection period. Section 85-2-233(2), MCA. The United States' extension request satisfies the statutory criteria. The request was timely, and the number of basins for which the United States must evaluate on a short timeline, in conjunction with staffing challenges, provides sufficient cause. The Elias request provides further support for the extension.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the request is GRANTED, and the objection period is EXTENDED until and including **Monday, November 10, 2025** to file, not mail, objections to the Preliminary Decree in Basin 76G. This extension applies to ALL WATER CLAIMANTS AND OBJECTORS for claims in this Basin, regardless of whether they asked for an extension. The Court will publish a notice of the extension in the *Associate Silver State Post*, *The Missoulian*, *Montana Standard*, and *Anaconda Leader*.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW.

Service Via Electronic Mail:

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