

Montana Water Court
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**MONTANA WATER COURT
UPPER MISSOURI DIVISION
GALLATIN RIVER
BASIN 41H
INTERLOCUTORY DECREE**

ORDER EXTENDING INTERLOCUTORY DECREE OBJECTION DEADLINE

The objection period for the Interlocutory Decree in Basin 41H, the Gallatin River Basin, is scheduled to close on August 24, 2026. On August 20, 2026, the State of Montana University System (“MSU”) filed a Request for Extension (“Request”). The Request asks the Court to extend the interlocutory decree objection period for Basin 41H by an additional 90 days.

The Water Use Act authorizes the Court to extend the objection period for a 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 MSU extension request satisfies both statutory criteria. The Request is timely because it comes close to, but still before the current objection deadline.

As to good cause, the Request identifies the seasonal staff limitations associated with the University calendar and the numerous sources and downstream filings that must be evaluated for potential objections.

The Court reviews this request mindful of its obligation to move the statewide adjudication to completion. At the same time, the Court recognizes that specific situations justify extensions, and an extension may ultimately streamline the objection resolution process. On balance, the Request demonstrates a 90-day extension is reasonable and meets the applicable statutory criteria.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the request is GRANTED, and the Basin 41H Interlocutory Decree objection period is EXTENDED to **Monday, November 23, 2026**, to file, not mail, objections to the Interlocutory Decree in Basin 41H. 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 at least one notice of the extension in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, *The Madisonian-Ennis*, and the *Livingston Enterprise*. The Court also will provide notice on the Public Notices and Information page on the Court's website (<https://courts.mt.gov/courts/water/Notices-Info/PublicNotices>) and to the Court's listserv.

ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED AND DATED BELOW.

Service Via E-service

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