

Decrees Issued by Water Court	Date Issued	Number of Claims
Teton River (41O)	12/29/2005	2,541
Union Creek (part of 76F)	3/10/2006	42
Big Hole River (41D)	4/6/2007	3,892
Missouri River (41QJ)	2/6/2008	2,584
Tongue River (42C)	2/28/2008	4,710
Tongue River (42B)	2/28/2008	1,345
Forest Service Compact	5/19/2008	262
BLM-Montana Compact	3/6/2009	2
Beaver Creek (40M)	3/20/2009	2,942
Big Muddy Creek (40R)	1/28/2010	2,029
Pryor Creek (43E)	2/25/2010	629
Little Big Horn River (43O)	3/17/2010	1,176
Missouri River from Sun River to Marias River (41Q)	5/27/2010	4,127
Milk River between Fresno Res & Whitewater (40J)	6/24/2010	12,897
Smith River (41J)	12/16/2010	2,719
Blackfoot River (76F)	2/10/2011	3,717
Flatwillow Creek (40B)	5/5/2011	3,677
Arrow Creek (41R)	6/23/2011	2,179
National Bison Range Compact	9/30/2011	97
Missouri River, from Marias River to Bullwhacker Creek (41T)	4/19/2012	3,073
Crow Tribe of Indians Montana Compact	1/28/2013	NA
Beaverhead River (41B)	5/9/2013	2,238
Red Rock River (41A)	5/9/2013	2,861
Rosebud Creek (42A)	5/23/2013	1,220

Above decrees scanned and available at:

http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_rts/adjudication/default.asp

BASINS BY COMPLETION DATE - DNRC WORK PLAN FY 2013				
BASIN COUNT	BASIN NAME	WORK STATUS	Estimated Completion Date	
1	Flathead R below Flathead Lake (76L)	Summary Report pending	1	2015
2	Big Horn R below Greybull R (43P)	Summary Report pending	5	2014
4	Flathead River (76LJ)	Examination in progress	9	2014
5	Cut Bank River (41L)	Summary Report pending	6	2014
6	St. Mary River (40T)	Summary Report pending	11	2013
7	Yellowstone R below Powder R (42M)	Summary Report pending	6	2013
9	Two Medicine River (41M)	Summary Report pending	2	2014
10	Marias River (41P)	Examination in progress	10	2013
11	Missouri R between Bullwhacker & Musselshell (40EJ)	Summary Report pending	9	2013
12	Bitterroot R, E side (76HA)	Examination in progress	10	2014
13	Frenchman Creek Re-Examination (40L)	Summary Report pending	7	2014

Assistance for District Court Enforcement of Water Court Decrees

2005 season completed water court assistance for 23 streams
2006 season completed water court assistance for 23 streams
2007 season completed water court assistance for 26 streams
2008 season completed water court assistance for 32 streams
2009 season completed water court assistance for 36 streams
2010 season completed water court assistance for 38 streams
2011 season completed water court assistance for 38 streams
2012 season completed water court assistance for 40 streams
2013 season completed water court assistance for 42streams

Post Decree Assistance (July- FY2013)

<u>Case type</u>	<u>case count</u>	<u>work hours</u>
Certified case		5
85-2-248	114	3208
Case	30	484
<u>General assist</u>		1370
Total hours		5067

Post Decree assistance primarily involves working with claimants and the Water Court to help resolve issue remarks on water rights. This assistance is generated through the on motion process (85-2-248) and objections by water users resulting in a case. Assistance includes meeting with claimants, conducting field investigations, mapping, and providing recommendations and technical reports pertaining to individual cases. In addition, assistance is requested by the Water Court to help with certified cases before and after the initial decree phase. Unique requests to help the Water Court resolve specific cases such as large basin mapping projects, and other technical requests fall within the general assistance category.

Expenses

YTD FY 2013:	Operating Costs	\$ 177,191
	Personnel Services	\$ 1,325,098
	Total	\$ 1,502,289
	Budget	\$ 2,012,286

HB39 Automate Ownership updates (effective July 1, 2008)

-Department staff continue to validate water right geocodes for property transfers that occurred from November 2010 thru January 2012.

-In 2010, 3,821 ownerships were updated involving 9,460 water rights

-In 2011, 6,245 ownerships were updated involving 15,765 water rights.

-In 2012 8,729 ownerships were updated involving 20,496 water rights.

-So far this fiscal year, 7,592 ownerships have been updated involving 18,021 water rights.

WATER COURT
ADJUDICATION PROGRESS REPORT TO THE EQC AND WATER POLICY INTERIM COMMITTEE
PURSUANT TO § 85-2-281, MCA
Submitted by C. Bruce Loble, Chief Water Judge
As of May 30, 2013

The Water Court is continuing to work through its expanding inventory of water right claims that have unresolved objections, issue remarks, motions to amend, and claims certified to it by the DNRC or District Courts. The Water Court is primarily working on water right claims in the following basins:

Basin	Sources	Claims in Decree	Remaining Claims to Resolve
40B	Flatwillow Creek	3,677	1,189
40H	Big Sandy Creek	797	1
40J	Milk River Between Fresno Reservoir & Whitewater Cr.	12,897	3,901
40M	Beaver Creek, Tributary of Milk River	2,942	766
40O	Milk River Below Whitewater Creek	3,306	131
40R	Big Muddy Creek	2,029	204
41A	Red Rock River	2,861	Decree issued 5/9/2013 Objection Deadline Expires 11/5/2013
41B	Beaverhead River	2,238	Decree issued 5/9/2013 Objection Deadline Expires 11/5/2013
41D	Big Hole River	3,892	543
41I	Missouri River upstream of Holter Dam to Three Forks	5,168	112
41J	Smith River	2,719	853
41K	Sun River	2,856	108
41O	Teton River	2,541	134
41Q	Missouri River from Sun River to Marias River	4,127	332
41QJ	Missouri River from Holter Dam to Sun River	2,584	194
41R	Arrow Creek	2,179	605
41T	Missouri River from Marias River to & including Bullwhacker Creek	3,073	Decree issued 4/19/2012 Objection Deadline Expired 4/12/13
42A	Rosebud Creek	1,220	Decree issued 5/23/2013 Objection Deadline Expires 11/19/2013
42B	Tongue River above & including Hanging Woman Creek	1,345	166
42C	Tongue River below Hanging Woman Creek	4,710	757
42KJ	Yellowstone River between Bighorn and Tongue Rivers	4,767	41
43A	Shields River	3,395	101
43B	Yellowstone River above & including Bridger Creek	4,860	29

43E	Pryor Creek	629	472
43O	Little Bighorn River	1,176	1,124
43Q	Yellowstone River between Clarks Fork Yellowstone and Bighorn Rivers	2,473	87
76F	Blackfoot River	3,717	1,217
76HF	Bitterroot River - Westside Subbasin	3,774	70

The United States Forest Service - Montana Compact was approved by the Water Court on April 23, 2013.

The United States of America, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Bison Range - Montana Compact decree was issued on September 30, 2011. One objection was received. The initial settlement deadline is June 28, 2013.

The Crow Tribe - Montana Compact decree was issued on January 9, 2013. The objection deadline expires on June 24, 2013.

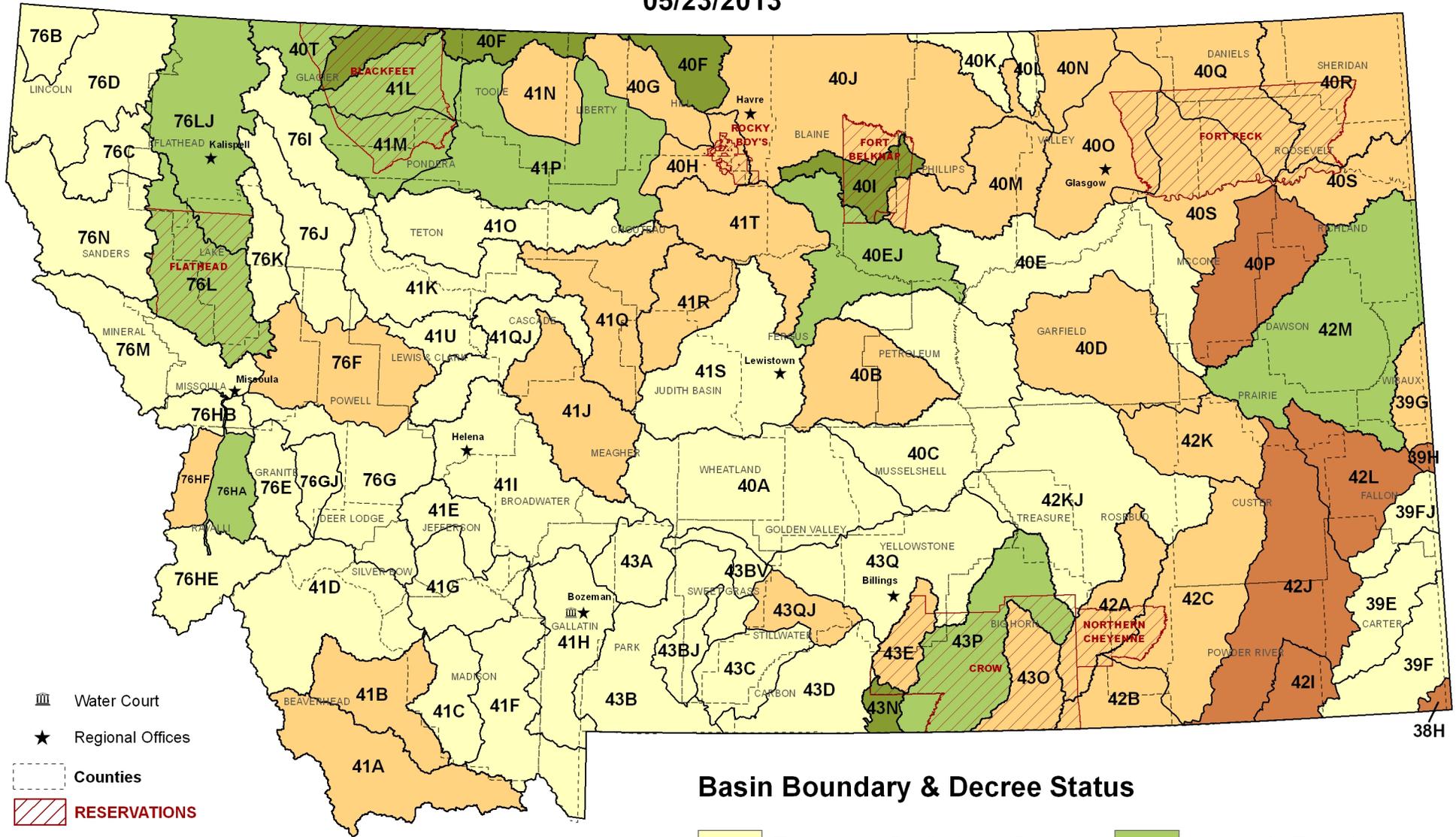
On October 23, 2012, Senior Water Master Doug Ritter was recognized by the Montana Supreme Court as a Judicial Branch Employee of the Year. Doug Ritter is the third Water Court employee to be so recognized in the last 5 years.

In June 2013, the Water Court anticipates issuing decrees for the Peoples Creek (Basin 40I) and the Shoshone River (Basin 43N) drainages.

Chief Justice McGrath recently appointed Associate Water Judge Russ McElyea to be Chief Water Judge, effective August 1, 2013.

Basin Location and Adjudication Status

05/23/2013



-  Water Court
-  Regional Offices
-  Counties
-  **RESERVATIONS**

Basin Boundary & Decree Status

-  Temporary Preliminary Decree
-  Preliminary Decree
-  Final
-  Currently Examining
-  Summary Report Issued