

Montana Water Rights Litigation Notice

Impacted Owner Basin Number	[REDACTED]
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Impacted property owners and water right holders in 54 of Montana's 90 water basins are likely to be the subject of litigation before the Montana Water Court without implementation of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe ("CSKT") Water Compact ("The Compact").

The Compact is a negotiated agreement made between the State of Montana, the federal government, and the CSKT, with input from agricultural groups and water users to prevent existing water rights from being challenged in Court. The Compact was passed by the Montana State Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2015, and is pending final approval in the United States Congress.

Consequently, under Montana law, the CSKT was required to file their tribal claims in the Montana Water Court. This legal action will require existing water right holders to prove their rights predate those of the CSKT, which have a priority date of 1855, or time immemorial. Without the Compact, all tribal claims are presumed valid, predate most if not all other water use claims, and can be enforced against all other water users until adjudication is completed.

Public records indicate you may have a financial, property or other interest that could be negatively impacted without final approval of the Compact. WITHOUT THE COMPACT YOU MAY LOSE THE ABILITY TO IRRIGATE FOR DECADES WHILE THE WATER COURT ADJUDICATES CSKT'S CLAIMS.

Farmers and Ranchers for Montana ("FARM") is a coalition representing agriculture, irrigators, business and other stakeholders across Montana dedicated to implementing the Compact in order to prevent the litigation of existing water rights. The Compact will preserve existing water rights, reduce uncertainty, protect property values, and minimize decades of costly litigation.

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PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY by visiting www.MontanaWaterCompact.com to join our coalition, take action, and ensure final approval of the Compact.

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PO Box 1029
Helena, MT 59624



LEGAL INFORMATION

FIRST NOTIFICATION

RE: Water Basin Number 41K

To be opened only by Addressee
under penalty of federal law

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[REDACTED]

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