



In Reply To:

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Lewistown Field Office  
Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument  
920 NE Main Street  
Lewistown, Montana 59457-1160  
<http://www.blm.gov/mt>



Hello,

The BLM and the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission are negotiating two BLM reserved water rights in central Montana. One water right is in Arrow Creek and the other in the Judith River.

This information in this website will keep you informed about the BLM's water rights proposals and the water compact process.

As you may recall, the proclamation creating Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (signed on January 17, 2001) also established reserved water rights in Arrow Creek and in the Judith River. Both of these waters are tributaries to the Upper Missouri River. The reserved water rights are intended to maintain fully functioning cottonwood gallery forest ecosystems and other water dependent objects of biological interest in this monument.

The BLM will now begin negotiating with the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission to define those water rights. The Commission is the body designated the responsibility of negotiating on behalf of the State of Montana and represents the interests of state-based water right holders. After a series of negotiation meetings with the right holder, the Commission takes its recommendations concerning such reserved water rights to the Montana Legislature for approval as a water compact.

While the topic of reserved water rights did not create much public interest during our planning processes for the Monument, the BLM and the Commission will again be asking for public comment during the negotiation process.

The first of several public meetings and negotiation sessions will be held January 31, at 1:00 p.m. at the Yogo Inn (211 East Main Street in Lewistown).

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Chad Krause at (406) 538-1908.

Sincerely,

Gary Slagel  
Monument Manager