

WPIC Responses – HJ14 Proposals:

- What would your agency propose as a plan framework if your agency were to take over water rights enforcement/administration responsibilities from the District Courts?
 - See attached Water Distribution Pilot Project Scoping Whitepaper

- What would you need to staff a centralized and professionalized WR enforcement effort?
 - A water commissioner would be hired for the pilot project.
 - Existing Water Adjudication Bureau FTE would transition to water enforcement and distribution as the state-wide adjudication is completed.

- What would your budget look like (positions & salaries, work comp, office space, etc)?
 - We would use existing FTE, budgets and locations.

- What would you propose in terms of where to locate staff (Bozeman, Helena, regional offices, etc.)?
 - Staff would be central and statewide at Regional Office locations.

- What would be a realistic timeline for Implementation?
 - Pilot project could begin once associated legislation has passed
 - Staff would transition as the state-wide adjudication is completed.

- What would be some areas in MCA that would need to be reformed/amended to make this work?
 - It is recommended that the Pilot Project be legislatively enacted. This legislation may require “cleanup” in other sections, notably, MCA § 85-5-101, et seq (the existing enforcement statutes), and perhaps MCA § 85-2-114 (the Water Use Act enforcement statute).