

DNRC REPORT TO EQC
HB22 ADJUDICATION PROGRESS
MARCH 17, 2006

Claims Examination Progress

- Claims examined July thru Feb FY06 **4,697**
- Claims remaining to be examined **50,953**
- Claims examined by Purpose
 - o Irrigation 678 14%
 - o Stock 2829 60%
 - o Domestic 554 11%
 - o Other 429 9%
 - 4,697**
 - o Percentages similar to breakdown of remaining claims

Summary Reports

- Union Creek Summary Report sent to the Water Court May 19, 2005
- Teton Summary Report was sent to the Water Court August 15, 2005

Decrees

- Teton Basin Decree - Water Court issued on December 29, 2005
 - o 2,500 claim files (over 76,000 documents)
 - o Scanned and viewable on the NRIS website
- Union Creek Decree - Water Court Issued on March 10, 2006
 - o 42 claim files in Certified Case
 - o Scanned and viewable on NRIS website

Basin Status

<u>Active Basins</u>	<u>Estimated Completion</u>
-Big Hole River	Summary report preparation Summer 2006
-Smith River	Examination in progress May 2007
-Missouri R to Sun R	Examination in progress May 2007
-Two Medicine	Examination in progress June 2007
-Blackfoot River	Examination in progress Dec 2007
-Red Rock River	Examination in progress Jan 2010
-Beaverhead River	Examination in progress Jan 2010
-Flatwillow Creek	Examination in progress July 2010
-Lower Tongue R	Examination in progress Jan 2011
-Bitterroot R, E side	Examination in progress Jan 2011
-Marias River	Examination in progress June 2015

District Court Enforcement Actions

- Completed water court assistance on 20 streams 2005 season
- Automated indexes to be used for 2006 on 20 streams
- The water court requested 5 additional sources for 2006 season; DNRC will work on two of the 5

Personnel

- July 2005 Hired 29 new water resources specialists and 2 GIS support staff
- July 2005 Two-week training for all new specialists and 12 existing specialists
- Nov. 2005 2005 Recruitment and filled remaining specialists positions (6)
- January 2006 Recruitment and filled additional 3 support staff
- March 2006 Recruitment for 2 specialist positions due to turnover

Expenses thru February 2006

- Operating costs (training, rent, equipment, etc.)	\$411,851
- Personnel services (wages, benefits)	<u>\$943,285</u>
Total	\$1,355,136

Billing System

- 108,000 bills mailed Dec. 27, 2005 with Jan.31, 2006 payment deadline
- Estimated revenue generated \$6.2 million
- Revenue received **\$4.722** million representing 83,954 invoices paid (in full /or partial)
- 18,552 2nd Bills mailed March 1, 2006 with payment deadline March 17, 2006
- Appeals received 2,684+ to date

Ownership Records / Forms Received

- Address comparison of 120,000 records to US postal service for validity
- 22,000 determined undeliverable, research completed by Nov 30, 2005
- Montana Property Owner letter sent to 266,000 landowners on 11-18-2005
- 55,217 Addresses corrected and/or added though ownership updates
- 9,811 Ownership Updates received since Oct. 5, 2005
- 4,480 Notices of Completions received on small wells since Oct 5, 2005
- 10,500 work hrs. dedicated to owner cleanup since July

Return Mail

- 30,850 pieces of return mail on first and second billing
- DNRC (23 temps & existing staff) researched and remailed 29,566 invoices.
- **1284** invoices are dead-end needing further owner/address county research.

HB22 Website and General Public Information

- Notice to irrigation districts sent 8-2005, requesting the number of users
- HB22 information website set-up 9-14-2005: http://dnrc.mt.gov/house_bill22
- Automated address correction on-line for public completed
- Call Center (Hotline) has answered **8,187 calls** to date, 11 phone lines
- The 8 regional offices have handled more than 54,000 questions
- Continue to notify public of HB22 via public service announcements, flyers, newspaper, radio, TV, etc.

Database Progress

- The system has been fully tested and is operational
- Contracts to bring database to functionality to date \$337,959

	TASK	Complete	In Progress
Phase 1			
	Produce accurate, complete and timely decrees		
	Complete data conversion for adjudication	Y	
	Correct conversion error	Y	
	Relocate data to support adjudication functions	Y	
	Develop an error report for adjudication	Y	
	Develop 'Standard' program	Y	
	Develop Summary Report	Y	
	Develop Decree report	Y	
	Develop the associated indexes for the Summary and Decree reports	Y	
	Produce the utilities, forms and reports to support enforcement actions		
	Create and populate the 'Enforceable priority date' field	Y	
	Add X Y coordinates field to the Point of diversion records	Y	
	Add a commissioner number to the point of diversion	Y	
	Add an enforcement number to the point of diversion	Y	
	Create an enforcement form to track enforcement actions	Y	
	Develop water tabulation indexes		Y
Phase 2			
	Enhance security and data integrity		
	Lock decreed basins so only the water court can change data	Y	
	Validate TRS to basin	Y	
	Prohibit invalid relationships in the water right screen		Y
	Develop a screen for post decree corrections by the water court	Y	
	Update the users manual		Y
	Automate the ownership update screen	Y	
	Enhance error messaging		
	Improve public access		
	Provide better data to NRIS		Y
	Provide more complete data to NRIS		
	Develop a standard water right abstract	Y	
	Develop GIS link		
	Develop stand-alone GIS and database capabilities for DNRC		
Phase 3			
	Improve system efficiency		
	Improve water right abstract access by managers, water court and dept staff		
	Develop IT Unit and system plans		
	Develop report tools (indexes) for use by dept staff		

	Automate Compact reports		
	Create public notice process for Change Authorizations	Y	
	Provide an electronic docketing system for the water court		
	Provide interface between database and document imaging (ISD's servers)		Y
	Modify the 'Source' table in the database for proper sorting		Y
	Complete the 52 items identified in 2001 for database efficiency		
Develop HB22 billing system			
	Add a new field to note 'Irrigation districts for billing purposes'	Y	
	Add a new field to record the number of users	Y	
	Develop the billing program	Y	
	Develop the billing report and data transfer to Dept of Revenue	Y	
	Develop the billing screen to track fees paid, appeals, etc.	Y	