

HB39 OWNERSHIP AUTOMATION

INTERIM WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

July 26 & 27, 2010

VALIDATION

HB 39 (2007) requires the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to receive new water right owner names from the Dept of Revenue (DOR) when property with water rights is sold. The DNRC received its first set of owner data from DOR on Dec. 4, 2009. There is a three-step process to cleanup geocodes and water right numbers in both the DNRC and DOR databases (DB) before the next set of new owners can be requested.

Step 1 was to review 271,000 lines of data and to validate the geocodes to the legal land descriptions (LLD's) on the water right. This has been completed in the water right DB. The new owners in this dataset will be loaded into the test DB and tested in July. There are 11, 057 water rights that will have the new owners loaded in production and the water right record will reflect the new owners in August.

UNRESOLVED GEOCODES

Step 2 requires additional research of unresolved geocodes. During the validation process in step 1 there were a number of geocodes that needed additional outside research. There are 4,046 water rights that need more research. The table below lists the number of water rights by county. Staff are reviewing deeds at the county, making phone calls, and letters to property owners for additional information. It is anticipated that research on these geocodes/water rights will be completed by end of August 2010 and any owners of validated geocodes will be loaded in the water right DB as in step 1.

NEXT OWNER DATA SET

Step 3 requires DOR to remove water right numbers from their Orion DB that had been tied to property due to the geocode falling within the water right LLD's. DNRC has begun transferring the data necessary for DOR to remove the water right numbers from the invalid geocodes. This process should be completed this fall. The next set of new owners from November 2009 thru the present will be requested from DOR and processed for uploading. Again there will be some geocode validation to conduct before the owners can be loaded in the water right DB. We anticipate this set of owners/geocodes to be validated and uploaded by late fall. We will continue to manually process any owner updates in the basins that the court is ready to issue decrees on.

UNRESOLVED BY COUNTY

| COUNTY | NUMBER OF WATER RIGHTS | COUNTY | NUMBER OF WATER RIGHTS |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| CO 01 SILVER BOW | 51 | CO 29 ROSEBUD | 13 |
| CO 02 CASCADE | 16 | CO 30 DEER LODGE | 69 |
| CO 03 YELLOWSTONE | 377 | CO 31 TETON | 12 |
| CO 04 MISSOULA | 819 | CO 32 STILLWATER | 111 |
| CO 05 L & C | 363 | CO 33 TREASURE | 0 |
| CO 06 GALLATIN | 275 | CO 34 SHERIDAN | 14 |
| CO 07 FLATHEAD | 94 | CO 35 SANDERS | 0 |
| CO 08 FERGUS | 7 | CO 36 JUDITH BASIN | 0 |
| CO 09 POWDER RIVER | 0 | CO 37 DANIELS | 0 |
| CO 10 CARBON | 124 | CO 38 GLACIER | 6 |
| CO 11 PHILLIPS | 11 | CO 39 FALLON | 4 |
| CO 12 HILL | 13 | CO 40 SWEETGRASS | 0 |
| CO 13 RAVALLI | 214 | CO 41 MCCONE | 0 |
| CO 14 CUSTER | 14 | CO 42 CARTER | 0 |
| CO 15 LAKE | 0 | CO 43 BROADWATER | 38 |
| CO 16 DAWSON | 17 | CO 44 WHEATLAND | 2 |
| CO 17 ROOSEVELT | 10 | CO 45 PRAIRIE | 0 |
| CO 18 BEAVERHEAD | 251 | CO 46 GRANITE | 23 |
| CO 19 CHOTEAU | 4 | CO 47 MEAGHER | 0 |
| CO 20 VALLEY | 7 | CO 48 LIBERTY | 0 |
| CO 21 TOOLE | 2 | CO 49 PARK | 540 |
| CO 22 BIG HORN | 0 | CO 50 GARFIELD | 0 |
| CO 23 MUSSELSHELL | 3 | CO 51 JEFFERSON | 171 |
| CO 24 BLAINE | 18 | CO 52 WIBAUX | 0 |
| CO 25 MADISON | 229 | CO 53 GOLDEN VALLEY | 0 |
| CO 26 PONDERA | 3 | CO 54 MINERAL | 13 |
| CO 27 RICHLAND | 18 | CO 55 PETROLEUM | 2 |
| CO 28 POWELL | 95 | CO 56 LINCOLN | 0 |
| | | TOTAL | 4046 |