



Oregon

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TO: Division 512 Rules Advisory Committee

FROM: Oregon Water Resources Department Division 512 Rulemaking Team

DATE: August 28, 2024

RE: Information request - Subarea Groundwater Rights by Owner

We have analyzed GIS data in response to this information request to develop a table of Groundwater Rights within the Greater Harney Valley. The water rights or portions thereof are separated primarily by ownership and subarea but also include columns to flag if a right has multiple owners, spans multiple subareas, or has multiple uses.

As with any dataset derived from different data sources there are some inconsistencies, however we believe overall it is an accurate representation of the water rights data currently.

Potential causes of issues include:

1. Imperfect mapping and data associated with water right PODs (Points of Diversion) and POU (Places of Use).
2. Imperfect mapping and data associated with tax lots.
3. Tax lot owner info was not edited, meaning features with slight differences (e.g., John Doe and John R Doe) were counted as different owners.
4. Imperfections in POU data meant many water rights fell just slightly into multiple tax lots. Therefore, any tax lot owners with less than 5% of the POU area were removed, then percent area was recalculated.
5. There are a few water rights with PODs in multiple subareas. Sometimes, acres are able to be irrigated from PODs in both subareas, making it difficult to split volume between subareas.
6. The volume of non-irrigation rights was determined by multiplying the max legal rate by period of use. This may make estimates appear high, especially for rights that allow both irrigation and non-irrigation uses.
7. Non-irrigation rights (or rights for both irrigation and non-irrigation uses) can be difficult to accurately split between owners and/or subareas.

Overall, most data should reflect accurate conditions across the basin. However, the small number of rights that don't fit neatly into a box could be interpreted different ways leading to slightly different results. In those cases, refer to the note column for more information.



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