MLTA 2022 Spring Education Seminar Jim Ferch, Montana DNRC <u>jferch@mt.gov</u>

When you divert, withdrawal or impound water for a beneficial use, you need a water right per statute. Ownership of that right is dependent on historic place of use of the water. Even though title agencies do not insure water rights, some have provided assistance in updating water right ownership for their clients. How that process has changed will be explained.

Water Rights and Ownership

1. What is a water right?

2. How are they established?

3. How can I search for a water right?

• Query system

- 4. How does ownership on a water right happen?
 - When?

5. How has the process changed since October 1, 2021

• Cost

• Forms

6. Questions?