

## Frequently Asked Questions: Mapping

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1. **I understand there has been a transition from the old MTO map format, IMF1, to CWM and IMF2. What has changed?**

Please see the following the [MTO Help Guides and Transition Documents](#):

- [Common Webmapping – Quick Reference](#);
- [Internet Mapping Framework – Quick Reference](#);
- [Overview: Internet Mapping Framework to Common Webmapping](#);
- [Tool Comparison: Internet Mapping Framework to Common Webmapping](#);
- [Legend Comparison: Internet Mapping Framework to Common Webmapping](#);
- [MTO Helpguide](#).

**2. Will the cell (mineral/placer) or unit (coal) size be in a Lat/Long system or will it be in a UTM format?**

The coordinates for the cells and units are in UTM NAD 83 format. The MTO Grid is defined by the [Mineral Titles Online Grid Regulation](#). The Coal Grid is provided as per the [Petroleum and Natural Gas Act](#).

**3. What is the datum for the placer/mineral map on MTO?**

The datum used is NAD 1983 (and Projected in BC Albers).

**4. How do I get the claim details on the map viewer to show up?**

Using the Common Web Mapping (CWM) map viewer, select the mineral, placer or coal map viewer option.

1. First find the title on the map you wish to review information for using FIND MINERAL/PLACER/COAL TITLES

Instructions on performing title searches using the map are available on our [branch website](#).

2. Use the IDENTIFY TOOL to return information about your map feature.

The identify layer tool on the CWM can be used to show claim details. Our [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) illustrates how to use the identify tool on the second page.

**5. How up-to-date is the MTO database?**

MTO has instantaneous registrations and transactions. The database and mapping website is updated with new acquisitions once payment has been confirmed.

Important note: The MTO application and map viewer is the only “Live” view of the Mineral Titles database. Other sources of the MTO database, such as those provided by DataBC, are at least one day out of date. For example, if you download the spatial data using the process outlined in question #8 that spatial data will be at least one day out of date.

**6. I tried to acquire a claim and MTO says the cell is unavailable. It appears open. What is going on?**

The cell has likely been abandoned, reduced, forfeited or has been made unavailable by the Ministry. While an abandonment or reduction is effective on the day of the event registration, the cell is not available for acquisition of a new claim until 10:00:01 am (PST) on the day that follows the good-to-date of the claim as it existed in MTO at the time the abandonment or reduction event was registered. Please see [Information Update No. 24](#). Similarly, cells previously

held by a forfeited claim will become available at 10:00:01 am (PST) on the day the forfeiture event was registered. Please see [Information Update No. 30](#).

Use the identify tool on the MTO Grid to return information about the cells status.

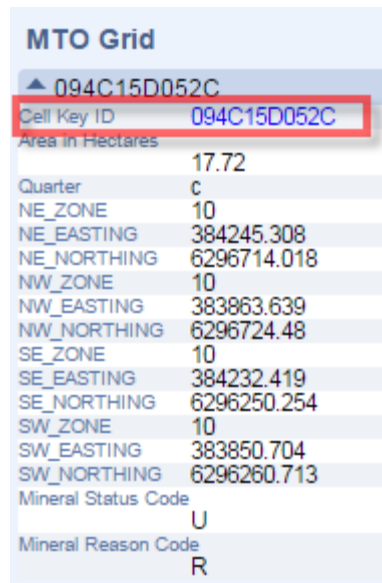
The identify layer tool on the CWM can be used to show layer details. Our [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) illustrates how to use the identify tool on the second page.

Click in any of the MTO Grid cells. The identify results will appear on the right hand side of the screen; as well, a pop-up window showing the Cell Detail will also appear. No matter if you are on the Placer map or the Mineral map the cell availability will appear for both tenure types.

If the pop-up menu did not appear, on the right-hand navigation, under the MTO Grid heading, click on the blue down arrow of the cell ID to expand the information.



Next, click on the blue hyperlinked Cell Key ID. Another browser tab will open with the Cell Detail results.

A screenshot of the Cell Detail results for cell ID 094C15D052C. The header is "MTO Grid". Below it, the cell ID "094C15D052C" is shown with a blue upward arrow on the left. A red box highlights the cell ID. Below the cell ID, the following information is displayed:

Cell Key ID	094C15D052C
Area in Hectares	17.72
Quarter	C
NE_ZONE	10
NE_EASTING	384245.308
NE_NORTHING	6296714.018
NW_ZONE	10
NW_EASTING	383863.639
NW_NORTHING	6296724.48
SE_ZONE	10
SE_EASTING	384232.419
SE_NORTHING	6296250.254
SW_ZONE	10
SW_EASTING	383850.704
SW_NORTHING	6296260.713
Mineral Status Code	U
Mineral Reason Code	R

If the cell was abandoned, reduced or forfeited the message will indicate the date to which the cell will become available. For example:

**Cell Status (Mineral): Unavailable until 2009-12-14 10:00:00 due to abandonment, reduction or forfeiture.**

If the cell is unavailable because of an existing tenure or because a park, mineral reserve or Indian reserve etc. prevents this cell from being acquired. For example:

### **Cell Status (Placer): Unavailable - Covered by Reserve/Tenure/Park**

**Note:** Placer acquisition may only take place in designated claim/lease areas. For more information on these designated areas please view the [Placer Designations](#) map.

There may also be a [Mineral Reserve](#) over the area. A No Registration Reserve (NRR) does not permit mineral or placer title registration. To identify a reserve on the map use the identify tool, on the map click on the reserve the identify results will indicate the reserve site number, and the site order restriction code description i.e., Conditional Reserve or No Registration Reserve. Similar to the MTO Grid cell detail, a Site Detail pop-up will appear. You can also follow the instructions above to expand the Reserves site detail from the Identify results in the right-hand navigation window.

The identify layer tool on the CWM can be used to show site details. Our [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) illustrates how to use the identify tool on the second page.

## **7. Can I see Crown Grants on MTO?**

Yes. This layer has been added to all map viewers under the Other Mining Layers folder as MTA – Crown Granted Mineral Claims.

CWM: The layers list tool functionality is available using the [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#). See page 1.

IMF2: the layers list tool functionality is available using the [IMF2 Quick Reference Guide](#). See page 1.

Use the identify tool on the MTA – Crown Granted Mineral Claims layer.

CWM: The identify layer tool on the CWM can be used to show layer details. Our [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) illustrates how to use the identify tool on the second page.

IMF: The identify layer tool on the IMF2 map viewer can be used to show layer details. [IMF2 Quick Reference Guide](#). See page 3.

From the identify results, both map viewers link the [PIN SID number](#) directly to [Tantalus GATOR](#) for the specific record.

Example, CWM:

MTA - Crown Granted Mineral Claims - Color Themed	
▲ 5837640	
Lot ID	803189
Pin Sid	5837640 Click on the link to Show Gator Details
District Lot	10357
Mining Division	
Claim Name	CARIBOO
Crown Grant Number	PORT HOPE
Lot Status	6217/633
	CROWN GRANTED

## 8. I used to have a bookmark tool in IMF1 where are they now?

There are no longer bookmarks in the CWM map viewer, however, you may still use bookmarks IMF2.

IMF2: Instructions for using the bookmark tool are available on page 2 of the [IMF2 Quick Reference Guide](#).

## 9. How do I access the coordinate readout?

Coordinates can be displayed in UTM, latitude-Longitude, Decimal Degrees and Degrees, Minutes, Seconds, to name a few. Instructions are available for both map viewers.

IMF2: Instructions for map functions, including coordinate readout (page 1) are available from the [IMF2 Quick Reference Guide](#).

CWM: Instructions for map functions, including coordinate readout (page 2) are available from the [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#).

## 10. How can I upload shapefiles to MTO?

Only the CWM viewer allows for importing shapefiles at this time.

Instructions for importing shapefiles are available from the [CWM Quick Reference Guide](#) on page 2.

## 11. How can I download Mineral Title digital data?

Data BC offers downloading services for many business areas like Mineral Titles. [Step by step instructions](#) are available on our branch website. The [dataset description](#) page lists all mineral titles data available from the distribution service offering.

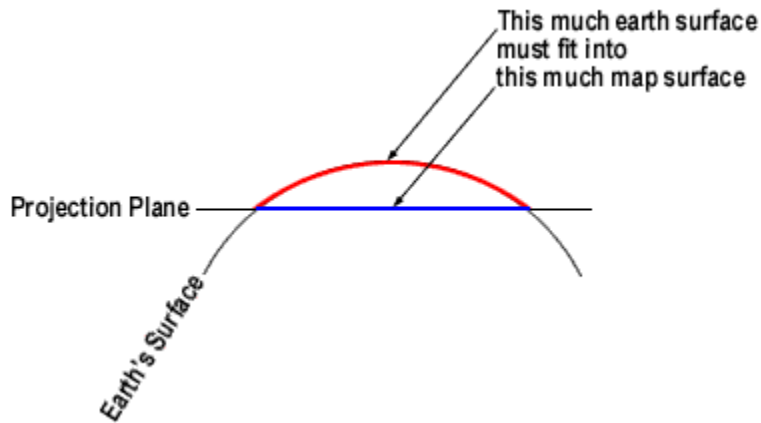
## 12. I have a legacy claim and would like the coordinates for my claim?

You can request the [coordinates](#) for your legacy claim by sending an email to Mineral Titles. Complete instructions, with examples, are available from our website.

## 13. Can I use Mineral Titles Online (MTO) to measure area and distance?

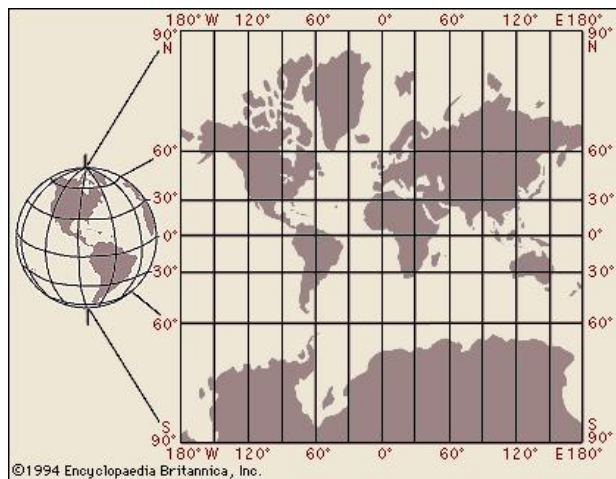
No, Mineral Titles Online (MTO) is not recommended for measuring area and distance.

Converting 3-d spatial data (i.e. a globe) onto a 2-d plane (i.e. a paper map) introduces distortion and yields inaccurate results. Depending on the projection system, distortion can occur in any of the following forms: shape, area, direction, and distance. Projection systems are designed to limit one or more forms of distortion in lieu of increasing other forms of distortion.



Source: The City University of New York<sup>[1]</sup>

MTO uses a Web Mercator projection system. Web Mercator is a pseudo-conformal projection system which preserves shape in lieu of area and distance. For Mercator projections, distortion increases with increasing distance from the equator (i.e. higher latitudes).



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Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica<sup>[2]</sup>

Distortional error can be minimized by converting to the appropriate projection system. Unfortunately, MTO does not currently support projection conversion. In some cases, distortion can also be minimized using special formulas. However, the process can be complicated and does not account for all errors.

Furthermore, using MTO to print physical maps and perform area and distance calculations may lead to additional errors. For example, using a physical map incorporates human and instrumental error. Moreover, a physical map lacks the ability to increase the scale detail in order to improve data accuracy.

The best course of action for accurately measuring area and distance is to contact a GIS professional in your local community.

For additional information regarding Mercator and distortion, please see the links below:

[Measuring distances and areas when your map uses the Mercator projection](#)

[The Web Mercator Visual and Data Analysis Fallacy](#)

[Advisory notice on "Web Mercator"](#)

[FAQ: Why are my map, distance and area measurements wrong when using WGS 1984 Web Mercator?](#)

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.geography.hunter.cuny.edu/~jochen/GTECH361/lectures/lecture04/concepts/Map%20coordinate%20systems/Map%20projections%20and%20distortion.htm>

<sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/science/Mercator-projection>