

November 15, 2003

General Comments - Ralph Steele Claims

These are all beneficial use claims for sprinkler irrigation from ponds and streams. I did not find any evidence of irrigation. Because recommending disallowal is a sobering prospect I looked hard and walked extensively over the claimed places of use. I've marked the paths I took on layouts in the files.

The claims indicate sprinkler irrigation, and the lands are too rolling for gravity irrigation. Portable pumps and sprinkler pipes can be easily moved, and it has been 14 years since these claims were filed. Nevertheless, I expected to see some traces - tractor tracks or dirt roads to where pumps would have been located, rock piles or remnants of wooden supports where portable mainlines went over cliffs and obstacles, at least some traces of damaged pipes or irrigation fittings. I poked around the buildings and looked carefully for these things and did not find them. Unless the claimant produces some documentation I propose disallowal of irrigation based on no evidence of beneficial use.

Scanned images of my field notes are in the photos file folder as "A25-4276_Steele_Notes_X.jpg" where "X" is the page number. The notes refer to GPS locations by UTM coordinate as that allows me to scale directly to USGS maps in the field. The GPS points reported in the summaries and in the data file use IDTM coordinates.

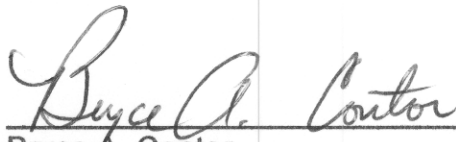
The last page of the claim in file A25-13094 is a summary map of all the claims. In general my inspection found those lands are potentially irrigable. It looks like a more complete and better representation of what was intended by the claimant than some of the individual maps in the claim files.

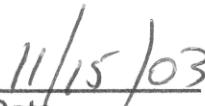
Paper file A25-04276 contains correspondence, a contact log, and a cartoon map showing relative locations of these claims. Claims A25-13095, A25-13096, and A25-13097 are enlargements of other claims. In those cases I have put most of the field notes and photos in the underlying claim file.

General Comments - A25-04276

A25-13097 is an enlargement of this right. The entire place is currently in a good stand of grass but old farm machinery suggest it was once farmed. It may not be in CRP as cattle have been grazing. Ordinarily cattle are excluded from CRP though in a drought year I think cattle can be allowed if the owner surrenders part

A25-4276_A25-13097_4.jpg	Place of use looking south from the east edge of the POU.
A25-4276_A25-13097_5.jpg	Looking down into Deer Creek from the same location. The claimed points of diversion are somewhere in this creek.
A25-4276_A25-13097_6.jpg	Looking southwest upstream at Deer Creek from the SE tip of the place of use. This photo and the last include all possible locations for the POD(s).
A25-4276_A25-13097_7.jpg	South edge of POU, looking west from a location just a little west of the previous photo.


Bryce A. Contor


Date

or all of the CRP payment for that year.

Ownership

Appears to be correct.

POD

None found.

POU

Farmed and potentially irrigable lands are marked on layout in file.

Overlap

Enlargement A25-13097

Conflict

None noted

Priority

No evidence in the file. A letter to the claimant invites evidence of priority.

Quantity

No evidence.

Water Use

No evidence of irrigation. Stockwater is not claimed but could be recommended.

List of Photos

A25-4276_A25-12097_1.jpg	Place of use looking south from the top of a little hill near the north edge of the POU.
A25-4276_A25-13097_2.jpg	Looking east from the same location.
A25-4276_A25-13097_3.jpg	Photo showing the CRP-like grass cover at the same location.