

November 15, 2003

#8

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 - A25-04283

The claimed boundaries of this and its enlargement A25-13095 do not seem to match the overall maps at the back of the "claim" side of paper folder A25-13094. The layout in this file is smaller than in A25-13095, so that layout better shows my walking path and the potentially irrigable lands I found. I did find a stockwater pond. I propose recommending deminimus stockwater use with a priority as

claimed with a "not a determination of beneficial use" remark. If the claimant provides evidence of use and priority then I propose recommending based on the evidence.

Ownership

Appears to be correct.

POD

Pond is at GPS waypoint 078, 679,795 E, 232,612 N.

POU

See sketch in A25-13095 and claimant map in A25-13094.

Overlap

Enlargement claim A25-13095

Conflict

None noted.

Priority

No evidence.

Quantity

No evidence of diversion works capacity. Pond is 33 steps wide (at 2.6 feet/step) and 58 steps long, visually estimated at maximum 12 feet depth. Considering the pond an inverted pyramid its volume is $((86 \times 150)/2) \times 12/3 = 38,800 \text{ ft}^3 = 0.89 \text{ acre feet}$.

The draw that feeds the pond appears unlikely to produce enough water for very many acres of irrigation.

Water Use

Stockwater.

List of Photos

A25-4283_A25-13095_1.jpg

Looking NW at POU from hill in SE part of POU, see marking on layout in A25-13095.

A25-4283_A25-13095_2.jpg

Looking NE from same location.

A25-4283_A25-13095_3.jpg

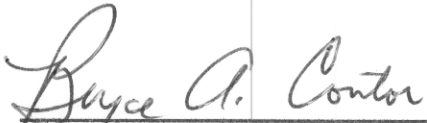
Looking S from a hill that is south of the pond, see map.

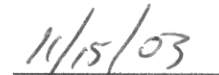
A25-4283_A25-13095_4.jpg

Looking NE at pond.

A25-4283_A25-13095_5.jpg

Looking W at POU from a point about 300 feet north of the dam.


Bryce A. Contor


Date