

#10

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

A25-13096 is an enlargement of this claim and this review applies to both claims. I did find a pond, but no evidence of irrigation. Only part of the claimed POU (the part of A25-13096 west of the road) appears to have been farmed. There is a culvert under the road where a mainline could be placed to take water to this part of the claimed POU but there was no indication that this had actually happened.

A25-04277_3.jpg

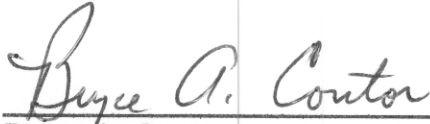
POU for A25-04277

A25-13096_1.jpg

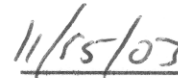
POU west of road, looking NW.

A25-13096_2.jpg

POU east of road from the same location.



Bryce A. Contor



Date

Unless the claimant provides additional documentation I propose recommending only de minimus stockwater use with the claimed priority.

Ownership

Appears to be correct.

POD

The center of the dam is GPS waypoint 82, 681,500E, 230,781N IDTM.

POU

Layouts approximately show potentially irrigable lands, consistent with claimant's maps. Only the POU west of the road appears to have been farmed.

Overlap

A25-13096 is an enlargement. The claims do not overlap place of use.

Conflict

None noted.

Priority

No evidence.

Quantity

No evidence of irrigation. The pond is about two acres by dot count from the USGS map, visually estimated at twelve feet deep. Using an inverted pyramid formula, $(2 \text{ acres} \times 12 \text{ feet})/3 = 8 \text{ acre feet}$.

Water Use

Stockwater.

List of Photos

A25-4277_A25-13096_1.jpg Looking NE at dam.

A25-04277_A25-13096_2.jpg Looking SE at dam.