

11 November 2003

statement
#7

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 - A25-13094

This is a beneficial use claim for irrigation using water pumped out of a canyon. I expected to find some evidence of where pipelines had gone up the cliff, and evidence of where a tractor or truck had brought the pump(s) in. I found neither. I walked the length of the creek at the east edge of the POU looking for evidence of diversion works.

The place of use is in a good stand of grass but an old potato planter indicates historical attempts at farming. This is high and wet enough country that farming does not necessarily imply irrigation. The canyon is deep and steep enough that it probably does not supply stock water for this grazing land.

I propose recommending disallowal based on no evidence of beneficial use.

Ownership

Appears to be correct.

POD

None found.

POU

My sketch on the layout shows potentially irrigable lands.

Overlap

None.

Conflict

None noted.

Priority

No evidence.

Quantity

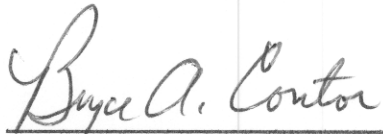
No evidence. The creek is large enough to support irrigation.

Water Use

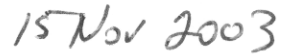
None found.

List of Photos

- A25-13094_1.jpg Looking N at POU from SW corner.
- A25-13094_2.jpg Looking NE at POU from SW corner.
- A25-13094_3.jpg Looking N at creek. Claimed POU is on top of the hill at the left (west) side of the photo. A pipeline would have to go up this hill. I walked down the creek and around the corner visible at the back of the photo.
- A25-13094_4.jpg Looking SW at POU from NE corner.



Bryce A. Contor



Date