

Kerns Ranch Water Rights Notes:

AIN: 120382

PIN: 49N02W055000

The draw in which the cabin, the house, the shed, and the two barns are now has been inhabited since at least the early part of the 20th century. According to James Newell, age 89, of Coeur d'Alene, a family by the name of Wiessenbaugh lived in the cabin, farmed and raised cattle there during his childhood.

Mr. Newell recalls that what is now the driveway that runs past the cabin on the Kerns Ranch was at that time the main road between the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene.

Presumably, the water use from a concrete collecting tank up the draw (POD Label #1) began during this time. In about 1931 the Wiessenbaughs sold to Archie Miller. He continued to live in the cabin and use the water. We have not yet learned when land was sold by Archie Miller to a Mr. Winter.

According to Lynn Kerns (age 92, oral communication November 11, 2009) she and her husband Robert D. Kerns purchased the ranch from Mr. Winter in 1962. At the time there was a wooden barn next to the stream on the south side of the main draw which they burned, an act they came to regret later. The present cabin (now remodelled) had obviously been there for many years. Its water supply was from a pipe connected to the concrete collecting tank up the draw. The collecting tank is still in use. The pipe leading from it to the cabin was replaced in the mid-1960's. Since 1970 when the present house was completed, that same water supply has been used for the cabin and the house and sufficient irrigation to keep grass growing all summer on three acres of lawn.

Stream in the draw (POD #1) runs in the spring to Wolf Lodge Creek, but most of the year disappears into the ground a few hundred feet below the POD.

In addition this source in the draw has supplied water off and on for as many as 200 head of cattle during the winter, although in recent years cattle have been on the place only from about May to October.

In the summer the cattle get their water from:

- 1) the spring below the house
- 2) the "canal", an intermittent water course running from the spring thence to the SW and then W to join Wolf Lodge Creek near the entrance to the property
- 3) the stock pond in the next draw to the west
- 4) all along Wolf Lodge Creek on the property
- 5) and numerous seasonal ponds NW of Wolf Lodge Creek