

MEMORANDUM

TO: Files 91-7841

FROM: Daniel Nelson – Staff Hydrologist

DATE: January 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Field Exam Required

This permit was set aside for in-house field exam for the licensing process. A review of the water rights overlapping this permit suggests that some of the acres irrigated by this water right might be covered by water right 91-7879. Water right 91-7879 is a domestic and stockwater right from the same well described in this permit. The domestic use under 91-7879 doesn't state that it is for in-house use only, so there is an assumption that 91-7879 allows up to ½ acre of irrigation.

Water right 91-7089 is also a decreed water right that comes from a spring that is tied into the same system described by this permit. A field examination was done on water right 91-7089 in the 1990's describing how the spring is tied into the well. The license for 91-7089 states the water use is from ground water, but the condition states that there are two separate sources. This suggests to me that they were calling the spring ground water. Water right 91-7089 describes a cabin, a home, 3 trailers, and yard irrigation, but there were no measurements taken of the spring or the well.

Aerial photos suggest that irrigation for this property has changed several times over the years. There is no way to determine from aerial photos what lands are actually irrigated. There are also numerous structures on this property and what appear to be piles of logs and/or debris. It is impossible to discern what is what in the aerial photos. The points of diversion shown in ArcMap are all over the place, without any regard to the other water rights on the property or any understanding of what is actually being done there.

This permit is too complicated to license based on a desktop review. A field examination will be needed to determine exactly which lands are irrigated, where the trailers are located, how many homes are actually on this property and how many are being served by the water system. The field examiner will also need to determine a system capacity to determine if combined conditions are going to be needed. This file is being put back on the vault shelves to allow northern region the ability to perform the field examination for this water right. **This permit should not be licensed until a field exam is done to determine exactly what is going on at this property.**