

Cefalo, James

From: Cefalo, James
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2012 4:52 PM
To: 'sally@sagebrushlandtrust.org'
Subject: Field exam for 13-4203
Attachments: 13-4203 Field Exam.pdf

Sally,

I conducted a field exam for 13-4203 on Friday afternoon (Sept 28th). I found very little evidence of irrigation. There is no existing functional diversion structure. I found the remnants of an old diversion dam (photos 1-3). However, the diversion dam is non-functional. The way the structure was positioned suggests that the stream channel used to flow through the area differently. I would guess that the stream channel was changed when the road culvert was last replaced. The diversion dam does not even sit in the natural channel anymore and is now useless for diverting water.

The old ditches are still visible across some of the property. I took gps readings along the main ditch as far as it was visible. (photos 5-9) There was also a lateral ditch that split off to the west. (photos 10-12) The map attached to this email shows the extent that I could visually confirm the existence of ditches (shown in blue). Beyond the blue lines the ground is flat. The ditches are in poor condition. Many areas of the ditch are flattened out or filled in. Fifty feet down ditch from the old diversion structure, the ditch is completely filled in for a 50-foot stretch. Even if there were a functioning headgate/diversion structure, it would be impossible to irrigate the property without serious work to recondition (re-dig) the ditch. Based on the ditches that were still visible, I created a shape of ground that could have been irrigated through the old ditch system. The area highlighted in red constitutes 5 acres. One indication that irrigation has not taken place for a long time is the size of the sagebrush plant growing in the middle of the 50-foot section of filled-in ditch. (photos 5 and 6) There are no sign of any pasture grasses. The area has been primarily vegetated by sagebrush and desert grasses. The spring flow is very good. It is flowing at much more than 0.3 cfs. (photo 4)

Given the current condition of the diversion structure and irrigation ditches, it is highly unlikely that there has been irrigation at this site for tens of years.

I am planning on preparing a short memo summarizing what I found in the field exam, but I wanted to provide the information to you first to give you a chance to correct anything I may have wrong. Let me know if you see anything that needs to be changed or added.

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