

MEMO

TO: File

DATE: 10-1-1999

FROM: J E STANTON

SUBJECT: Claim A45-4114, App. For Permit 45-07745, US Forest Service

Yesterday I met with Marsh Creek watermaster Don Gunderson & water-district board member Ron Sorensen at their request. They are concerned about the proosed expansion of water usage from Bennett Spring at Pomerelle Ski Resort. We discussed the matter, and Don gave me photos of the existing system that he had recently taken. He also gave me a copy of the development plan for this system from 1976. We then drove out to look at the system.

We took the main road up to Pomerelle, then drove off the pavement on a gravel road that goes to Bennett Spring. I think that we parked on the first 180-degree turn in the road and then walked upstream to a standpipe/pump. I could hear the pump running. Two overflow pipes ran into the small stream at the base of the standpipe, and were discharging about 1/2 cfs (Don had estimated about 41 inches from the main overflow). It was difficult to determine exactly where this water came from, as two locks held a metal cover in place on top of the standpipe. There could be a separate spring, or they may be tapping into the stream itself. The 1976 drawing of this system show a 360' lift from the pipe to a second standpipe/booster pump; if I figured correctly, a 3 hp motor would pump a whopping 0.002 cfs that high, hardly a practical system. I did not GPS the site, but it appears that this is not the Bennett Spring that is shown on the quad map. Another spring is shown further up the canyon, so it could be that one.

We then drive further west on the main road, stopping just before it makes the 180-degree turn near the NW corner of Sec. 1. We walked over the bank to another diversion. A square concrete lid with lift rings and a 12" hole in the center was visible along the north side of the nearly-dry stream channel. Water was seeping out of the rocks around the lid. The hole in the lid was filled with gravel, so we removed some of the gravel. Ron stuck a tire iron down the hole, and said that he felt a metal plate. The water in the hole was very cold. We put the gravel back in the hole, then walked downstream to look for the pipeline they had previously seen. Maybe 75' downstream, a 2 1/2" metal pipe was sticking out from the south bank; the end of the pipe was capped off, however. The pipe continued into the bank in the general direction of Pomerelle, then disappeared. Ron said he felt water moving in the pipeline. So this appears to be a second diversion below the ski lodge, but I can't be sure.

I have not discussed my visit with the USFS or other parties to verify what I saw. I wasn't sure what Don & Ron had in mind when they requested my presence, so did not

try to contact other parties. I am just adding my observations, and the photos from the watermaster, to the file. Don will also be adding comentary.