

MEMORANDUM

April 22, 2005

TO: Allen Merritt

FROM: Cindy Yenter, Watermaster 

RE: Notch Butte Farms Transfer Application Nos. 71422 and 71437

On January 18, 2005 I submitted a Recommendation of Watermaster regarding these two applications which stated that the place of use with Sections 30 and 31, T06S R17E had been modified and no longer matched the transfer pou acres. You asked that I conduct a field check to verify the actual extent of change.

I had a phone coversation in late January with applicant Bob Shillington, who indicated that a pivot had been relocated last year, but that the west half of the circle would not be irrigated because the area contained rock outcroppings and was not suitable for row crops.

On April 13, 2005 I conducted a field visit. The place of use in question is within SWSW Section 30 and NW Section 31. A pivot which formerly irrigated a half-circle in SWSW 30/NWNW 31, has been relocted to the center of the NWNW Sec 31, and now makes a full circle sweep, covering approximately 87 acres. Estimated location of acres are:

SWSW 30 (L4)	20
NENW 31	4
NWNW 31 (L1)	55
SWNW 31 (L2)	8

The ground under the west half of the pivot is indeed an area of rocky outcroppings and rolling terrain. It is difficult this early in the season to tell what has been or will be cropped under the system. However, the pivot wheel tracks are established and appear to go completely around the circle, and I could see no pivot stops. The equipment has been in place at least one year. The pivot might be run dry over the west half of the circle; the 2004 NAIP photos and the satellite imagery are not conclusive.

I still recommend that the applicant address the pou change prior to final approval of the transfer. Even if only the east half of the pivot is irrigated, there may still be a shortfall of total acres available under the rights.

30

Old Pivot



New Pivot

31

