

FIELD EXAMINATION OF PRBA WATER RIGHT CLAIM

Claim Identification Number: 87-4181

Date of Examination: 9/18/2024

Approximate Time of Examination: 10:25 AM

IDWR Field Staff: E. Roda, D. Sturgis, M. Thompson

Point of Contact: Roland Thomason

Examination Location: 17873 Coyote Grade, Genesee, ID

Weather: Partly cloudy, approximately 65° F

Purpose of Visit: Determine if source diverted is spring or groundwater

Report Prepared By: E. Roda

Field Examination Notes: We arrived on site at approximately 10:25 AM (PT) and were met by claimant, Roland Thomason. Mr. Thomason escorted IDWR staff to the location of the point of diversion (POD) for water right claim no. 87-4181.

The diversion works observed consist of a large rectangular concrete cistern buried in the ground, with a porous or open floor that allows water to percolate into it from below. The access port on the top of the cistern is approximately 2 ft. in diameter, and is covered with a metal wash tub and a cinder block over top to weight it down (Picture 1). The depth to water within the cistern was measured at 2.3 ft. below ground surface, with an approximate total depth measured at 5.2 ft. below ground surface (Pictures 2 & 3). Water line staining was observed on the internal walls of the cistern, indicating a potential high-water mark of 4-5 in. above its current level. The water in the cistern was observed to be clear, with some sediment settled on the bottom. From the cistern, water is pumped to stock tanks (Picture 5) and yard irrigation via portable submersible sump pump (Picture 4).

The location of the point of diversion was determined by GPS as follows:

N 46° 32.332'

W 116° 51.960'

A small depression/channel was observed running past the cistern, approximately 5-10 yards from away, but it was dry and vegetated with grass. Mr. Thomason stated that it

rarely ever has water in it, and only from surface runoff. The vegetation surrounding the concrete cistern consists primarily of domestic variety grasses and clover, and is consistent with that of the surrounding area. Mr. Thomason explained that the row of trees nearby were planted in past 10 years, and also that some fruit trees present on the property were planted by the previous owner. No vegetation was observed that would commonly be found in the vicinity of riparian or heavily saturated areas. There are no formed channels, rills, or any other indicators of water expression to the surface at the POD's location. However, the groundwater table in this vicinity has historically been very shallow as Mr. Thomason described his experience in the past of water slowly seeping into the bottom of a shallow trench he had dug to replace a water line.

As the water within the cistern has a static level approximately 2 ft. below ground surface, and is withdrawn from below that point, it can be concluded that the water source for this claim is best described as groundwater. IDWR hydrogeologist, Daniel Sturgis, concurred with this assessment and conclusion.



1) Concrete cistern and surrounding area



2 & 3) D. Sturgis measuring depth to water in cistern



4) Everbilt SBA025BC portable submersible pump used to divert water to stock tanks



5) One of observed stock tanks watering livestock