

I am Mark Parker, owner of the property and water rights 11-4109. I bought the ranch/farm in 2011. I have used the water for flooding and irrigation for crop production and also for stock watering. From the time I was young enough to remember, I would remember the ground being irrigated. Every spring my dad and others would go down the creek and put the dam in. When I was old enough to go down and look at the dam it was made of concrete and wood. They would put 3x12s in on a 45 degree angle to block the water and force it out through the meadows. Taking the dam out was a challenge, all the weight of the water made it very tricky and dangerous to remove. Many times some one would be thrown in the water and floated under the dam. When I bought the place I applied with the NRCS and we replaced the dam with screw gates to make it safer.

My father told me I would be the 5th generation upon purchasing it. Many of the same practices that were done with my grandparents were still practiced today. Flooding and part of it was upgraded to sprinkler systems. As kids we were expected to help move pipes. One kid on each end of the pipe until we were old enough to carry one our self. There are approximately 103 acres that are watered with the creek (2.06 cfs). It floods across 2 other property owners before reaching my property and crosses others before the last of the water enters back it to the creek. Some water returns shortly after leaving the creek.

One story that I remember was riding my horse bingo down through the meadows and sloughs. He developed a habit of laying down in the sloughs to get me off and then walk out and turn around and look at me. As a young teen I would be in waist deep water. One time he got his back foot through the stirrup and could not get up. I stood there holding his head out of the water while trying to get the saddle on the off side undone. Finally got it undone and he walked out and turned around and looked at me with his foot still in the stirrup. Other neighbors, Worthy Beck, Arch Parker, Carl Parker would tell me stories of them fishing off the dam and pitchforking carp in the meadows as the water would drop. Unfortunately these people have passed. Not just our ranch depends on the water, so does many others that this water floods across.

With my signature I attest this is true.


Sept 17th 2025

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In August of 1968 I married into the Parker family. Weston Parker became my husband, and I moved from Georgetown to Ianark on the Parker farm. We bought the farm from his parents. The farm had been in the Parker for generations as mainly a dairy farm. We raised and sold milk and other animals for food. We also raised a few beef cows and steadily grown them to a larger herd. Along with animals we grew and raised 8 children on the family farm. We also raised hay and grains for the Animals. A large part of the raising hay was irrigation. It was a practiced by family and others to put in the dam in the Ovid creek and flood irrigate the ground. The water flooded many properties included ours. We also installed power to work a 10 and a 15 horse pumps to irrigate with. We raised all of our own crops for the animals. As part of the watering of the ground, it was common practice to let cattle go to the creek for water. If you look at the property there is a small lane that we owned to allow cattle access to the creek for watering. During the winter it was on only source of water for them. Unfortunately, with the ice came the loss of cattle. Over the years we would occasionally lose one that would slip on the ice, break a pelvis, and lay there all night. Due to the injury the animal had to be put down due to the injury and meat damage from laying on the ice all night. Stories and worry were told about the dam and how unsafe it was for the guys to put the dam in and take it out, but it was vital to get the water for crop production. In the 1968 we filed on the water for irrigation, it came as directive from the state we needed to, but water was used for irrigation generations before it was filed upon.

September 17, 2025
Lynne Ann Parker

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