

IDWR Adjudication Claims Investigation

Christian Stewart – Water Resource Agent

5/14/2026

Claim Investigation Field Report

WR # 11-991A

WR # 11-8234

Narrative

On 5/14/2026, I conducted a field examination for claims 11-991A and 11-8234 at the Formation Springs Ranch, where I was accompanied by claimant Mary Jensen. The following report outlines what I observed during the field examination.

Point of Diversion 1 : Jensen Ditch

Approximately 400 feet downstream from where Formation Springs rises from the ground, I observed a small concrete headgate that appears to span the Formation Springs stream channel. The concrete headgate diverts a portion of the flow of Formation Springs into an open-air ditch that is located on the north streambank of Formation Springs. Approximately 20 feet down the ditch from the concrete headgate, I observed a regulating structure that splits the flow of the main ditch into two smaller ditches and returns all undiverted water back to Formation Springs. One of the smaller ditches flows toward the north and the other flows toward the northwest. Mary told me that the ditch flowing towards the northwest is the ditch she uses for flood irrigation, and that water flowing in the northern ditch goes to Scott Brown's property.

Point of Diversion 2: Jensen Pump

Mary took me to a pump located near the concrete headgate on the north streambank of Formation Springs. The elevation of the pump is 6160 feet. The pump was surrounded by dense vegetation so I could not approach it to determine whether the pump was connected to any pipes. The pump was not running and was not connected to power. Several feet away from the pump, I saw a pipe (8-10") emerging from the vegetation that split into two pipes. One pipe goes north underground and the other pipe splits south and crosses over the stream. From what was visible through the vegetation, the pump, power meter, and pipe were all in poor condition. There was heavy rust, broken glass, and cracks and holes in the pipe. I was unable to determine the horsepower of the pump and Mary did not give me an estimate of the pump horsepower.

Measurements:

I used a Sontek Flowmeter to measure the flow of Jensen ditch, Scott Brown ditch, and Formation Springs below the POD.

Jensen Ditch: 1.15 cfs

Scott Brown Ditch: 2.71 cfs

Formation Springs (below Jensen/Brown pod): 15.61 cfs

Combined Flow: 19.47 cfs

Place of Use:

Flood irrigation: I walked the open-air Jensen ditch from the point of diversion to where it sinks into the ground approximately 0.3 miles downstream. Much of the ditch was slightly elevated from the surrounding ground and enclosed by berms on both sides. There were several locations on the west flank of the ditch that allowed the water from the ditch to spill downhill into the ~12-acre fenced field to the west of the ditch to flood-irrigate pasture grasses. At the time of the site visit, the effects of the flood irrigation were observed on a small portion (~2 acres) of the field, as the water quickly sank into the ground near the ditch. A larger ~12-acre portion of the field is located down gradient of the ditch. It is plausible that the entire 12-acre pasture can be flood irrigated, but I did not observe the entire pasture being actively irrigated.

North Pump Riser: Mary took me to where one of the split pipes emerges as a riser from the ground, located approximately 350 feet north of the pump. The pipe diameter at the riser was 6" and the riser was covered in rust and in otherwise poor condition. The pipe was empty and did not connect to any sprinkler infrastructure. There was no sign of sprinkler irrigation infrastructure in the vicinity. I asked Mary what this riser was used for. She told me that the riser could connect to portable pipes that would irrigate the pastureland to the northeast. This pastureland is not within the claimed place of use. The maximum elevation of this pasture is 6260 feet, about 100 feet higher than the pump elevation. I did not see any irrigation occurring from this riser. It appeared to me that no irrigation had occurred for many years

South Pump Risers:

Mary showed me where the south split of the pipe crosses over the creek and continues south underground. Approximately 500 feet south of the pump, I observed two 4" risers emerging from the ground at an elevation of 6175 feet, 15 feet higher than the pump elevation. The risers were in poor condition and were unable to convey water. They were rusted and cracked. Mary told me that portable mainlines are used to sprinkler irrigate the pasture extending from the south of the risers to the roadway. The maximum elevation of this claimed place of use is 6270 feet, or 110 feet higher than the pump elevation. I did not see any irrigation occurring from these risers or any irrigation infrastructure in the vicinity. It appeared to me that no irrigation had occurred for many years.

Other remarks: I asked Mary where the portable mainlines were. She showed me a pile of fifty 30' pipes lying on the ground to the south of Formation Springs. This pile of pipes is visible in this exact location, unmoved, in every available Google Earth aerial photo since 09/2010.



Yellow Area: entire grass pasture located downhill of the ditch

Blue Area: irrigated area observed during field examination

Yellow Dot: point of diversion for ditch and pump

Blue Droplets: riser locations

Blue Line: Jensen Ditch

Purple Line: buried pipeline

Short Purple line : pile of 30' pipeline

Jensen Formation Springs Pump Power Meter Identifier

5441 10223

(Color Enhanced)





☉ 345°N (T) ● 42.696725°N, 111.544068°W ±13ft



Pipe emerges at top of hill, and would direct water into handlines. Pipe was rusted out and unusable at time of site visit.



☉ 4°N (T) ☉ 42.698655°N, 111.545388°W ±9ft



Another valve emerges from the north buried pipe. Place of use was not included in the claim.



☉ 246°SW (T) ● 42.696769°N, 111.544304°W ±9ft



4" surfaced pipe opening that would direct water to handlines.



⊙ 106°E (T) ⊙ 42.697933°N, 111.544569°W ±39ft



Pipe near the point of diversion splits flow. The 6" pipe pictured on the right directs flow across the creek. The pipe is buried and surfaces at the two openings at the top of the hill.



☀ 165°S (T) ☉ 42.697945°N, 111.544560°W ±39ft



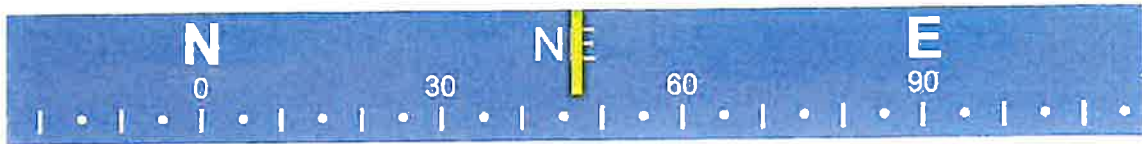
Irrigation pump. Very old condition, inactive, not currently functional. Buried in trees. Pump characteristics unknown.



☉ 38°NE (T) ☉ 42.697925°N, 111.544583°W ±29ft



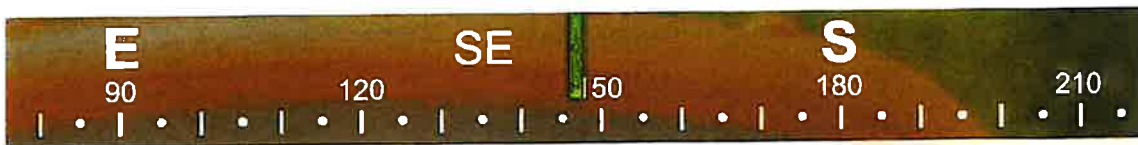
Power panel to pump. Not functional in 2026.



☉ 47°NE (T) ● 42.697253°N, 111.544300°W ±9ft



50 30' x 4" aluminum handline pipes



☉ 147°SE (T) ☉ 42.697731°N, 111.545257°W ±13ft



Jensen Ditch flow measurement 1.15 cfs.



☀ 239°SW (T) ☉ 42.698752°N, 111.546992°W ±9ft



Flood irrigation from the ditch at the place of use.