



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

BRBA FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT

Claim Number: 11-2041 B

Exam Date: 7/28/2026

Exam Time: Start: 3:40 PM
End: 5:00 PM

IDWR Staff Present: Bob Howe, Jose Pacheco, Jacob Morris

Claimant/Representative Present:

☐ No ☒ Yes Dow Barker

Exam Location:

Sulfur Canyon Homestead (Nounan Rd/ Sulfur Canyon appx 3077 Hwy 30 Soda Springs, ID 83276)

Claimed PLSS:

POD:

Inent. No.	Gov't Lot	¼	¼	¼	Sec	Twp	Rge	County	Method of Determination/Remarks
		SW	SW		12	09S	42E		Claimant walked agents to the site and explained where the water was coming from.

POU:

Twp	Rge	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals
			NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	NE	NW	SW	SE	
09S	42E	14			3.4	14					1.8				4.2	17			40.4

Examiner's Signature:

Purpose of Exam:

- To verify the place of use (POU) from claimed accomplished transfer.
- How the water is being used to irrigate the POU, evaluating terrain factors.
- Diversion works – understand the systems better and how the water is being applied within the POU to irrigate the area.
 - Verify point of diversions – claimant claimed one POD out of the two original POD from the license. Claimant did not claim the POD from South Sulphur Canyon Spring.
- Measure flow of water

Exam Narrative:

Met with Mr. Barker on site. Our initial observations during the drive in showed no signs of active irrigation work. Mr. Barker first took us to the mid-section of the POU, marked by the culvert on the hand-marked map. Streamflow was present at this location (approximately 1 inch in depth). Jose inspected the culvert to evaluate its suitability for a flow test; however, due to the length of the straight run, the damaged interior of the culvert, the water depth, and the lack of a high-water mark, a theoretical measurement was not conducted.

At this location, Mr. Barker explained that the lower portion of the field was historically flooded and is currently being flood-irrigated with no further distribution or sub-irrigation, while the elevated sections were dry-farmed. He indicated these areas on the hand-marked map. When asked how flood irrigation was performed, such as using tarps or boards, he stated that the water simply spread across the field. No irrigation channels or tracks were observed anywhere on the current field.

The next area Mr. Barker showed us was the cistern. He uses only the north gate of the cistern. The south gate remains closed (nonfunctional), and he is not aware of the outlet location. Tracing the outlet of the active portion shows it is approximately 350 feet (measured via Google Earth) from the cistern and discharges directly into the natural channel. A 1–2 inch PVC pipe with a banjo valve is installed in the cistern and connects to the adjacent tanker trailer, though the trailer has been unused for several years due to bullet damage. Historically, the trailer was filled from the cistern and used to support irrigation. The inlet pipe diameter into the cistern is unknown to the claimant, but they stated they were in the process of replacing broken tiles from the POD to the cistern.

The POD identified during the in-office visit was found to be a pipe historically used for mining and more recently for stockwater. The actual POD location is approximately 1,500 feet northwest (measured via Google Earth) and is noted on the hand-marked map in Section 12. Mr. Barker mentioned he believes he located the secondary POD referenced in the original license somewhere in Section 13, but this was not observed during our visit. From the POD to the cistern, the elevation has a slope of about 5.3°, or 30–40 feet.

Mr. Barker also pointed out the historical dam location and indicated this as the area where flood irrigation traditionally occurred. When we walked to the remains of the dam, the channel soil appeared dark, indicating recent moisture, but no water was present. Water was present at the culvert, but somewhere between that point and the dam it dispersed. The distance from the culvert to the dam is

approximately 1,073 feet (measured via Google Earth). It was stated that this dam was removed after the breach of the Forest Service dam further up Sulfur Canyon sometime in the 1970s, which made keeping the area filled difficult. When discussing the historical dam Bob informed Mr. Barker that the department does not issue licenses for sub-irrigated or wetland areas.

Noted time periods:

- Tanker trailer unused for five years
- Dry farming and sub-irrigation occurring since the 1970s

No beneficial use has been documented, and the claimant has verbally described long periods of nonuse to various agents.

Exam Conclusion:

Areas that were proposed to have been irrigated were found to have been sub-irrigated, located in the natural riparian area of the natural channel or the claimant stated the section of the POU was dry farmed. No Beneficial use found in field exam.

Explanation of Elements not Examined:

☒ **POD:** Secondary POD that was stated by claimant in office as not valid was not evaluated. The claimant did mention he thought he might have located the additional POD but it was not in the originally licensed location.

☐ **POU:**

☒ **Quantity:** Water levels were too low and there was not a long enough stretch of straight path for a flow test to be conducted on the channel at this time.

☐ **Other:**

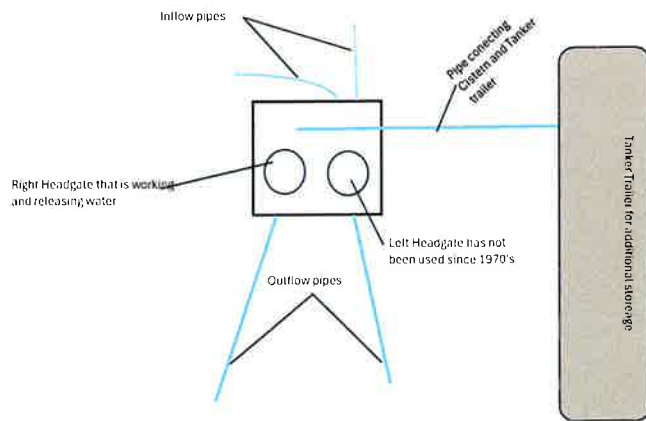
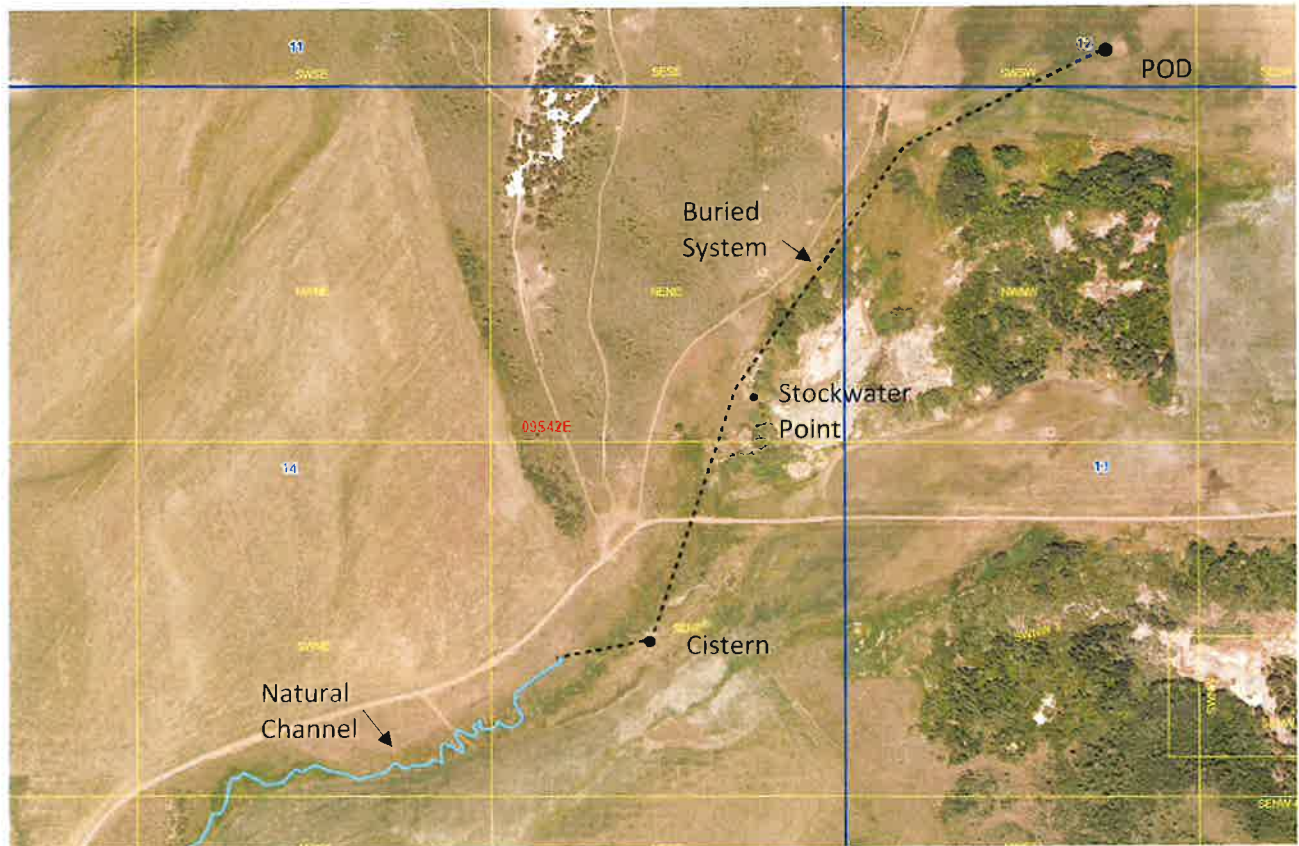
Amendments Needed:

☒ **No**

☐ **Yes:**

Flow/Volume Calculations: N/A

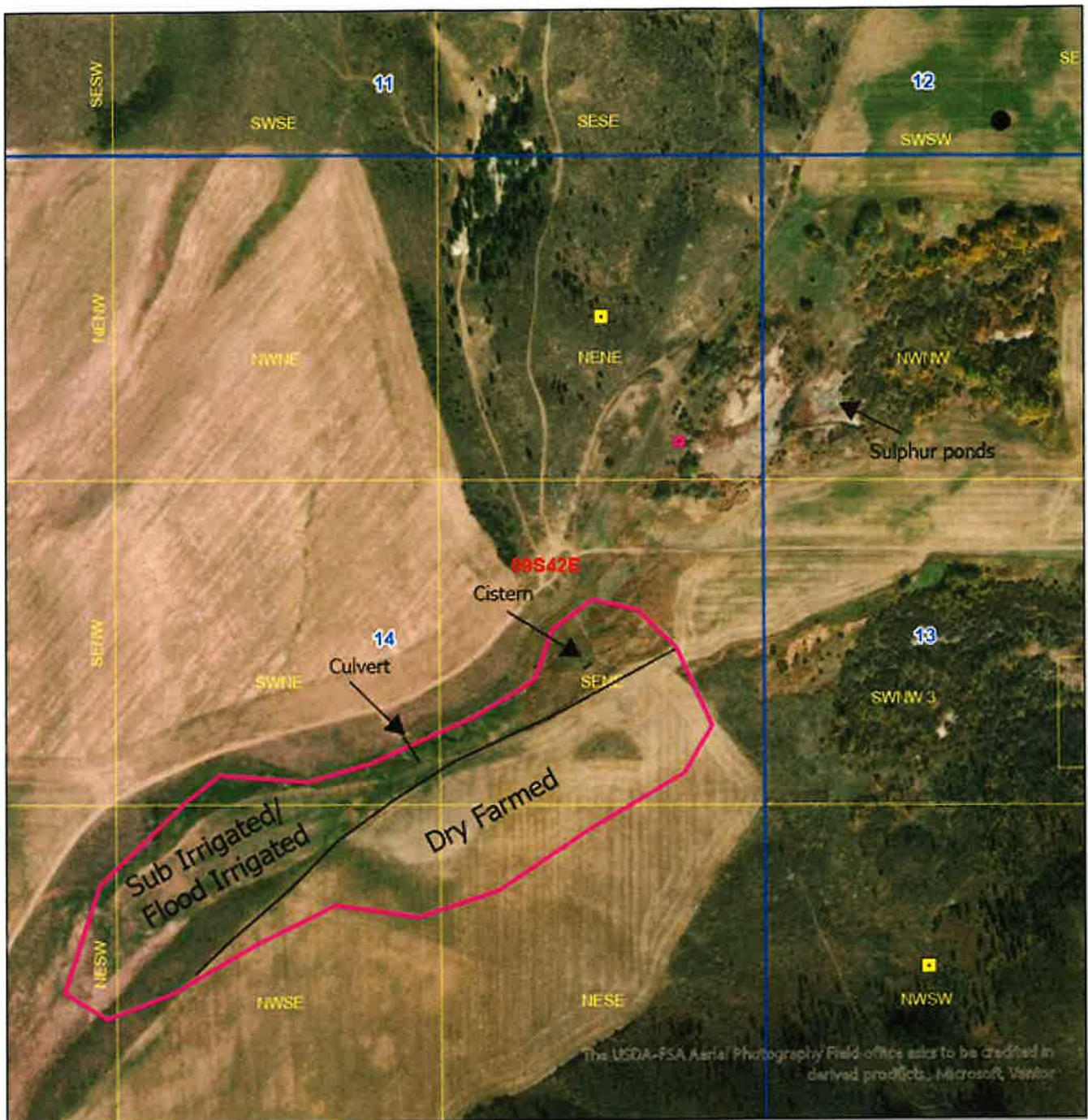
System Map:



The map above shows the system as explained by claimant during field exam. The dashed line is a buried system that directs the water from the POD towards the cistern then to the natural channel identified on the NHD layer. The Cistern is a passthrough and does not act as a storage facility currently due to the storage tank not functional.

The diagram to the left shows the diversion works of the cistern system as observed and explained during field exam.

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LEGEND

- Licensed WR POD
- Claimed POD Identified POD was an old cattle water pipe.
- Actual POD
- POU

0.1
Miles



Photos:



Figure 1: Initial view of POU when driving into claim.



Figure 2 POU at the midpoint near the culvert



Figure 3 Stream channel claimant claimed irrigation use occurs from entering culvert midway in the claimed POU.



Figure 4 Culvert at the midpoint of the POU.



Figure 5 Interior of the culvert and large structural crack.



Figure 5 From the midpoint of POU looking towards the upper section of the POU where the cistern and storage tank is located.



Figure 6 & 7.5 Storage tank for cistern. Not currently in use due to target practice evidence.



Figure 7 Cistern inner works includes two head gates and a PVC line that connects the storage tank to the cistern.



Figure 8 Cistern inlet lines.



Figure 9 Outlet for the right head gate that feeds into the active stream channel. On the right side is the active release point.



Figure 11 Identified POD during office visit was found to have been part of the old mine desulfurization process and later stock water use point.

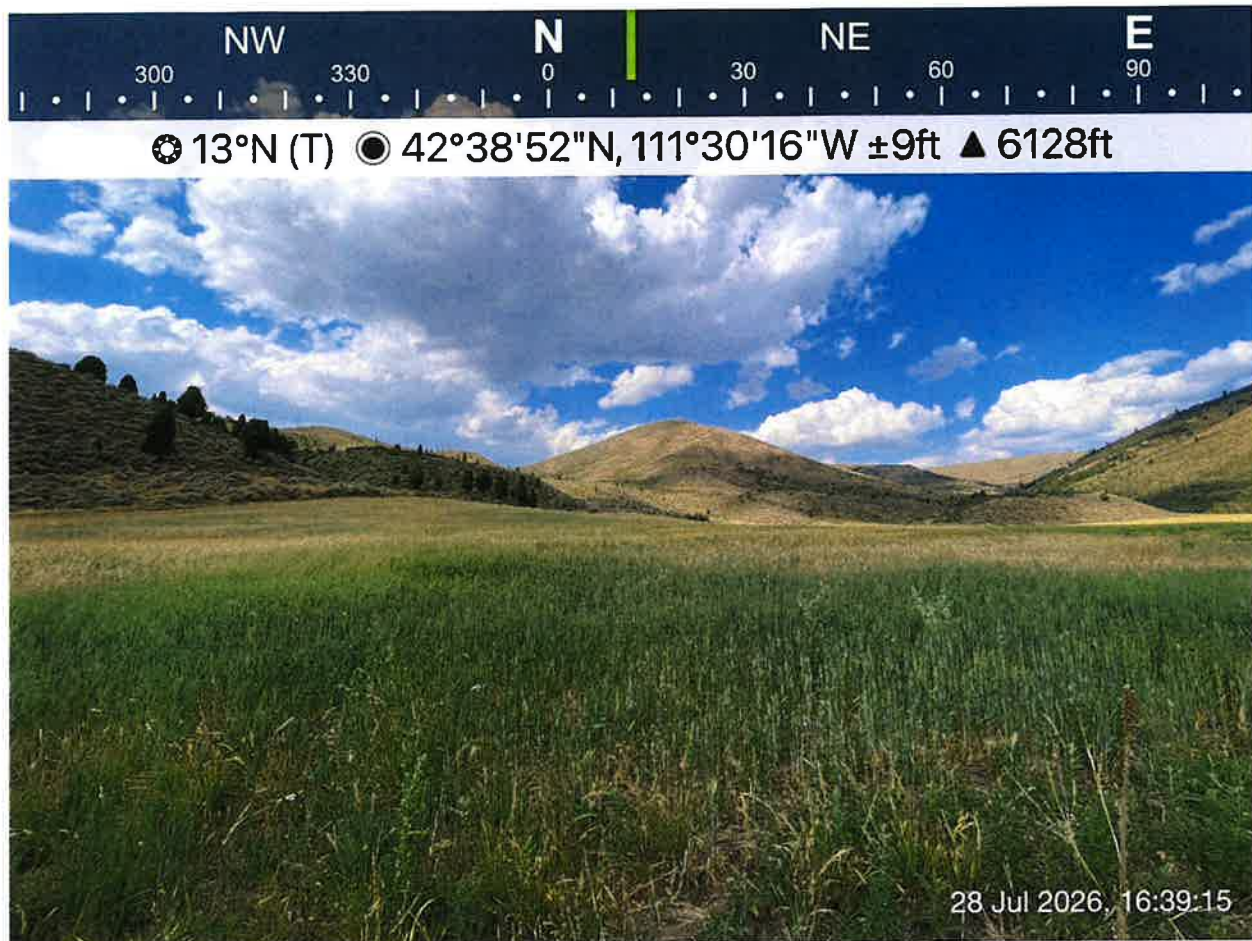


Figure 12 Actual POD was found to be under a field located in the SWSW section 12 just NW of the previously identified POD location.



Figure 13 remains of the historical dam that was removed in 1970.



Figure 14 Stream channel near the historical dam was found to have been recently wet but no present water was found in channel.



Figure 13.5a Historical dam from 1970 to the right field to the left and stream channel through the center.



Figure 13.5b Historical dam from 1970 to the right field to the left and stream channel through the center.