



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

BRBA FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT

Claim Numbers:

11-2079, 11-4054 and 11-4055

Exam Date:

08/24/2026

Exam Time:

Start: 10:15 a.m.

End: 1:17 p.m.

IDWR Staff Present: Jacob Morris & Jose Pacheco

Claimant/Representative Present:

☐ No

☒ Yes

Joy Dellene Rigby & Jaren Rigby

Exam Location:

Meeting location: Intersection at Pescadero Rd Bern Id. (42°55'03.45"N 111°21'22.49"W)

Diversion and Delivery System:

Claimed POD:

Claim #	County	Twp	Rge	Sec	Gov't Lot	¼	¼	¼	Method of Determination/Remarks
11-4054	BEAR LAKE	12s	43e	13		SE	SW		Visual observation of vertical collection cistern and GPS coordinates collected.
11-4055	BEAR LAKE	12s	43e	13		SE	SW		Visual observation of vertical collection cistern and GPS coordinates collected.
11-2079	BEAR LAKE	12s	43e	12		SE	SE		Verbal communication with claim representative and aerial imagery.

Claimed POU:

Claim #	Twp	Rge	Sec	NE				NW				SW				SE				Totals
				NE	NW	S	SE	N	NW	S	SE	NE	NW	S	SE	N	NW	S	SE	
11-4054	12s	43E	13															S		
11-4054	12S	43E	18									1.7	2.3	44	37					85
1-4054	12s	43e	24	14	0.3															14.03
11-4055	12S	43E	13															S	1.4	1.4
11-4054	12S	43E	18											2.8						2.8

1-4054	12S	43E	19						46	43								89
1-4054	12S	43E	24	15			37											52
11-2079	12S	43E	18										3 / D / S					3

Examiner's Signature:



Purpose of Exam:

- To verify the POD location
- To verify the cistern location
- To verify and map out the Diversion system & Use areas
 - Historical system
 - Present day system
- To verify and map out the filed layout (alfalfa, wheat, rye, etc.)
 - Historical
 - Present day
- Obtain Measurements
 - Actual
 - Theoretical

Summary of Exam:

The actual POD is located approximately 0.5 miles up the canyon on the right side of the roadway. According to measurements obtained through Google Earth, the slope from the POD to the stockwater trough averages 3.5° (6.12% grade), and from the trough to the homestead averages 2.4° (4.19% grade). These slopes would allow adequate flow by gravity. However, no historic or present-day ditch systems were observed between the POD and the POUs. Given the absence of conveyance channels, diversion structures, and the nature of the terrain, there is insufficient evidence to recommend irrigation use. Historical stockwater use was confirmed through visual observation of existing troughs. Domestic use associated with the former homesteads ended in the 1930s.

Based on this field visit, stockwater use on claims 11-2079, 11-4054, and 11-4055 is the only recommendable beneficial use at this time.

Exam Narrative:

At approximately 10:15 a.m. on August 24, 2026, I met on-site with Jose, claimant Joy Dellene Rigby, and her son Jaren Rigby to review water right claims 11-4054 and 11-4055. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain a clearer understanding of the historical use of these claims prior to the property's enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

During the initial discussion at the intersection, we outlined the need to verify the water source, diversion system, and if possible, to identify any remnants of historic conveyance structures. We also discussed the portion of claim 11-4054 located on a parcel owned by The Tetlar Foundation. At this time, the claimant stated that her late husband had been a member of the Foundation's trust. Following his passing, other family members allegedly attempted to remove their 1/6 ownership interest, and she indicated that this portion of the claim has been subject to prior litigation. She was informed that any claim located on a parcel not directly owned by the claimant may require additional documentation demonstrating permission from the parcel owner; without such documentation, that portion may be excluded from the recommendation.

Upon arrival, both claim POU's were observed on rolling foothills at the base of the mountain, dissected by a small dry channel. The POU's consisted of uneven topography with multiple slope variations and high points that would pose challenges for irrigation. No historical or present-day diversion systems were visible from the roadway during the drive from the meeting point to the Rigby Homestead.

The actual POD is located approximately 0.5 miles (measured by Esri ArcGIS Pro) up the canyon on the right side of the roadway. According to measurements obtained through Google Earth, the slope from the POD to the stockwater trough averages 3.5° (6.12% grade), and from the trough to the homestead averages 2.4° (4.19% grade). These slopes would allow adequate flow by gravity. However, no historic or present-day ditch systems were observed between the POD and the POU's. Given the absence of conveyance channels, diversion structures, and the nature of the terrain, there is insufficient evidence to recommend irrigation use.

At the Rigby Homestead, we walked approximately 0.23 miles (measured by Esri ArcGIS Pro) along the dirt road to the initially claimed stockwater trough. Jaren informed us that this concrete trough was installed around 1977. The original piped system from the homestead supplied the trough and in 1985, a line from the trough to a hydrant on the homestead was installed to reestablish the historical connection.

When asked about creek flow and spring supply, Jaren explained that creek water typically lasts only through spring runoff and often does not reach beyond the culvert beneath the

road leading to the second homestead. In years with exceptional snowpack, flow may extend to the end of the property and has historically washed out the main road, though this is infrequent. Regarding the spring, he noted that the cistern and trough have not filled in recent years, likely due to a break or clog in the line; he plans to investigate the issue.

We then walked an additional 0.26 miles (measured by Esri ArcGIS Pro) to the cistern. An inlet pipe entering from the west was observed, supplying collected water to the cistern. When the rubber end was removed, water was observed trickling out of the pipe. Adjacent stock troughs were present, and Rigby confirmed stock use at these locations. A hose connected to the base of the cistern appeared to be used for filling the troughs. To the east, a rock-lined spillway was visible, directing overflow back to the creek channel below. GPS coordinates were collected for the cistern.

From the cistern, we continued another 0.03 miles (measured by Esri ArcGIS Pro) to the actual POD. This POD consists of a recessed vertical metal culvert covered by a metal lid. Due to standing water, inlet and outlet points could not be confirmed. GPS coordinates were collected for this POD as well.

During the return to the fields, a rock-lined depression was observed along the south side of the road resembling a possible ditch. When questioned, Jaren stated that water is piped underground from the cistern to the trough rather than conveyed in an open channel.

Upon returning to the Rigby Homestead, we drove the property and asked the claimants about the historical crop patterns within the POUs. It was explained that the provided documentation referenced several crop types but did not specify their exact locations within the POU, and that some listed crops were associated with dryland farming. We emphasized the need to understand how the area was historically laid out and utilized.

The Rigby's stated that the area immediately surrounding the homestead historically served as the alfalfa fields, with remaining areas believed to have supported other crop types. Sparse alfalfa plants were still visible near the homestead during the examination. When asked about present-day crop use, Jaren indicated he currently plants oats and hay, and noted that the portion of land located on the Tetlar Foundation parcel is not farmed by him.

The Rigby party departed at approximately 12:45 p.m., after which Jose and I continued driving the claim to look for any historical conveyance systems. As they were leaving, Jaren mentioned that at the Kunz Homestead, water was historically sourced from a different spring located two or three hollows over for stockwater and domestic use. This was claimed separately under claim 11-2079. Stock troughs and the original homestead site remain present at the Kunz location, though the homestead itself has been abandoned since the

1930s and is in a state of ruin. The water at this homestead is still utilized presently during agriculture activities and stockwater purposes and the source is a shared spring that is split with a tee. Every so often Jaren goes to the split location because he has to redirect water or unplug to line for water to get back to the homestead.

During the drive out, LiDAR imagery suggested a potential historical ditch within the SWNW Lot 2 QQ. Upon physical inspection, the feature appeared to be only a natural swale rather than a constructed ditch.

Explanation of Elements not Examined:

☒ **POD:** Claim 11-2079 POD was not physically evaluated and with verbal communication with claimant representative the POD location was described as a shared spring two to three hallows north of the homestead.

☐ **POU:**

☒ **Quantity:** Unable to obtain flow measurements due to insouciant water flow and unable to identify surface conveyance system.

☐ **Other:**

Amendments Needed:

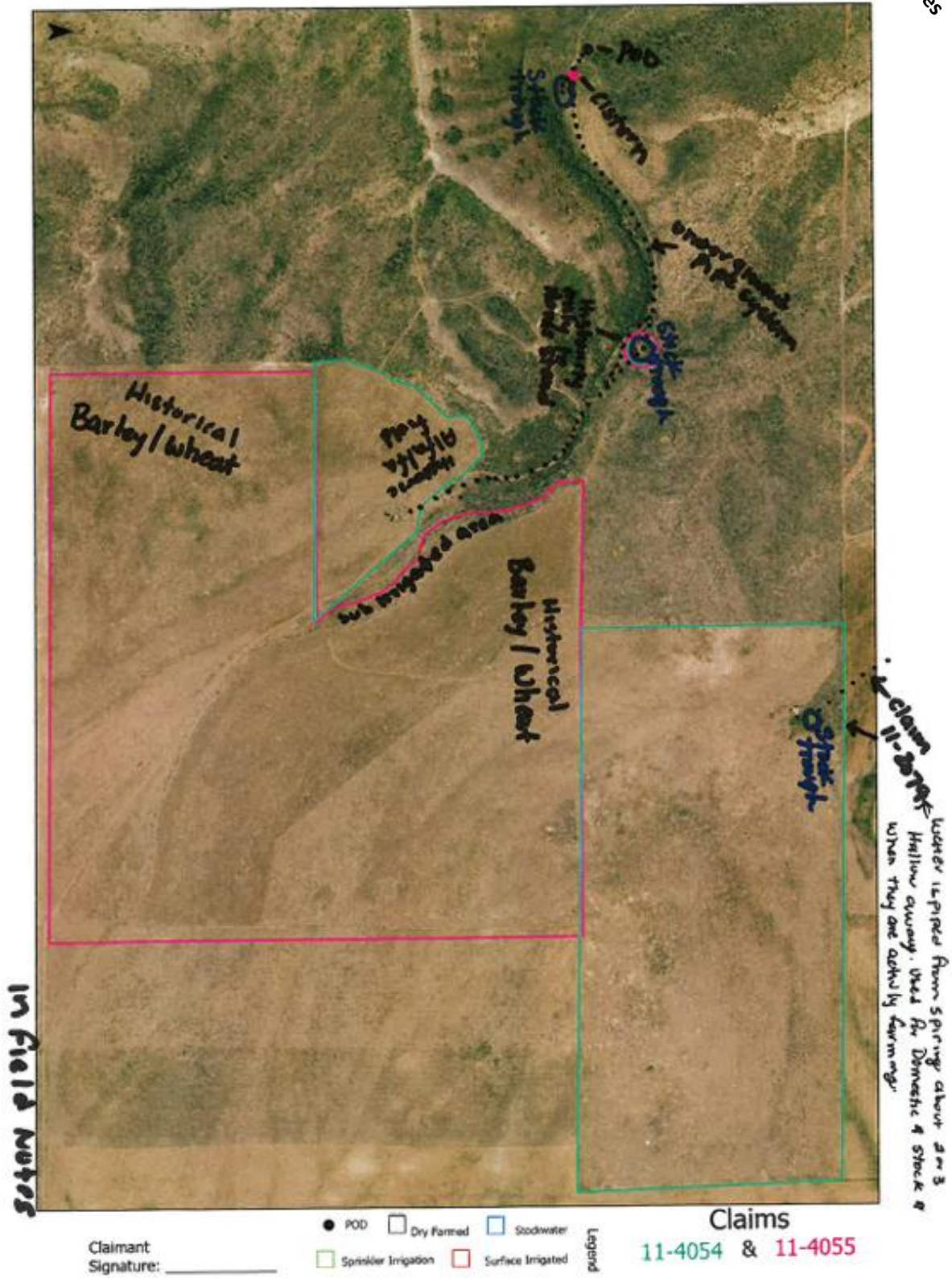
☒ **No**

☐ **Yes:**

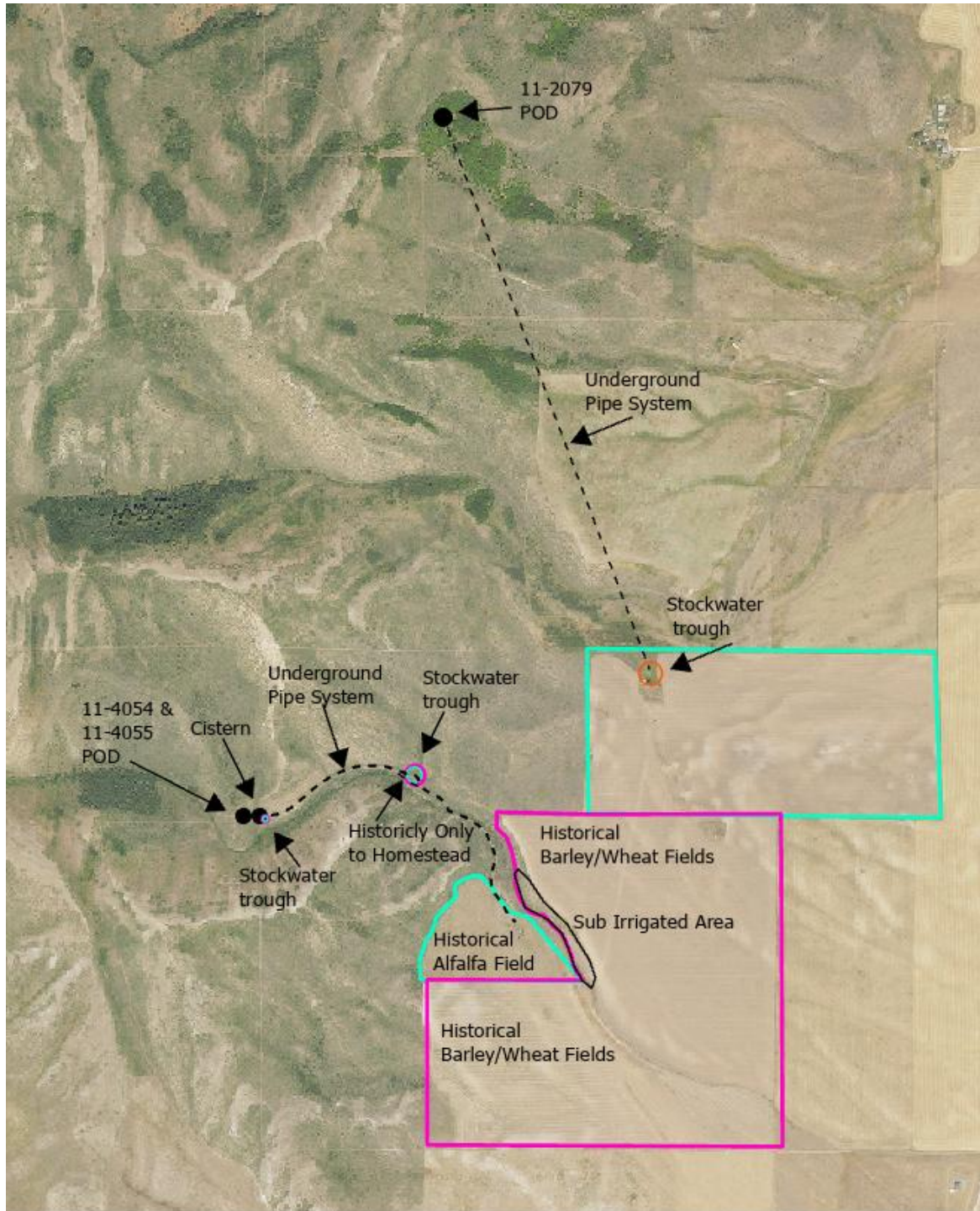
Flow/Volume Calculations: N/A

System Map:

In Field Notes



System Schematic Map:



11-4054 POU



11-4055 POU



11-2079 POU

Photos:

Figure Index

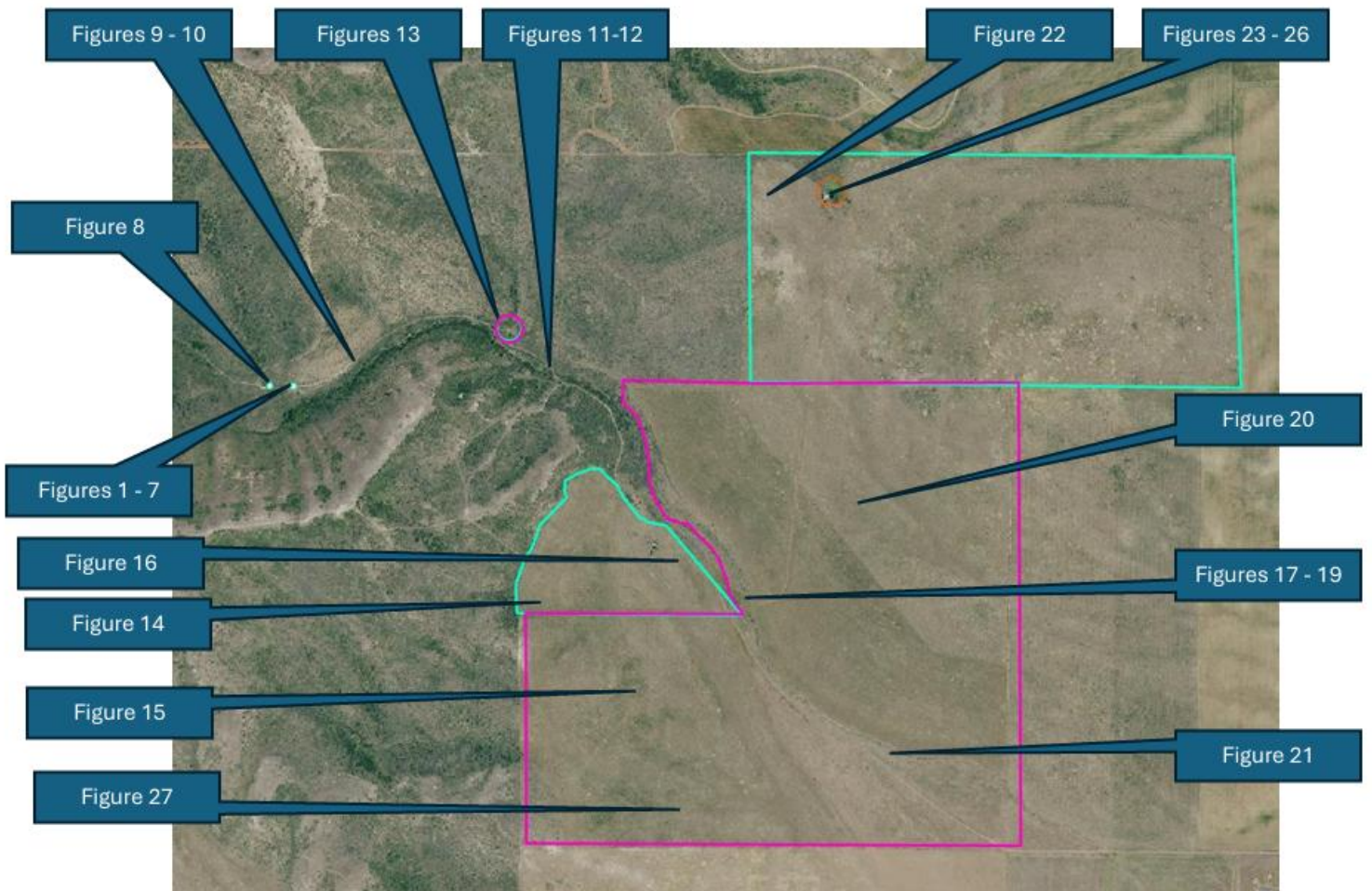




Figure 1: Cistern located up about ½ mile into Red Pine Hollow.



Figure 2: Cistern with wooden lid and inlet PVC pipe visibly protruding from the ground with a connecting hose into the cistern.



Figure 3 & 4: PVC pipe from inside of the cistern was removed to evaluate the water level inside the cistern. Current water level at the time of field exam in 3" deep.



Figure 5: Interior of cistern.



Figure 6: Black hose connected to the cistern and reaches stock troughs below the cistern.



Figure 7: Overflow path from troughs leading back to Red Pine Hollow Creek.



Figure 8: Actual POD used to collect water. Unable to see inlet and outlets due to current water inside collection container.



Figure 9 & 10: Roadway leading from the POD to the claimed POU shows a distinct depression on the right side that is filled with rocks. Possible runoff system. Under this area is where the diversion works is buried leading towards claimed POU.



Figure 11 & 12: Shows the slop of the path leading towards the POU from the cistern.



Figure 13: Cement stockwater trough.

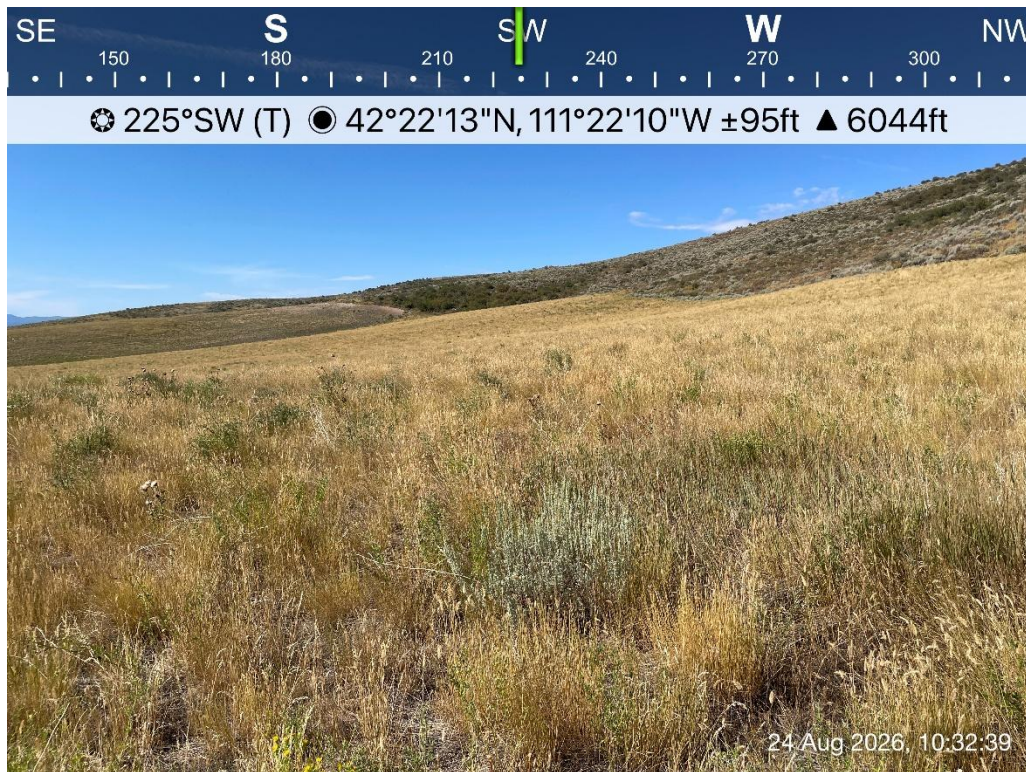


Figure 14: 11-4054 POU from the Rigby homestead looking Southwest.



Figure 15: 11-4054 POU from the Rigby homestead looking South.



Figure 16: 11-4054 POU featuring the Rigby homestead.



Figure 17: 11-4055 view of the POU Southwest facing.



Figure 18: 11-4055 view of the POU Northeast facing.



Figure 19: 11-4055 view of the POU South facing.



Figure 20: 11-4055 view of the POU East facing looking over the NWNW lot1 QQ.



Figure 21: 11-4055 view of the POU Southeast facing looking over the SWNW lot2 QQ.



Figure 22: 11-2079 & 11-4054 view of the overlapping POU in the SWSW lot 4 QQ.



Figure 23: 11-2079 Domestic structure.



Figure 24: 11-2079 Diversion inlet for stockwater located next to willow tree.



Figure 25: 11-2079 Diversion system with stock trough and hose leading towards stock area.



Figure 26: 11-2079 Stock troughs in stock area behind domestic structure.



Figure 27: 11-4055 view of the POU West facing looking over the SENE QQ.