



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

BRBA FIELD EXAMINATION REPORT

Claim Number: 11-4213

Exam Date: 10/1/2026

Exam Time: Start: 9:06 AM
End: 9:56 AM

IDWR Staff Present: Jacob Morris & Jose Pacheco

Claimant/Representative Present:

☐ No ☒ Yes Michael Sparks

Exam Location:

43 Johnson RD Ovid, ID 53254

Diversion and Delivery System:

Claimed POD:

Inent. No.	Gov't Lot	¼	¼	¼	Sec	Twp	Rge	County	Method of Determination/Remarks
		SW	SE		14	13S	43E	BEAR LAKE	Claimant walked agents to the POD and verified on a map.

Claimed 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	
13S	43E	14									.7			.5		2.5	.8		4.5

Examiner's Signature:

Purpose of Exam:

- Obtain Theoretical Measurement of pump or pump manufacture specification information
- Create system diagram
- Confirm POU & POD

Summary of Exam:

The claimant, Michael Sparks, guided agents through the four residences associated with water right claim 11-4213 and confirmed that all irrigation water comes from a single pump at the point of diversion on Ovid Creek. The pump is powered by a long-standing 5 HP Baldor Reliance electric motor, which feeds a buried 2½-inch PVC line supplying risers at each residence.

Each residence has a different number and configuration of risers used for irrigation. Some risers have been removed due to repeated damage, resulting in portions of pasture no longer being irrigated, and other portions have never been or have stopped being irrigated. Portions of the system have been altered or exposed, and at one residence there are indications of potential upgrades from hose-based irrigation to in-ground sprinklers.

A reduction in irrigated acreage within the place of use was also identified by the claimant. This includes approximately 0.73 acres south of the western residence, located between the privacy screen and the road, which is no longer receiving irrigation. Additionally, about 0.33 acres of pasture adjacent to the point of diversion were noted as not being irrigated.

Exam Narrative:

On October 1, 2026, Jose and I met with the claimant, Michael, at one of the four residences listed in water right claim 11-4213. While walking to the point of diversion (POD), Michael answered several questions from both agents, including whether any additional water sources were used for irrigation, such as the private wells serving each home. Michael confirmed that all irrigation water is pumped solely from the POD and that each residence's well water is used exclusively for culinary purposes.

Michael also clarified construction dates for one of the residences. The county records list the home as built in 1990; however, Michael explained that the 1990 date corresponds to an apartment addition constructed by the homeowner. The original residence was built in the 1960s.

At the POD, the mounted motor that operates the pump was present. It is hardwired into the electrical grid and fastened to a wooden platform on the bank of Ovid Creek. The inlet (wet-end) attachment was not connected, and Michael stated that it was stored in his garage this year due to low creek water levels and an upstream beaver dam near the sawmill. He also noted that this is the same motor that has been in use since he began living in the area. The motor is a Baldor Reliance Industrial Motor, model JPL1409T, with specifications indicating a 5 HP motor operating at 3500

RPM, fully electric, 230V/21.5 amps. From the motor, a 2 ½-inch PVC line enters the ground, running behind the homes and supplying the risers at each property.

Kovack Residence

The Kovack residence, located closest to the POD, has one riser directly behind the home. The riser is positioned low to the ground, constructed entirely of PVC, and includes two connection points for garden hoses. Michael explained that this property previously had two additional risers used to irrigate the pasture east of the residence. However, repeated damage from vehicles led to their removal, and the eastern portion of the pasture no longer receives irrigation. Michael was advised that the extended period of non-irrigation may result in a reduction of the approved irrigated area.

Mattson Residence

The Mattson residence has three risers, all positioned low to the ground with two garden hose connection points and equipped with original metal faucets. One riser is located at the front corner of the workshop, one behind the workshop, and another behind the west side of the residence. The riser behind the workshop is the branching point where the system “T’s” off toward the north. At this residence, portions of the system were unearthed, exposing additional pipe paths. Michael stated he was unsure whether the homeowner was transitioning from garden hoses to an in-ground sprinkler system but stated he has considered doing the same due to the inconvenience of using hoses.

Berg Residence

The Berg residence contains five risers. Four are connected directly to impact sprinklers, three located approximately three feet above ground level and one located about six inches above ground. The fifth riser allows two garden hoses to connect. Most of the system is underground, with the exception of the southeast riser, where a PVC pipe emerges from the buried line and runs along the surface to the riser. Michael explained that the system stops just north of the residence and continues west before reaching the area behind the hay shed. When asked how the area north of that point is irrigated, Michael was not completely certain, though one riser sits at the base of the area, and a portable impact sprinkler was found under the storage area adjacent to the field.

Sparks Residence

The Sparks residence has seven risers. The main line runs beneath the road and connects to the first riser along the fence. From there, the system branches: one line heads north to another fence-line riser, while the other line continues straight into the main backyard, terminating roughly three-quarters of the way in. At this point, the line “T’s,” with one segment leading south to the fence and the other extending north behind the home. This riser contains the system blow-out point and control valves. From there, the line continues west into the pasture, where two additional risers are located.

Finally, Ovid Four Pump was confirmed not to be a registered entity. The claimant was informed that issuing a water right to an unregistered organization may create future complications. The group was advised that, if desired, they may amend the claim to replace “Ovid Four Pump” with the names of the individual homeowners.

Explanation of Elements not Examined:

☐ **POD:**

☐ **POU:**

☒ **Quantity:** Low water levels and missing inlet line prevented the system from operating at the time of the visit. Additionally, the pump itself did not have any manufacture tags to obtain pump statistics to calculate theoretical.

☐ **Other:**

Amendments Needed:

☐ **No** ☒ **Yes:** An amendment is needed due to claimant confirming that the Ovid Four Pump is not a legal entity.

Flow/Volume Calculations: No calculations completed at this time due to inability to obtain pumps manufacture specs or active output observation.

System Map:

Infield Hand Marked Schematic



Photos:



Figure 1: Irrigation pump assembly mounted to a wooden platform.



Figure 2: Irrigation pump assembly platform affixed atop creek bench.



Figure 3: Irrigation pump assembly motor specification information.

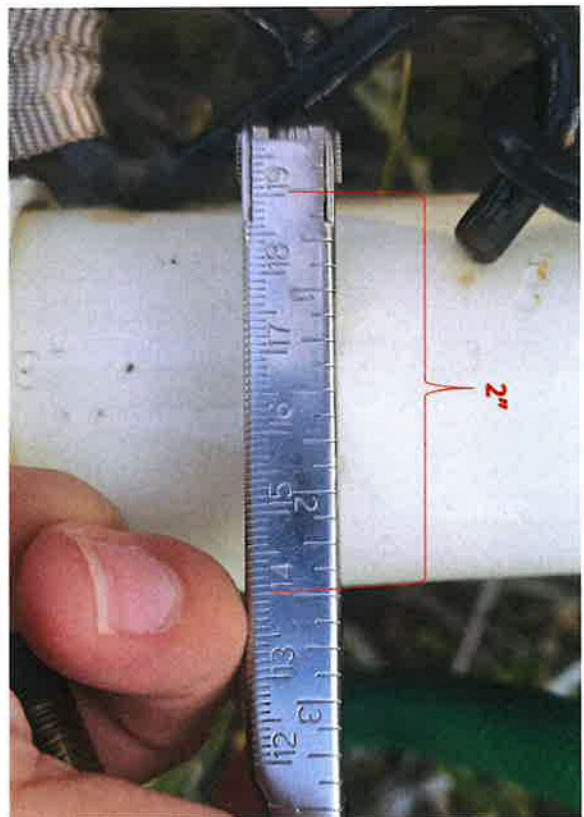


Figure 4 & 4.5: Outlet pipe from pump assembly system with pipe measurement.



Figure 5: Unirrigated pasture adjacent to point of diversion.



Figure 6: Riser located behind Kovack residence.



Figure 7: Riser located behind workshop at the Mattson residence showing the initial "T" branch towards the rest of the system..

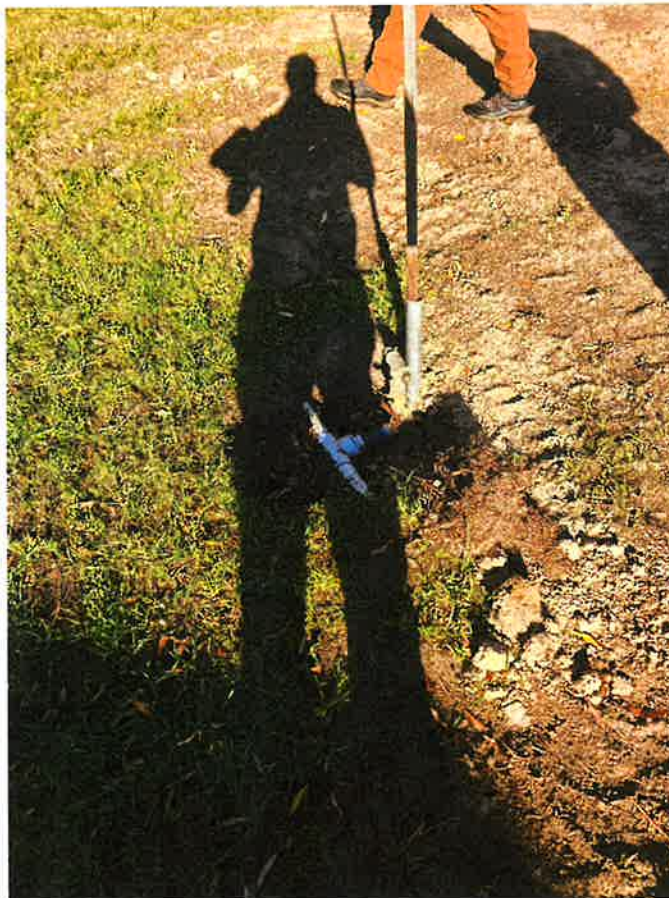


Figure 8: Riser located behind Mattson residence on the western corner.



Figure 9: Riser located in front of the Sparks residence. Initial riser that the system connects into from under the street.



Figure 10: Riser located in front of the Sparks residence along the fence.



Figure 11: Riser located in in the center of the back yard at the Sparks residence where the system branches.



Figure 12: Riser located behind the Sparks residence with the control valve box and blow out box.



Figure 13: Pasture located behind the Sparks residence that has two risers with locations outlined in red.



Figure 14: Southern pasture area at the Sparks residence between the privacy screen and the road that is not irrigated.



Figure 15: Conveyance line that breaches the surface on the Bergs Residence.



Figure 16: The above ground conveyance line attaches to a riser with an affixed impact sprinkler on the south side of the residence.



Figure 17: South riser with affixed impact sprinkler behind the home at the Bergs residence.



Figure 18: North riser with affixed impact sprinkler behind the home at the Bergs residence.



Figure 19: Riser on the north end of the main yard at the Bergs residence and at the foot of the pasture.



Figure 20: Riser located next to the hay shed in-between the residence and the shed at the Bergs residence.



Figure 21: Portable impact sprinkler with additional hoses observed under the storage area of the hay shed.



Figure 22: Pasture behind the hay shed and old cinderblock building at the Bergs residence. Tall growth on the right side is a drainage area for the pasture.