

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Stockwater Pipeline and Tanks.	Proposed Implementation Date: June 1, 2006.
Proponent: Bessette Ranch Co.	
Type and Purpose of Action: Placement of a new stockwater pipeline with tanks that branches off of an old line. State Lease #4331 = A new stockwater pipeline just into state from an existing pipeline system, ending with a tank in NE Corner of tract. State Lease #8191 = A new stockwater tank in the SW Corner. A new stockwater pipeline going across state, finishing with a new tank in the NE Corner.	
Location: Sec. 16, T28N, R9E & Sec. 36, T28N, R8E.	County: Chouteau

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	USDA-NRCS, Stuart Lomax, Bessette Ranch Co., Mt. DNRC. RECEIVED JUN 30 2006
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None. LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to enter into an EQIP project and build the proposed stockwater pipelines.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geological features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[N] Thin, silty soils are present.
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IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<p>5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality?</p>	<p>[N] Therefore, the need for the stockwater pipeline.</p>
<p>6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?</p>	<p>[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced by this project.</p>
<p>7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?</p>	<p>[N] There are no rare plants or cover types present.</p>
<p>8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?</p>	<p>[N] There is some use, but it is not considered to be substantial.</p>
<p>9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern?</p>	<p>[N] There are no species of special concern, or wetlands present.</p>
<p>10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?</p>	<p>[N] There where no archaeological, paleontological or historical resources noted from DNRC Field Appraisals. The NRCS Cultural Resources Report states: SHPO does not indicate anything. However there are Tee Pee rings in the area. Pipeline will be staked prior to installation.</p>
<p>11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographical feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?</p>	<p>[N] There will not be excessive noise or light associated with this project.</p>

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

12.	DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	[N] Limited resources will not be used in the construction of this project. There is no other nearby activities that will affect this project.
13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N] None.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risk in the area?	[N] This project will not have an effect upon human health or safety.
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] Livestock production and health will be enhanced.
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	[N] New jobs will not be created.
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N] Taxes will not be affected.
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	[N] Other services will not be required.
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc., zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] This is part of an Environmental Quality Incentives Program and will be monitored by the USDA-NRCS.
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational	[Y] There is upland game and big game hunting opportunities within these tracts. The proposed pipeline & tanks will be beneficial to wildlife.

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

	areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?
21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N] Additional housing will not be required.
22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N] Disruption is not likely.
23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N] There should be no shift.
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N] None.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

BARNY D. SMITH, Lewistown Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office


 Signature

Date: May 5, 2006

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	The alternative to enter into an EQIP Project and build the proposed stockwater pipelines.
26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Minimal negative impacts will result from this project.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:	
<input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

EA Checklist Approved by:

CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office

