CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Stock Water Well
Proposed Implementation Date:	Fall 2010
Proponent:	Emmett Mollman
Location:	T6N R50E Sect. 24 N1/2
County:	Custer

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

To drill a stockwater well and place a tank with it to better utilize grazing resource on state land.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Lessee is working with NRCS to develop better stockwater on his ranch under the EQIP program. This project will involve water development on state land.

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

NRCS

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A: Allow Construction of the water development
Alternative B: Deny Request for water development

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

Alternative A: Very little disturbance will happen to the soils in this area during the construction of the project. Soils in the area are quite durable and will recover quickly from the disturbance.

Alternative B: No Impact

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Alternative A: This water development will tap into a water aquifer (320 ft) which will use a solar pump system to provide water to livestock on the section. No contamination or degradation of the water quality is expected during construction.

Alternative B: No Impact

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Alternative A: Pollutant and Particulate levels would be increased during the construction of the project; these levels would be minimal and would return to normal levels after the completion of the project.

Alternative B: No Impact

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Alternative A: Some vegetation would be effected through this project. Dominant species in the area are Western Wheatgrass (Agropyron Smithii), Green Needle Grass (Stipa Viridula), Needle and Thread Grass (Stipa Comata), Blue Grama (Bouetoula Gracillis), as well as Sage Brush and other common forbs. Vegetation will recover quickly from the disturbance and return to normal.

Alternative B: No Impact

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

Alternative A: Construction of this project may disrupt wildlife activity in the area for a few days. Upon completion of the project the wildlife habitat will return to normal with the added benefit of a new water source available to all wildlife.

Alternative B: No Impact

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Alternative A: There are no threatened or endangered species noted in the area. The project will make potential for habitat in the area with the reliable water source.

Alternative B: No Impact

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Alternative A: Upon inspection of the DNRC Eastern Land Office staff there were no findings of any significant cultural, historical or antiquities sites in the proposed area.

Alternative B: No Impact

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

Alternative A: During construction of the project noise levels will be increased slightly but this will only last for a few days. After which the ground will have a temporary scar which should become overgrown with vegetation within the next 2 years.

Alternative B: No Impact

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

Alternative A: The well would put demands onto the aquifer being tapped; this demand will be minimal considering the depth and volume of the aquifer. Effects will be minimal and acceptable.

Alternative B: No Impact

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

Alternative A: There will be some risk involving worker safety during the construction of the project. But the company hired to perform the work are trained professionals. This will lessen the human safety risk.

Alternative B: No Impact

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

Alternative A: The development of the water source will add to Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural activities and production. All will be impacted in a positive way.

Alternative B: No Impact

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

Alternative A: Although unlikely this project has the potential to create both temporary and permanent positions.

Alternative B: No Impact

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Alternative A: No Impact

Alternative B: No Impact

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

Alternative A: The project will create a return to the trust through a land use license fee of $100 per year for use of water taken off of state land.

Alternative B: No Impact

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Scott Aye	**Date:**	9/23/2010
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V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative A

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Minimal and easily mitigated

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

	EIS		More Detailed EA	x	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Marc Aberg		
	Title:	Lands Program Manager		
Signature:	/s/Marc Aberg		**Date**: 9/23/2010	