DS-252

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1992
ENVIRONMENTAL

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name Irrigation Pump site **Proposed Implementation Date:** Dec. 7-12-92
Proponent Boone A. Whitmer, HC 31, Box 3124, Wolf Point, MT 59201-8903
Type and Purpose of Action A sand bar in the Missouri River will be excavated for an irrigation pumping location. The excavation will occur during low water release period which is during the fall and winter months. A long reach excavator with a 50 yard capability will dig in the sand bar and make a water holding pit. During the high flow periods in the summer the sand bar pit will be covered with water and will contain enough water for irrigation.
Location SE¼SW¼NW¼ Sec. 20 T27N R50E **County** McCone

N = Not present or No Impact will occur
Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts)

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	**[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	[Y] This area contains fine sand and silt soils that will be disturbed. No reclamation of sand bar will be required.
2. 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 contaminent levels, or degradation of water quality?	[Y] The silt & sand soils excavated from the sand bar will be placed on or near the Missouri River shore line. The excavation will not affect the water quality etc. of the Missouri River.
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N]
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] Area is a sand bar and contains no vegetation.
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there significant use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[Y] This area is covered with water during the summer months. The water would contain various fish species and used by water fowl. This project will not affect the fish or water fowl.
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	[N]
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[N] I would contend that sand bars for the most part contain no archaeological sites etc.
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	[N] The excavated pit will be covered with water in the summer and will not be visible.
9. 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?	[Y] The excated pit will assist the above applicant with a reliable pumping site for irrigation. This operation will not affect down stream water uses etc.

DS-252

10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract?	[N]

IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	[N]
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This project will improve water pumping capabilites for the applicant. The water use is for irrigated agriculture land production.
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number	[Y] This project will provide a contractor and associated work force with income. This project will require 1 to 3 workers.
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	[N]
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will significant traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed?	[N]
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[Y] The Army Corp. of Engineers, DNRC etc. agencys monitor water use, flow etc. on the Missouri River
17. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	[Y] This project will not affect river floaters use of Missouri River nor will it affect local fishing use.
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	[N]
19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional life-styles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N]

22. Alternatives Considered The proponent had looked at an alternative site below the present pumping site. This would have required additional power line construction and additional monies spent on irrigation equipment etc. He said it would be to cost prohibitive. He also asked a neighbor for access to his land in order to secure a more suitable pumping site. His neighbor said he would not allow and easement or access.

DS-252

23. Public Involvement, Agencies, Groups or Individuals contacted Mr. Whitmer has applied for the necessary permits for this project with DNRC, FW&Parks, DSL and Army Corps of Engineers etc.

24. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction, List of Permits Needed.

DNRC = Floodplain Development Permit, FW&Parks = 124 Permit, Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences = 3A Authorization, MT Association of Conservation Districts = 310 Permit, DSL = Land Use License, DNRC = Water Right Permit, US Army Corps of Engineers = 404 Permit.

25. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts. The digging of a pit area in the sand bar will have minimal impacts to the Missouri River and adjoining areas. The silt and fine sands will be removed from the pit and channel digging area and will be piled on the upper portions of the adjoining land. In the spring when large water releases from the Fort Peck Dam occur. The high water level will fill and cover the pit and channel through out the summer months. Some silt and fine sands from the digging operation will wash downstream. This will be of minimal significance or magnitude as the Missouri River moves a lot of silt and fine sands during peak discharge periods at Fort Peck Dam.

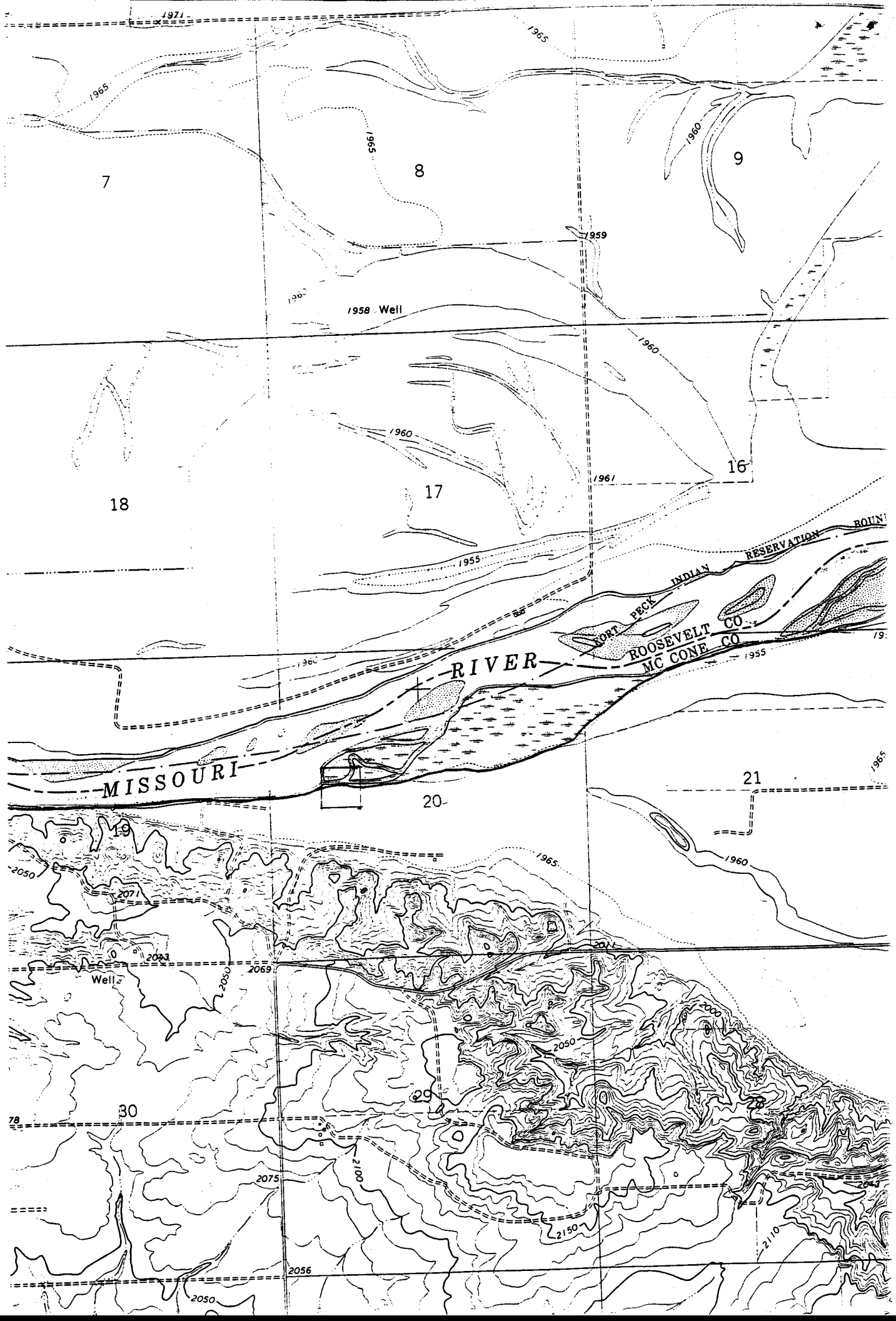
Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:

[ ] EIS [ ] More Detailed EA [X] No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By: Randy Dickson 11-13-1992 Title Land Use Specialist

Approved By: ROBERT D. HARRINGTON (name) GLASGOW UNIT MGR. (title)

signature


1971
1965
1965
1965
1960
7
8
9
1959
1958 Well
1960
1960
1961
16
18
17
1955
RESERVATION
INDIAN
FORT PECK
ROOSEVELT CO
MC CONE CO
1955
RIVER
MISSOURI
21
20
19
1965
1960
2050
2071
2023
Well
2069
2050
2000
2050
29
28
30
78
2100
2075
2150
2110
2056
2050