

DS-252

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: Spring development.	Proposed Implementation Date: July 10, 2004.
Proponent: IX Ranch, Steve Roth, Lessee of State Lease #261.	
Type and Purpose of Action: To breach an old dam & develop the spring with a short pipeline and tank system.	
Location: NE1/4, Sec. 27, T26N, R16E.	County: Chouteau.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	POLICY OFFICE USDA-NRCS, Stuart Lomax, Consvt., Mt. DNRC, Tom Hughes, Water Rights Spec., The IX Ranch, Steve Roth.
2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None.
3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	The "No Action" alternative. The alternative to develop the spring system.

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] Silty soils are present. There are no unusual geologic sites present & there are no special reclamation considerations.
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?	[Y] There is a natural spring that feeds the existing small reservoir. There is no potential for water degradation from this proposed project.

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

6.	AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	[N] Pollutants and particulates will not be produced.
7.	VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	[N] There are no rare plants or cover types present.
8.	TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	[N] There is use by local wildlife, but it is not substantial. Their use should increase with the added reliable water source.
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?	[N] There are no species of special concern that use this area that I am aware of.
10.	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archeological, or paleontological resources present?	[N] There are no historical, paleontological or archaeological resources present.
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?	[N] The project will not be in a populated area.
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?	[Y] Water is a limited resource. This project will make efficient use of this resource.
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	[N] This proposed project will not affect human
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

project add to health and safety risk in the area?	health or safety.
15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[Y] This project should improve livestock production and health.
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] There will be no affect on taxes.
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?	[N] None.
20. 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] There is some recreational value for big game and upland game hunting within this tract and in the area.
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	[Y] There is another reservoir in the NE1/4, across the

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

ECONOMICAL CIRCUMSTANCES:

fence that has 13.6 ac.ft. of water right. There used to be an old water right on the existing dam where this spring development will take place. It was terminated sometime in the past.

EA Checklist Prepared By:

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


Signature
Date: June 25, 2004

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

The alternative to develop the spring system.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Minimal negative impacts are expected. There should be positive impacts from this proposed project.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved by:

CLIVE ROONEY, Area Manager, Northeastern Land Office


Signature
Date: 6-28-04