

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Water Development—Pipeline and Tank
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	October 2016
<b>Proponent:</b>	Sheep Valley Reinhart Trust—Randy Reinhart
<b>Location:</b>	Sec. 16, T8N, R13E
<b>County:</b>	Wheatland

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Proposed stockwater pipeline and tank from south section line up to center of section for tank placement. There is no water on this lease.

### II. 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 EQIP- developed by John Oiestad  
Mt. DNRC-Lewistown Unit Office  
Randy Reinhart-Lessee of State Lease #8343

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

None

**3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The "No Action" Alternative.

The Alternative to develop the stockwater system.

### 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.*

Shallow/Silty soils are present. There are no compactable or unstable soils within the project area. There are no unusual geologic features or any special considerations needed for reclamation purposes.

**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.*

The only nearby water is present in the Two Dot Canal from Mid May through September. There is no reliable water anywhere else on this section. There are two small pot holes in the Northwest corner, but 8 out of 10 years are dry.

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**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.*

Pollutants or particulates will not be produced.

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**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.*

There are no rare plants or cover types present. The main grasses are: Needleandthread, June grass, Sandberg bluegrass, blue gramma, western wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass and threadleaf sedge with only a few forbs.

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**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.*

This section is only frequented by an occasional antelope, coyote and meadow larks. There will only be positive effects from the water source that will be developed.

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**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.*

There are no known endangered or threatened species that utilize this tract that I am aware of. The minimal area of disturbance, type of mechanical equipment and time required should not affect area wildlife enough to displace them.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

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

There are no cultural, historical or paleontological resources present. A cultural survey of the project area was conducted on 7/14/16.

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**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.*

The project will not be located on any prominent area nor located near any populated areas.

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**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.*

There will be only positive effects from this project. The well is located on deeded land to the south within the Musselshell River Valley. There are no other activities in the vicinity that will be affected by this project.

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**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.*

None.

## 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.*

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### 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

There will be no human health or safety risks from this proposed stockwater pipeline project.

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### 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

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

Agricultural production will improve due to this water development. This is part of a grazing management plan that has been in the works for several years. There is no reliable water anywhere within this state lease at present. This stockwater development will provide clean available water to the newly fenced pastures set up by the DNRC approved grazing management plan.

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### 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.*

No new jobs will be created.

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### 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.*

Taxes will not be affected.

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### 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*

There will be no change in local traffic patterns. Other government services will not be required.

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### 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.*

Locally adopted plans and goals will have no effect upon this project.

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### 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.*

There are no recreational areas nearby. There is very minimal hunting or hiking possibilities within the state section.

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### 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.*

Additional housing will not be a requirement of this proposed project. This project will not affect population.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

There will be no disruption of traditional lifestyles or communities.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

This stockwater development project will have no effect on any unique area quality.

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**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.*

Because of the approved grazing management plan, the economic return to the lessee should be positive. The grazing resource improvement due to proper livestock distribution will be noted over time.

Note: The lessee opted to not go with the EQIP Program by the USDA-NRCS. He elected to self-fund it.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Barny D. Smith
	<b>Signature</b> _____ <b>Date</b> 8/1/16

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**V. FINDING**

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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:**

The Alternative to develop the stockwater system.

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**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:**

Potentially positive impacts to livestock and wildlife do to clean accessible water. There should be no negative impacts with this project.

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**27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

EIS       More Detailed EA       No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Clive Rooney
	<b>Title:</b> Area Manager, NELO
<b>Signature</b> s/s Clive Rooney	<b>Date</b> 8/2/16