CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Trenton Streeter Sand Point Well and Stock Water Tank
Proposed Implementation Date:	September 2020
Proponent:	Trenton Streeter
Location:	6N 20E 36 SW4
County:	Golden Valley
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Trenton Streeter has proposed to install a shallow, hand driven, sand point well and a stock water tank. The shallow well would be run by a 1 HP submersible pump and would only be used in the event the adjacent Big Coulee creek was not running.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO) & Lewistown Unit Office
Proponent: Trenton Streeter
Surface Lessees: Trenton Streeter
Other:

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

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all necessary permits for the proposed project and settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to install a sand point well and stock water tank.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant to install a sand point well and stock water tank.

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.

Table – Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail) – Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value		
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Slight	25.2	90.9%
Moderate	2.5	9.1%
Totals for Area of Interest	**27.7**	**100.0%**

Table – Soil Compaction Resistance – Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value		
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Low resistance	24.5	88.3%
Moderate resistance	3.2	11.7%
Totals for Area of Interest	**27.7**	**100.0%**

The soils in the affected area are rated as slight for off road erosion. Because the installation would take place by hand and no heavy equipment will be present no erosion is likely to occur especially since there is a thick sod of grass present.

Though the soils are rated as low resistance to compaction there will be very little activity to cause major compaction other than cattle watering at the tank. Because of this any compaction would be localized and minor.

No significant cumulative impacts to geology or soil quality, stability, and moisture are anticipated.

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.

This project would increase the local availability of water for livestock. There will be a very localized cone of depression when the well is in use which will be infrequent. Because the well will be so shallow and infrequently used there is not likely to be groundwater effects to the surrounding area. Also since the well will only be used when the stream is already too low to use there should not be any effect on in stream flow.

No significant impacts to local or regional water resources are anticipated.

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.

The installation and use of this project would not likely produce any air pollutants or fugitive dust.

No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.

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.

Since the well will be driven in by hand and there will be no heavy equipment necessary there should be no disturbance of the vegetation during installation. The only vegetation likely to be affected would be the that covered by the new stock water tank.

If re-seeding is necessary the proponent will acquire certified, weed free seed and refer to the Plant Materials Tech Note No. MT-46 (Rev. 4) dated September 2013 for seeding rates.

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant impacts to vegetation are anticipated.

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 project should not negatively impact the habitat of the site and may improve it by providing a good source of water to wildlife during dryer times of year.

No significant impacts to terrestrial, avian, or aquatic habitats are anticipated.

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.

Birds - Golden Eagle *(Aquila chrysaetos)* — SO Count: 40 | Obs Count: 60 | Earliest Obs: 2000 | Recent Obs: 2019

View in Field Guide	Agency Status	Delineation Criteria	Last Updated
Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3	USFWS: BGEPA; MBTA; BCC17 USFS: BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF:	Confirmed nesting area buffered by a minimum distance of 3,000 meters in order to be conservative about encompassing the entire breeding territory and area commonly used for nesting and otherwise buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.	Jan 03, 2020

Birds - Greater Sage-Grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)* — SO Count: 7 | Obs Count: 19 | Earliest Obs: 1972 | Recent Obs: 2010

View in Field Guide	Agency Status	Delineation Criteria	Last Updated
Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G3G4 State Rank: S2	USFWS: USFS: Sensitive - Known on Forests (GD) Sensitive - Suspected on Forests (CG, HLC) BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN2 PIF: 1	Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, juveniles, or adults on a lek. Point observations are mapped in the center of a one-square mile hexagon to protect the exact locations of leks. The outer edges of this hexagon are then buffered by a distance of 8,400 meters in order to encompass a body of research indicating that females typically nest within this distance of a lek and that lek numbers are negatively impacted by fossil fuel drilling activities within this distance of a lek. If the locational uncertainty associated with the observation is greater than this distance, it is buffered by the locational up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters. All of the one-square mile hexagons intersecting this buffered area are presented at the Species Occurrence record.	Sep 26, 2019

Birds - Long-billed Curlew *(Numenius americanus)* — SO Count: 1 | Obs Count: 1 | Earliest Obs: 2019 | Recent Obs: 2019

View in Field Guide	Agency Status	Delineation Criteria	Last Updated
Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3B	USFWS: MBTA; BCC10; BCC11; BCC17 USFS: BLM: SENSITIVE FWP SWAP: SGCN3 PIF: 2	Confirmed breeding area based on the presence of a nest, chicks, or territorial adults during the breeding season. Point observation location is buffered by a minimum distance of 200 meters in order to approximate the breeding territory size reported for the species in Idaho and otherwise is buffered by the locational uncertainty associated with the observation up to a maximum distance of 10,000 meters.	Sep 24, 2019

SO ID: 50578066 — Acres: 31 | Obs Count: 1 | Earliest Obs: 2019 | Recent Obs: 2019

Fish - Northern Redbelly Dace *(Chrosomus eos)* — SO Count: 1 | Obs Count: 0 | Earliest Obs: | Recent Obs:

View in Field Guide	Agency Status	Delineation Criteria	Last Updated
Species of Concern Native Species Global Rank: G5 State Rank: S3	USFWS: USFS: BLM: FWP SWAP: SGCN3	Stream reaches and standing water bodies where the species presence has been confirmed through direct capture or where they are believed to be present based on the professional judgement of a fisheries biologist due to confirmed presence in adjacent areas. In order to reflect the importance of adjacent terrestrial habitats to survival, stream reaches are buffered 100 meters, standing water bodies greater than 1 acre are buffered 60 meters, and standing water bodies less than 1 acre are buffered 30 meters into the terrestrial habitat based on INCF SHUFSH Riparian Conservation Area standards.	Mar 30, 2018

SO ID: 50101934 — Acres: 4.045 | Obs Count | Earliest Obs | Recent Obs

There are 4 species of concern present in the area around the project. 3 of them are birds, 2 of which (Golden eagle and Curlew), are not likely to be affected because the site is not good quality nesting habitat. The sage grouse are also not likely to be affected because of the lack of good cover. The site is within 3 miles of a previously recorded lek, however the lek is now unsuitable habitat because it is in the middle of a wheat field.

This activity is exempt under Montana Executive Order 12-2015 Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program and requires no consultation from the Montana Sage Grouse Oversite Team. However, the proponent will be required to install escape ramps in the stock water tank to allow birds to get out of the tank if they fall in.

No significant impacts to unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources are anticipated, though temporary displacement of local wildlife may occur during the project.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

No significant effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

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.

There will just be one stock water tank installed in the creek bottom out of site of the county road. The tank is a common site in the area that is mostly a rural agricultural area. There will be no addition noise or light changes to the area.

No significant impacts on the aesthetics of the area are anticipated.

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.

No limited environmental resources will be significantly impacted because of this project. This project will also not add any significant cumulative demands on environmental resources.

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.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

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.

There will be some risk associated with the installation of the project. It will be the responsibility of the proponent to mitigate this risk.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

This project will not add to or deter from other industrial, agricultural, or commercial activities in the area.

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.

The project will not create or eliminate any jobs, so no significant effects to the employment market are anticipated.

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.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

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 not be any significant increases in traffic, school attendance, or need for fire and police protection if this project is approved.

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.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

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 will be no significant direct or cumulative effects on access to or quality of recreation and wilderness activities because of this project.

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

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments.

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

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be significantly impacted by the proposal.

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

The proposed project will have no significant impact on any culturally unique quality of the area.

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.

The proposed project will not have any significant cumulative economic or social effect.

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to install a sand point well and stock water tank.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined no significant impact to the environment because of this project.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

	EIS		More Detailed EA	X	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Dustin Lenz
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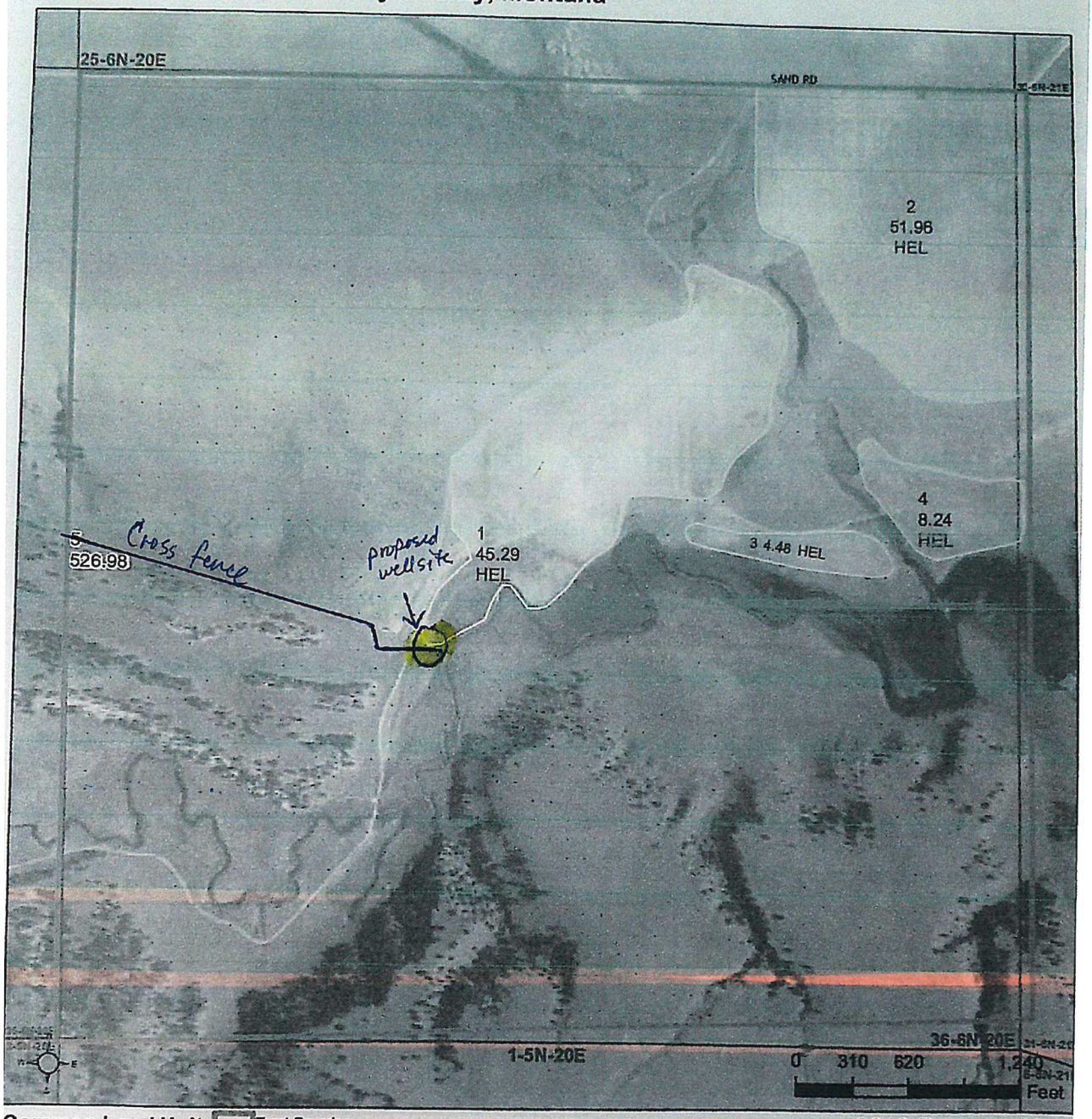
Signature:		**Date:** 22 July 2020

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Jocee Hedrick
	Title:	Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office
Signature:		**Date:** 7/22/2020

United States Department of Agriculture

Golden Valley County, Montana



Common Land Unit Tract Boundary

Cropland

Rangeland

Wetland Determination Identifiers

- Restricted Use
- Limited Restrictions
- Exempt from Conservation Compliance Provisions

2018 Program Year

Map Created April 09, 2018

2017 NAIP

Farm 622

Tract 2564

Tract Cropland Total: 109.97 acres

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