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Big Sky Radio KHDN AM 1230 Hardin, Montana

North Valley Groundwater Study Underway

(Hardin) Activity continues on the Big Horn Conservation District ground-water study being conducted in the north valley of the Bighorn River. More than a dozen residents of North Valley have had their wells inventoried, but more wells need to be studied to provide a comprehensive picture of the ground-water situation.

A well inventory typically takes 20 minutes to complete, according to Gloria Menke, Big Horn Conservation District. Information to be collected at all wells includes depth to groundwater, total well depth, pumping rate and pumping drawdown, water temperature, specific conductance, pH, and nitrate concentration. All wells will be located using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

At several selected wells information collected will also include a monthly ground-water level measurement, analyses for nutrients, common ions and trace metals, ground-water age analyses, and hydrologic tracer (isotope) analyses.

In addition, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology plans to drill three wells in the study area within 200 yards of

irrigation supply ditches to monitor the effects of irrigation on the quality of the ground water. Once the study is complete, the wells will become the property of the landowner.

Don't wait too long to sign up to participate in this ground-water study. The well inventory portion of the study is scheduled for completion early in 2007. To get your name on the inventory list please contact the Big Horn Conservation District at 406-665-3442, ext. 105, or John Olson with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology at 406-657-2929.