

**SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
FOR  
Medicine Bow NF Hidden Vly PG**

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**PROJECT: 424-001**

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**ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY: TRIHYDRO CORPORATION**

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## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FOR Medicine Bow NF Hidden Vly PG**

### **PWS Source Water Assessment Summary**

The Medicine Bow National Forest Hidden Valley PG is a non-community public water system located in Albany County about 10 miles east of Laramie. The system serves 30 people per day through one service connection from April 1st to September 30th. The system is supplied by the Hidden Valley Well #1 which draws its water from the Sherman Granite. The water source scored medium with respect to the combined integrity and aquifer sensitivity ratings. The system scored high with respect to land use susceptibility and point source susceptibility. The system also received a high score for transportation corridor susceptibility.

### **Delineation Methods**

This water system is a non-community system that draws water from a fractured igneous formation. Hydrogeologic mapping methods were implemented to estimate the 2-year and 5-year time of travel zones for the groundwater flow system.

Hydrogeologic mapping techniques use surface observations in combination with subsurface geologic and hydrogeologic data to identify aquifer boundaries and areas that contribute water to the aquifer. These techniques were used when a PWS's source was derived from a spring, fractured bedrock, or from a limestone or dolomite aquifer. Conduit flow aquifers have extremely variable flow patterns and rates, making the calculation of time of travel difficult. In some instances, only one contaminant inventory zone was identified beyond Zone 1 due to the inherent difficulty in attempting to assign a particular time of travel to a given area. Because of this issue, aquifer vulnerability mapping techniques were also used as part of the hydrogeologic mapping effort to identify and delineate vulnerable areas. These areas (faults, fractures, exposed bedrock, etc.) are anticipated to be more susceptible to the rapid infiltration of contaminants released at the ground surface.

### **Groundwater Sources**

The Medicine Bow National Forest Hidden Valley Picnic Ground draws water from the Sherman Granite. Recharge for the well originates as infiltrating precipitation and surface water from the surrounding drainage basin, and reaches the well through conduit flow. Additional information on this well is included on the attached Well Information Sheet. As shown on the enclosed source water area delineation map, contaminant inventory zones 2 and 3 are delineated by hydrogeologic mapping methods. Zone 2 boundaries include the surface divides on the north and west, a hydrologic divide on the south and an elevation that corresponds to well depth on the east. Zone 3 boundaries include a larger drainage and outcrop area. The northern and western boundaries include the I-80 access ramps and surface drainage. Downgradient (south and east), the zone terminates at an unnamed branch of Middle Crow Creek and at an elevation corresponding to well depth.

## **Integrity Summary**

The Medicine Bow National Forest Hidden Valley PG well is approximately 50 feet deep. The well was constructed prior to 1983 when less stringent construction standards were required by the State of Wyoming. Records indicate that the well was properly sealed to protect from surface infiltration of potential contaminants and flooding around the wellhead. However, the well lacks adequate protection in the vicinity immediately around the wellhead. Therefore, as shown on the Integrity Summary Table, Hidden Valley Well #1 received a score of 5.

## **Water Source Sensitivity Summary**

The Medicine Bow National Forest Hidden Valley Picnic Ground uses one well that draws water from the Sherman Granite Formation which is a fractured aquifer. As shown on the Source Sensitivity Summary Table, the well received a sensitivity score of 10. The well received the score for two reasons. First, the well is completed in an aquifer that is known to be vulnerable to contamination because of the variable flow pathways associated with conduit flow. Second, the well scored a 5 for chemical sensitivity due to documented detections in groundwater.

## **Water System Susceptibility Rating**

Susceptibility is defined as the potential for a public water supply to draw contaminated water at concentrations that would pose a threat or concern to human health. In general, Medicine Bow National Forest Hidden Valley PG scored high for land use susceptibility because much of the land surrounding the water sources is forested. Forested areas were included to evaluate the potential risks of increased runoff and water quality problems following forest fires. The presence of one underground storage tank within Zone 2 resulted in a high point source contaminant susceptibility. The well was assigned a high susceptibility for Zone 2 and a medium susceptibility for Zone 3 due to its proximity to transportation corridor contaminants (I-80). Susceptibility ratings for each type of potential contaminant source are summarized on the attached susceptibility tables.

A review of your PWS's routine water analysis results revealed that one or more chemicals that are considered contaminants in drinking water were detected at some time within the last five years. Chemical detections have a large impact on your PWS's sensitivity score because it may indicate that there is a pathway for contaminants to reach the water supply. However, it is likely that these chemicals are present only in small amounts and are not a danger to your health. Some of these chemicals may also occur naturally in water.

For more information about which chemicals were detected, please contact the PWS for a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report or water analysis results. Chemical detections at levels that are a concern to human health are reported on the EPA's website: [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis\\_query.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html). To see if your PWS has exceeded the federal primary or secondary drinking water standards, just click on the State of Wyoming and then type in the name of your PWS. Consumer Confidence Reports are prepared by the PWS on a yearly basis. The reports should include information about any chemicals found in the water, even those found at very low levels. Please contact Kim Parker at DEQ, 307-777-7781, or WARWS for assistance. You may also contact EPA to find out what contaminants were

detected. You may have to fill out a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain the water test results for your PWS. Please call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**POINT SUSCEPTIBILITY SUMMARY TABLE  
FOR Medicine Bow NF Hidden Vly PG  
Point Source Susceptibility Summary**

It may appear from the results of this point source susceptibility summary table that your system has too many PSOCs influencing the final ratings. In some cases, a specific PSOC falls within a specific contaminant inventory zone shared by multiple wells or intakes. When this is the case, that PSOC will be scored for each intake. For example, an underground storage tank may appear within a contaminant inventory zone shared by four different wells. This would cause that single storage tank to be entered into the table four times, or once for each well or intake.

Point Source Type	Low	Medium	High
Underground Tank	N/A	N/A	1

- \* Illustrates the number of PSOCs in a particular rating class for all water sources
- \* N/A - Not Applicable