**Conservation Practice Effects**

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| **Well Decommissioning (No) 351**  **Definition: The sealing and permanent closure of an inactive, abandoned, or unusable water well.**  **Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Ground water quality.**  **Benchmark Condition: Irrigation water well exceeding technical life.**  **Date: October, 2016 Developer/Location: Hal Gordon, OR** | |
| **Positive Effects** | **Negative Effects** |
| **Soil**   * **No effect.**   **Water**   * **Prevent pesticides, nutrients, pathogens and chemicals from contaminating a well.**   **Air**   * **No effect.**   **Plants**   * **No effect.**   **Animals**   * **No effect.**   **Energy**   * **No effect.**   **Human**   * **Reduced labor and management if land is taken out of production.** * **Increase the property value (real estate) if well not needed.** * **Prevent off-site negative impacts.** * **Comply with environmental regulations.** * **Promote family health and safety.** * **Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship.** * **May be eligible for cost share.** | **Land**   * **Facilitating practice may convert from irrigated land or intensive grazed land to less intensive landuse.** * **Substantial decrease in land in production.**   **Capital**   * **Equipment and materials required to decommission well.**   **Labor**   * **Reduced labor if land taken out of production.**   **Management**   * **Reduced management if land taken out of production.**   **Risk**   * **Reduced options for agricultural production.** |
| **Net Effect: Protected groundwater at a minimal cost.** | |

**Commonly Associated Practices:** Critical Area Planting.

**Note:** This worksheet contains general talking points for the conservation planner to discuss with the land user. It is the first step towards an economic or financial analysis. The second step would include identifying a specific site for analysis at the farm or field level, editing the template for local conditions, adding units and quantities of farm inputs and outputs. The third step in the economic analysis is to place a dollar value on as many variables as possible, put all units in the same time frame, using amortization ($/Acres/Year) or net present value ($/Acre), so benefits and costs can be compared. The fourth and final step would be to combine several conservation practices into a conservation system, which is how most conservation practices are applied at the field level. Data for the worksheet comes from the land user, conservation planner, technical specialist and local agricultural supply vendors and contractors. See Economics Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.