

## How I “Water-Witch”... or How I Dowsing for Water Wells

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I dowsing/survey for wells borehole location using my “Well Biolocation Form” that includes “initial” search parameters for a 1) legal well site; that is safe and cost effective; 2) with year round potable and palatable water; 3) yielding at the surface a minimum of 3-5 gpm (unless higher yields are needed); and 4) with a bore hole depth less than 400 ft. deep. I try to combine my dowsing intuitive senses and scientific knowledge gained from studying current and historical hydrogeological references (over 3200 pages.). I generally will pick two sites- a preferred site and a backup site that allows input and flexibility by the well driller and land owner.

I prefer to have in advance a site plan/map with legal boundaries, any Right of Ways or required set-backs, expected building footprint, and any aerial or topographic maps available. I prefer dowsing sites prior to septic field permits since I prefer to locate several sites that may be precluded with the approved septic permit. (ALWAYS best to identify well site(s) first, then locate septic field areas.) Note that many Health Dept. require designation of an additional septic field (repair area) in case the first septic field fails.

I prefer to dowsing early in the morning when my mind is fresh and not fatigued. I generally walk relatively linear “transects” across the property anywhere a well drilling rig can access. I generally search near the proposed house site to minimize ditching, underground piping and wiring. Most Health Departments require wells to be located 25 linear feet from building foundations, and 100 ft. from septic tank or field lines. For large tracts, I prefer to investigate topographical features such as gully or “draw” areas. I prefer working on either cleared or relatively “walkable” property- heavy brush slows my work and requires hand-clearing. I prefer “site cleared” property with primary roads and house pad already roughed in since additional clearing may obstruct my markings and require an additional site visit for remarking.

As I walk transect lines, I mark where I sense flowing underground water or rock fractures/stress cracks by dropping surveyor flags as I detect potential sites- I mark both sides of the “dowseable energy fields” to determine relative size and quantity of water. I walk back and forth across these marked areas to determine the best sites based on estimated water yield (in gallons per minute), estimated depth to primary water flow, and make a subjective estimate of water quality on a 1-to-10 scale, with 10 being the highest quality available from that rock type. Lastly I mark the “center of greatest water flow/availability” that will be my preferred location for the borehole. I mark a “centerline” for locating another borehole if the preferred site cannot be used.

I conclude with completing my Well Biolocation form with a rough site map showing borehole locations, estimated depth, yield, and water quality for two best sites. I retain a copy of this form for my records and give one to the owner. I mark the two best sites with spray paint and if requested, a 2 ft. section of rebar. If area is to be mowed, I suggest digging a shallow hole and placing a flat rock that can be later identified. I ask to be called if sufficient water is not found within 50-100 ft. of my predicted depth. I will return to site to confirm drilling set-up location and straight drilling. I will return my consulting fee if no water or insufficient water is found.