

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of action:** Water use permit application no. 40J-093595-00
Water right change application no.
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** QUANTUM FIVE INC, PO Box 268,
Havre, MT 59501
3. **Water source name:** Closed Basin
4. **Location affected by action:** E2NWSE Sec 03, T32N R16E, Hill County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA, are met. The applicant is seeking a water use permit to construct a 92.6 acre-foot pit reservoir within a closed basin. Applicant proposes to pump up to 92.6 AF out of the pit to sprinkle irrigate 155 acres on a new golf course. More specifically, the place of use will be 126.4 acres in the E2 Sec. 03 and 28.6 acres in the SWSW Sec. 02, T32N R16E, Hill County. The period of appropriation will be from January 1 to December 31 and the period of use will be April 1 to November 30. There is a need for approximately 287 AF of water for irrigation during drought periods, therefore applicant will need to supplement the irrigation with an alternate water source. Further evaluation of additional water sources are currently taking place.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** Marvin Cross, Havre Regional Office Engineer: Assists in floodplain management within Havre Regional Office's eight county area.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Soils/Geologic Features:

Degradation of soil quality or alteration of soil stability, moisture content, geologic substructure, unique geologic features, archeological sites?

NO

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores?

NO

Vegetation/Noxious weeds:

Change in or adverse affect on diversity and production of local plant species including any unique or endangered species (including trees,

shrubs, grass, and aquatic plants)? Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?

NO. Area is currently used for cropland and on alternate years, land lies fallow. Golf course will enhance soil conservation with grasses and trees.

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

NO

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution?

NO. Area is naturally a closed basin. A pit will be dug about 9' deep within the closed basin. Using the natural elevation, the pit reservoir will store approximately 11' of water over the 9.33 surface acre reservoir. The reservoir will also include a 2' berm on the lower end of the pit (northern most site). The berm will be constructed so as not to store any additional water. An alternate water source is also being considered because of the need for additional water. Applicant is considering using the City of Havre's reserved right from wells in the area or their effluent water. Currently, there are some concerns due to inadequate information on the physical availability of the other sources. Additional information and evaluations are necessary before any decision is made.

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)?

No. However, this pit reservoir is located within the spillway of the East Diversion Dam which is actually the spillway for both the Bullhook Coulee and Scott Coulee Flood Retention Dams upstream. This entire flood retention project was designed for a 500 year flood. No 100 year flood mapping exists in this area.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife?

NO

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

NO

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance?

NO

Populace:

Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? Alteration of social structure of community?

NO

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?

NO

Safety:

Creation of any health hazard or affect on existing emergency response or evacuation plans?

NO

Public Services:

Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? Have an effect upon local or state tax base?

NO

Utilities:

Creates need for new or altered facilities for any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?

NO

Aesthetics:

Alteration of any scenic vista or recreation opportunity or creation of an aesthetically offensive site to the public?

NO.

Other:

NO

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** No significant impacts have been identified for this project. If the permit is not issued, the golf course would probably not be pursued. As explained above, there is a need for more than one water source for their irrigation needs. This pit reservoir will be one of the primary sources of water

for the irrigation, with supplemental water coming from an alternate source.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

There will be no significant impact on the environment, therefore no EIS is required.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: Water Resource Specialist
DATE: July 8, 1996