

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. 76K-Q097294-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** A-1 Paving, Inc., 3131 Hwy 2 E., Kalispell, MT 59901
3. **Water source name:** Lion Creek, Swan River
4. **Location affected by action:** NWSENE Sec. 18, T22N, R17W, Lake Co.
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The DNRC will issue a water use permit if the applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met. The applicant is seeking a water use permit to pump 300 gpm up to 50 acre-feet per year from Lion Creek, a tributary to the Swan River. The water will be used for road construction (dust control and compaction) year round, weather permitting, from Sec. 18, T24N, R17W, Lake County (mile marker 65.5) to Sec. 3, T21N, R17W, Lake County (mile marker 47.5). This permit will be temporary and expire on December 31, 1998.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (DFWP), and United State Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USFS).

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?

YES - Refer to DEQ Erosion Control Plan MTR 100261 on file with the MDT.

Erosion:

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

YES - Refer to DEQ Erosion Control Plan MTR 100261 on file with the MDT.

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?

YES - Refer to MDT Biological Resources Report - project F83-2(3)48 and USFS memo to Ron Van Natta located in file.

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?

YES - Refer to MDT Biological Resources Report - project F83-2(3)48.

Floodplain:

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

NO

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

YES - Refer to MDT Biological Resources Report - project F83-2(3)48 located in file. Telephone communication with Scott Rumsey, DFWP, further identified possible impact on the bull trout.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

YES - Refer to MDT Biological Resources Report - project F83-2(3)48 and USFS memo to Ron Van Natta located in file.

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| HUMAN ENVIRONMENT |
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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

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None

3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** Conservation measures and mitigation are addressed in the MDT Biological Resources Report. If the permit is not issued, the traveling public will not be able to enjoy the benefits of improved highway conditions on Montana State Highway 83.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Environmental impacts and appropriate measures to reduce these impacts have been addressed by other agencies. This department has adopted the documents provided by the other agencies and identifies no need for an EIS.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: August 15, 1996