

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. 41QJ-098954
Water right change application no.
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** SPRING TREE RIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSN,
329 FLOOD RD, GREAT FALLS, MT 59404.
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER WELL
4. **Location affected by action:** SENENE SEC 33, T20N, R3E, CASCADE CO.
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. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING A PERMIT TO PUMP 100 GPM, UP TO 122.5 AF FROM A GROUNDWATER WELL. THE WATER WILL BE USED FOR DOMESTIC, LAWN/GARDEN, AND FISH/WILDLIFE PURPOSES, FOR A 50-UNIT SUBDIVISION IN SECTIONS 28 & 33, T20N, R3E, CASCADE CO.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE

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. THE COUNTY OF CASCADE HAS REQUIRED AN EA BE CONDUCTED BY THE DEVELOPERS OF THE PROPOSED SUBDIVISION, AND IS IN RECEIPT OF THAT EA (SPRING TREE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (STREA)). ACCORDING TO THE CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE, THEY CONCUR WITH THE STREA IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH INCLUDES A FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT TO SOILS/GEOLOGIC FEATURES. COPIES OF THE STREA CAN BE FOUND AT THE CASCADE COUNTY PLANNING OFFICE, OR IN THE WATER RIGHT APPLICATION FILE. THE STREA IS ADOPTED AND INCORPORATED INTO THIS EA.

Erosion:

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

NO. SEE STREA

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. SEE STREA

Air:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Water:

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

NO. SEE STREA.

Floodplain:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO. SEE STREA

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Historical Significance:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Populace:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Transportation:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Safety:

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

NO. SEE STREA

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. SEE STREA

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. SEE STREA

Aesthetics:

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

NO. SEE STREA

Other:

NO. SEE STREA

-
2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE. SEE STREA
3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE PROPOSED GROUNDWATER SOURCES WERE NOT AUTHORIZED, THE APPLICANT WOULD HAVE TO LOOK TO OTHER SOURCES, SUCH A THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, OR SURFACE WATER FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER. BOTH OF THESE SOURCES WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS IN ORDER TO UTILIZE.

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:

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, THEREFORE, AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: SCOTT IRIVN
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: DECEMBER 26, 1996