

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.
Water right change application no. 410-G(W)178167-00
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Henry "Hank" J. Bouma, PO Box 971,
Choteau, MT 59422
3. **Water source name:** Willow Creek, South Fork
4. **Location affected by action:** SWSESW Sec. 03 TWP 23N, RGE 08W, Teton
County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** DNRC
shall issue an authorization for change of appropriation if the
applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA, are met. The
appropriator has historically diverted from May 1 through October 1
for supplemental irrigation of 2,014 acres. The original claim
included 3 diversions in the NESWSW Sec. 02, SWSESW Sec. 03, both of
TWP 23N, RGE 08W, and the SENENE Sec. 35, TWP 24N, RGE 08W, of Teton
County. The claimed rate is 2.5 CFS up to 763.5 acre-feet. The
appropriator is requesting to change all of this right and will use
only the diversion in Sec. 3 to fill a proposed 125 acre-foot
fish/wildlife and stock reservoir located in Sec. 29, TWP 24N RGE 07W,
Teton County.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks - specifically Liter Spence, Helena,
MT, and Bill Hill, Choteau, MT.

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

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

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?

Based on the information provided by the appropriator on his change application and since there will not be a new diversion on the source, Liter Spence and Bill Hill, with Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, did not anticipate any negative impacts.

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. If an authorization is not issued, the applicant will not be able to enjoy the recreational benefits from the fish/wildlife reservoir. If the reservoir is not built, the stock will continue to use the creek in the area which could cause riparian damage.

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 impacts, therefore, no EIS is required.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Dixie Brough
TITLE: Water Resource Specialist
DATE: April 11, 1997