

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. 41Q-I101535  
Water right change application no.  
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** JOHN GERHART, 6203 HWY 89, BELT, MT. 59412.
3. **Water source name:** UNNAMED TRIBUTARY TO BELT CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** NWSWE SEC 23, T17N, R06E, 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 MCA 85-2-311. THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING A PERMIT TO IMPOUND WATER IN AN ON-STREAM 8.0 AF CAPACITY RESERVOIR FOR RECREATION AND FIRE PROTECTION PURPOSES. THE TOTAL APPROPRIATION WILL BE 16.0 AF. USE IS FROM 1/1-12/31, AND THE LOCATION IS IN THE NWSWE SEC 23, T17N, R06E.
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. SEE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) CONDUCTED BY THE APPLICANT'S CONSULTANT, AND AGENDA ACTION REPORT (AAR) FOR THE CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSION (DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE IN THE WATER RIGHT APPLICATION FILE).

**Erosion:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**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 EA AND AAR.

**Air:**

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants. NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

NO

**Water:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**Floodplain:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**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 EA AND AAR.

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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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. SEE EA AND AAR.

**Historical Significance:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**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 EA AND AAR.

**Transportation:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**Safety:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**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 EA AND AAR.

**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 EA AND AAR.

**Aesthetics:**

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

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

**Other:**

NO. SEE EA AND AAR.

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE IDENTIFIED.
  3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE APPLICANT IS NOT ALLOWED TO CONSTRUCT THE RESERVOIR, NO FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE, OR THE PLANS WILL HAVE TO BE ALTERED TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE SERVICE.

**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, AN EIS IS NOT REQUIRED. IN ADDITION, THE CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSION HAS HAD AN EA PREPARED, AND NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THAT REPORT IS ADOPTED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS EA.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: SCOTT IRVIN  
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST  
DATE: LEWISTOWN WATER RESOURCES OFFICE