

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 right change application no.
40S-G(R)106914 CD #50-006
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
ROOSEVELT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO BOX 517
CULBERTSON, MT 59218
3. **Water source name:** MISSOURI RIVER
4. **Location affected by action:** SECTION 13, T27N, R56E AND SECTIONS 18 & 19, T27N,
R57E, ROOSEVELT COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL
ISSUE A WATER USE AUTHORIZATION IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-
2-402, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE 3.68 CFS UP TO 804 ACRE-FEET
OF THE RESERVED WATER GRANTED TO THE RICHLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
NONE

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 - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Erosion:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

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 - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Air:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Water:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Floodplain:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Historical Significance:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Populace:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Transportation:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Safety:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

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 - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

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 - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Aesthetics:

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

NO - ADDRESSED IN THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.

Other:

NO

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE – SEE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LOWER MISSOURI RIVER BASIN RESERVATIONS.
3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE USE OF THE RESERVED WATER WERE NOT APPROVED, THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT COULD NOT BENEFIT FROM HAVING A RESERVED WATER RIGHT.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO – EIS WAS ALREADY COMPLETED FOR THE RESERVATIONS.

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

AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION. A FULL EIS WAS ALREADY COMPLETED FOR THE RESERVATIONS.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: KIM OVERCAST
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]