

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. 41I-109023-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Tory M. and Shaunna R. Wing
3645 York Rd
Helena, MT 59602-8815
3. **Water source name:** Groundwater Well
4. **Location affected by action:** NENWNE Sec 07 Twp 10N Rge 02W Lewis & Clark County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** A 80' well provides water for the irrigation of 19 acres located in the NWNE Sec 07 Twp 10N Rge 02W Lewis & Clark County at a rate of 300 gpm up to 46 acre-feet per year. The period of appropriation is from April 1 through September 30. Water will be applied through a wheel line sprinkler system. The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if the applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met.
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?

The soil quality could potentially be impacted if typical irrigation practices are utilized. The DNRC will inform the applicant of irrigation management practices beneficial to the proposed project.

Erosion:

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

No. The project does not involve the diversion of surface water.

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?

No.

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. General land use will remain the same.

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: Because of the Upper Missouri Basin Closure, only the development of groundwater or a change of an existing water right can supply additional irrigation water. This irrigation project is a beneficial use of water and will have a positive effect on the environment and economy. The no action alternative would prevent the applicant from enjoying the economic benefits of the proposed irrigation project.

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:

This is a small irrigation development. The project will not cause any significant impacts to the environment.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]