

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- Type of action:** Water right change application no. 411-G(W)001042-01
- Applicant/Contact name and address:** Olsen, Timothy & Sandi and Gess, Robert & Merna
4315 Helberg Dr PO Box 20
Helena MT 59602-8800 Wolf Point MT 59201-0020
- Water source name:** Spokane Creek
- Location affected by action:** SWSWSE S16 T09N R01W Broadwater Co.
- Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** Area is being subdivided. All water rights were retained by the seller, with the exception of Lot 5 in Aspen Estates. This lot came with a 618 gpm portion of the above right. The application proposes to change the point of diversion and place of use to applicants property.
- Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** None

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 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?

None

Erosion:

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

None

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?

None

Air:

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

None

Water:

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

None

Floodplain:

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

None

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

None

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

None

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

None

Historical Significance:

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

None

Populace:

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

None

Transportation:

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

None

Safety:

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

None

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?

None

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?

None

Aesthetics:

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

None

Other:

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: None

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:

If application is denied the portion of the right purchased by Olsen & Gess will remain in limbo. This portion of the right is from an area across highway 2 that is being subdivided. Lot 5 in Aspen Estates was sold to Olsen & Gess with this 618gpm portion of the water right to be used on dry agricultural land for irrigation.

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:

The water right is being moved to an agricultural area. The only change will be the ability to irrigate and enhance the crops being grown. For this particular application the effects to the environment would be minimal and temporary.

PREPARED BY:

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