

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 PERMIT APPLICATION NO.
43D-P107105-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
VINCENT E. AMES
HC 49 BOX 3578
RED LODGE MT 59068
3. **Water source name:** HOGAN CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** NESESE SECTION 15, T6S, R19E, CARBON COUNTY
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 85-2-311, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE 125 GPM UP TO 201.63 ACRE-FEET FOR A FLOW THROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE POND.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Montana Natural Heritage Program
State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

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? **There may be some increase in soil moisture in the surrounding area due to ponding water. The State Historic Preservation Office identified a historic log structure and homestead in the area. This proposed pond development is not expected to impact those areas.**

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores? **There is not expected to be a significant amount of potential for erosion from this proposed development. The outlet of the pond is to be an open drain to the creek but only for a short distance.**

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? **Soil will be disturbed during construction of this pond and there is potential for noxious weeds to become established. It is expected that the weeds will be controlled. The State Historic Preservation Office report identified three wetland areas that might be impacted. This proposed pond development is not expected to have an adverse affect on the wetlands in the area.**

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? **There may be a slight increase in the water temperature from this proposed use. The affect is not expected to be significant.**

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? **The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks was notified of this proposed development. They did not voice any concerns with the proposed construction and operation of this pond.**

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species? **The Montana Natural Heritage Program did not identify any endangered plant or animal species in this area.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area? **The affect on the present land use is not expected to be significant.**

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance? **The State Historic Preservation Office identified a historic log structure and homestead in the area with historic significance. This proposed pond development is not expected to affect those structures.**

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, this development should enhance the aesthetics of the area.**

Other: NO

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: **NONE**

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative: **No action alternative-the pond would not be constructed.**

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: **AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, THEREFORE, NO EIS IS REQUIRED.**

PREPARED BY:

NAME: MARTY VAN CLEAVE
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]