

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.
76LJ-P109478
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
Paul T. & Harriet Williams
425 Sirucek Lane
Kalispell, MT 59901
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER WELL
4. **Location affected by action:** NESWNE, SECTION 19, T29N, R21W, FLATHEAD 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 OBTAIN THE LEGAL RIGHT OT USE THE WATER IN A WELL. THIS WELL WAS DRILLED ON THE OWNERS PROPERTY USING STANDARD WELL DRILLING PRACTICES WITH MINIMAL DISTURBANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS EA CHECKLIST WILL ADDRESS THE IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE POINT OF DIVERSION. THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO DIVERT 35 GPM NOT TO EXCEED 22.5 ACRE-FEET PER YEAR TO IRRIGATE NINE ACRES OF NATIVE GRASSES AND LANDSCAPE SHRUBS.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM (NHP)

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, THE APPLICANTS PROPOSE TO USE THE WATER FOR NATIVE VEGETATION. THE SOIL WILL NOT BE ALTERED.

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns that modify streambeds or lake shores?

NO, THE PROPOSED USE WILL NOT BE CONNECTED TO A LAKESHORE OR A STREAMBED.

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, THE NATIVE VEGETATION WILL NOT BE ALTERED. THE PROPOSED USE IS TO WATER NATIVE VEGETATION SUPPLEMENTAL TO RAIN.

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, turbidity, quantity, or distribution?

NO, THE APPLICANTS PROPOSE TO USE THE WATER TO IRRIGATE NATIVE VEGETATION ON THEIR NINE ACRES OF LAND. THE IRRIGATION USE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO NATURAL RAINFALL. THE USE WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT WATER QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

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, KEEPING THE NATURAL VEGETATION OF NINE ACRES WATERED DURING DRY TIMES WILL NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT WILDLIFE HABITAT OR MIGRATION.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

A QUERY WITH NHP RESULTED ONE SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES FROM THE PROPOSED SITE. THREE ADULT PAIRS OF BLACK TERN WERE IDENTIFIED. THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE BLACK TERN OR OTHER SPECIES.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

THE NATURAL STATE OF THE LAND WILL NOT BE ALTERED BY THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER.

Historical Significance:

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

NO, THE NATURAL STATE OF THE LAND WILL NOT BE ALTERED BY THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER.

Populace:

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

NO, THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE POPULACE.

Transportation:

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

NO, THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE POPULACE.

Safety:

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

NO, THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT THE POPULACE.

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, THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT PUBLIC SERVICES.

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, THE PROPOSED USE OF WATER WILL NOT CREATE A NEED FOR NEW UTILITIES.

Aesthetics:

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

THE PROPOSED USE WILL ENHANCE THE AESTHETICS OF THE PROPERTY.

Other:

THE APPLICANT WILL BE INFORMED OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NHP. SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE VICINITY OF THIS PROJECT BUT WERE NOT IN THE DIRECT LOCATION.

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: NONE

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:
1) ISSUE THE PERMIT. THERE IS A NET LONG TERM POSITIVE IMPACT TO THE PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT.
2) REJECT THE APPLICATION DUE TO UNKNOWN LONG TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE APPLICANT'S WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEIR NATIVE GRASSES AND WILDFLOWERS IN TIMES OF LITTLE/NO PRECIPITATION.

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. NO ADVERSE IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: CRISTY CARTER
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]