

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.
76I-P109493-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
STEVE DALIMATA
P.O. BOX 291
WEST GLACIER, MT 59936
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER WELL
4. **Location affected by action:** SWSWSW, SECTION 7, T31N, R17W, 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 TO USE THE WATER IN A WELL. THIS WELL WAS DRILLED ON THE OWNERS PROPERTY USING STANDARD WELL DRILLING PRACTICES WITH MINIMAL DISTURBANCE TO THE AREA. WELLS DRILLED IN THIS MANNER HAVE LITTLE TO NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. THIS EA CHECKLIST WILL ADDRESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT DUE TO THE LOCATION OF THE WELL AND WILL ADDRESS THE CULTURAL IMPACTS TO THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. THE OWNER OF THIS WELL INTENDS TO USE 35 GPM UP TO 10 ACRE-FEET OF WATER PER YEAR. THE USE WILL BE FOR A COMMERCIAL BOTTLED WATER PLANT IN THE GLACIER COMPACT AREA.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM (NHP)
U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (USNPS)

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?

RESULTS FROM SHPO INDICATE THERE WERE REMAINS OF A HISTORIC ROADBED IN THE LOCATION REQUESTED. IT IS UNKNOWN IF THE HISTORIC ROADBED WAS COVERED BY THE NEW HIGHWAY. THE PROPOSED SITE AND THE HISTORIC SITE ARE WITHIN THE SAME SECTION, AND IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THEY OCCUPY THE EXACT LOCATION. IF THEY DO NOT, THEN THE PROPOSED USE OF A BOTTLED WATER PLANT WILL NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT TO THE HISTORIC SITE.

Erosion:

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

NO IMPACT DETERMINED

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?

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, THERE ARE TWO FAUNA SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN SURROUNDING THE PROPOSED SITE. CORYDALIS SEMPERVIRENS (PALE CORYDALIS) WAS LAST OBSERVED IN SECTION 18, T31N, R17W, IN 1894. ITS STATE RANK IS CRITICALLY IMPERILED BECAUSE OF EXTREME RARITY. DICRANELLA HETEROMALLA WAS LASTED OBSERVED IN SECTION 20, T31N, R17W, IN 1948. ITS STATE RANK IS CRITICALLY IMPERILED BECAUSE OF EXTREME RARITY.

THE PROPOSED USE SHOULD NOT HAVE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE ABOVE-LISTED FAUNA BECAUSE THEY DO NOT SHARE A COMMON POINT OF REFERENCE. STANDARD CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES AS DICTATED BY THE COUNTY WEED BOARD ARE THE REQUIREMENT OF THE DRILLER. NO OTHER ESTABLISHMENT OR SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS IS EXPECTED DUE TO THE PERMITTING OF THIS APPROPRIATION.

Air:

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

NO IMPACT DETERMINED

Water:

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

YES, THERE WILL BE AN ALTERATION OF GROUNDWATER DISTRIBUTION AT A RATE OF 35 GPM NOT TO EXCEED 10 ACRE-FEET PER YEAR.

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMENTED THAT THE PROPOSED WELL WOULD MOST LIKELY BE HYDROLOGICALLY CONNECTED TO DEERLICK CREEK AND THE FLATHEAD RIVER. AT THE RATE AND VOLUME THE WELL WILL BE PUMPED, THE AMOUNT OF WATER DRAWN FROM SURFACE WATER WILL BE NEGLIGIBLE. NEITHER THE CREEK NOR THE RIVER IS LISTED AS IMPAIRED BY THE DEQ. THE PROPOSED USE WILL NOT HAVE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON SURFACE WATER QUALITY OR QUANTITY.

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 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMENTED THAT THE PROPOSED WELL WOULD MOST LIKELY BE HYDROLOGICALLY CONNECTED TO DEERLICK CREEK AND THE FLATHEAD RIVER. THE AMOUNT OF WATER THAT THE WELL MAY DRAW FROM THE CREEK AND THE RIVER IS NEGLIGIBLE AND SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS ON THE FISHERIES. WILDLIFE MIGRATION THROUGH THE PROPOSED PROPERTY IS UNKNOWN. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED WELL USE WILL NOT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE WILDLIFE HABITAT.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM LOCATED THREE ANIMAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN WITHIN APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES OF THE PROPOSED SITE. THEY INCLUDE THE SHORthead SCULPIN, THE GRIZZLY BEAR AND THE BALD EAGLE. SEE MAP AND ATTACHED INFORMATION FOR MORE DETAIL.

THERE SHOULD NOT BE ADVERSE IMPACTS TO THE SPECIES LISTED ABOVE FROM THE PERMITTING OF THIS WATER RIGHT SINCE THE LOCATIONS DO NOT COINCIDE.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

THIS PROJECT IS ANTICIPATED TO HAVE A LOW IMPACT ON EXISTING RESOURCES AND TO HAVE A LONG TERM NET INCREASE IN THE PROFITABILITY OF THE EXISTING LAND. THEREFORE, THIS PROJECT SHOULD PRODUCE A NET LONG TERM BENEFICIAL IMPACT TO THE PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.

Historical Significance:

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

SEE RESPONSE TO "SOILS/GEOLOGIC FEATURES" ABOVE.

Populace:

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

THIS PROJECT IS TYPICAL OF SMALL BUSINESS IN THIS AREA. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WILL BE AN ALTERATION OF THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY, A LONG TERM ADVERSE IMPACT IS NOT ANTICIPATED.

Transportation:

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

YES, THERE WILL BE A TRAFFIC INCREASE IN AND OUT OF THE PROPOSED SITE DUE TO THE SHIPPING OF THE BOTTLED WATER.

Safety:

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

NOT DETERMINED

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?

YES, A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS WILL ALTER THE TAX BASE AND WILL REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES TO REGULATE A BOTTLED WATER PLANT. THERE IS AN ANTICIPATED NET GAIN TO THE TAX BASE.

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?

YES, THE UTILITIES WILL BE ALTERED TO ACCOMMODATE A COMMERCIAL WATER BOTTLING PLANT.

Aesthetics:

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

THE AESTHETICS OF THE SITE WILL DEPEND ON THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT. THE APPLICANT HAS INDICATED THAT HIS INTENT IS TO INITIALLY HAVE A SMALL BUSINESS AND BUILD ON THE SUCCESS. IF THE PROJECT IS LARGELY SUCCESSFUL THEN THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SCENIC VISTA DEGRADATION

Other:

NO

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE IDENTIFIED
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 HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND LITTLE KNOWN IMPACT TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. 2) REJECT THE APPLICATION DUE TO UNKNOWN LONG-TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO THE HUMAN OR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. THE APPLICANT CAN NOT USE WELL FOR A BOTTLED WATER PLANT. 3) NO ACTION. THE PERMIT IS NOT ISSUED AND THE APPLICATION IS REJECTED. THE APPLICANT FINDS ANOTHER LOCATION FOR THE BOTTLED WATER PLANT.

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 EIS IS NOT REQUIRED, AN EA IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS ACTION.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: CRISTY CARTER

TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST

DATE: [Automatic date code removed]