

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.
40E-P111318
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
ROCKY & MARY SUE LONG
#14 STONEY ACRES
GLEN DIVE, MT 59330
3. **Water source name:** MISSOURI RIVER (FORT PECK LAKE)
4. **Location affected by action:** SENENW, SECTION 19, T23N, R43E, MCCONE COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THIS PROJECT IS TO PUMP WATER OUT OF FORT PECK LAKE FOR DOMESTIC USE. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE 6 GPM UP TO 1.47 ACRE- FEET. THE POINT OF DIVERSION IS AND THE PLACE OF USE ARE LOCATED IN THE SENENW, SECTION 19, T23N, R43E. THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A WATER USE PERMIT IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-311, MCA ARE MET.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WEBSITE (TMDL 303d LISTING)

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?

THE SOIL WILL BE TEMPORARILY DISTURBED WHEN THE WATER LINE IS INSTALLED, HOWEVER, NO PERMANENT DEGRADATION TO SOIL QUALITY IS ANTICIPATED. MOISTURE CONTENT WILL PROBABLY INCREASE DUE TO THE WATERING OF THE LAWN.

Erosion:

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

NO, THE PUMP WILL BE SET IN THE LAKE WITH A SAFETY FLOAT ATTACHED TO IT. A 1 1/4 INCH LINE WILL BE USED TO BRING THE WATER TO THE HOUSE. THE U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS APPROVES OF THIS TYPE OF DIVERSION AND IT IS COMMONLY USED AROUND THE LAKE.

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?

THIS PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN A SUBDIVISION CONTAINING NUMEROUS CABIN SITES. A CABIN IS LOCATED ON THIS SITE. THE GROUND WILL BE DISTURBED WHEN THE WATER LINE IS INSTALLED. LAWN WILL REPLACE ANY NATIVE PLANTS THAT MAY BE LOCATED ON THE LOT.

Air:

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

NO ADVERSE EFFECTS ARE ANTICIPATED WITH THE WATER USE AT THE SITE.

Water:

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

THE 1998 MONTANA 303(d) LIST RANKS FORT PECK RESERVOIR AS LOW PRIORITY FOR TMDL DEVELOPMENT. PROBABLE IMPAIRED USES INCLUDE AQUATIC LIFE SUPPORT, WARM WATER FISHERY, RECREATION, SWIMMING AND DRINKING WATER SUPPLY. THE RESERVOIR IS NOT CLASSIFIED AS THREATENED. DUE TO THE SMALL SIZE OF THIS APPROPRIATION NO IMPACT TO THE WATER QUALITY SHOULD OCCUR.

Floodplain:

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

NO, THE CABIN SITE IS LOCATED ABOVE THE MAXIMUM OPERATING POOL WATER LINE AND 30 FEET ABOVE THE AVERAGE NORMAL RECREATION POOL.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

THIS PROJECT WILL ADD A WATER SOURCE TO AN EXISTING CABIN. IT IS LOCATED WITHIN AN AREA OF NUMEROUS EXISTING CABINS AND SHOULD NOT INCREASE A BARRIER TO MOVEMENT OR DETERIORATION OF HABITAT.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

THE MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM IDENTIFIED ONE THREATENED SPECIES AS BEING IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THE PIPING PLOVER HAS BEEN SITED IN THE VICINITY OF ROCK CREEK BAY ON FORT PECK LAKE. HOWEVER, THE PLOVER PREFERS ISLANDS AND SANDBARS FOR NESTING AND SHOULDN'T BE IMPACTED BY THE ACTION OF ADDING A WATER SOURCE TO AN EXISTING CABIN. ADDITIONALLY, THE CABINS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED AT THE ROCK CREEK CABIN SITES FOR MANY YEARS.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO, THE SITE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE ROCK CREEK CABIN SITES.

Historical Significance:

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

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE WAS CONTACTED. THEIR REPORT STATES THAT "BASED ON THE PREVIOUS CULTURAL INVENTORIES AND THE KNOWN SITES IN THE AREA THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES BEING AFFECTED IS LOW". THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN PREVIOUS INVENTORIES CONDUCTED IN THIS AREA, SO IT IS UNLIKELY THAT UNRECORDED OR UNKNOWN CULTURAL PROPERTIES WOULD BE PRESENT.

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 WILL ONLY BE SUPPLYING AN EXISTING CABIN WITH A WATER SOURCE. THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL CABINS BUILT WITHIN THE AREA SO THIS PROJECT SHOULD HAVE LITTLE, IF ANY IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Transportation:

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

NO IMPACT

Safety:

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

NO IMPACT

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?

THIS CABIN IS ONLY FOR SEASONAL USE, THE ROADS ARE ALREADY IN, AND THE SEWER AND WATER SUPPLY WILL BE INDIVIDUAL SYSTEMS BUILT BY THE APPLICANT. A SMALL INCREASE IN THE LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE MAY OCCUR ONCE THE IMPROVEMENTS ARE MADE.

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, POWER IS ALREADY LOCATED WITHIN THE SUBDIVISION AND THE SERVICE LINE IS ALREADY IN PLACE. NO NEW FACILITIES WILL BE REQUIRED.

Aesthetics:

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

NO IMPACT

Other:

NO IMPACT

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE USE OF THIS WATER WERE NOT APPROVED, THE APPLICANTS WOULD NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY FOR THEIR CABIN SITE.

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: DENISE BIGGAR
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]