

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 use permit application no. 41U-110359-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
Hannelore E. Dammen
PO Box 518
Augusta, MT 59410-0518
3. **Water source name:** Joslin Creek
4. **Location affected by action:** Tract 5 of Joslin Creek Tracts in the SESESW, Sec 27, Twp 18N, Rge 07W, Lewis & Clark County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The applicant proposes to divert water from Joslin Creek using a 1.5 hp Teel Lawn Sprinkler Pump at a rate of 19 gpm up to 1.3 acre-feet. The water will be used to irrigate .50 acre of lawn from April 1 through September 15. The place of use will be located on Tract 5 of Joslin Creek Tracts in the SESESW, Sec 27, Twp 18N, Rge 07W, Lewis & Clark County.
The DNRC shall issue a water use permit to the applicant if the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Montana Natural Heritage Program

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?

The moisture content of the soil will be increased due to the watering of the lawn. There should not be any degradation of soil quality or alteration of soil stability, moisture content, geologic substructure, unique geologic features, or archeological sites.

Erosion:

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

There may be minimal erosion to the bank of the creek when the pump is installed.

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?

A query of the Montana Natural Heritage Program database lists two plant species of special concern within the Bean Lake quad map area. Listed are two occurrences of the Round-leaved Orchis (*Amerorchis rotundifolia*) and one occurrence of the Small Yellow Lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*).

Air:

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

No deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants is likely to occur.

Water:

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

The 19 gpm of water diverted will alter the quantity of water flowing in Joslin Creek, but should have no significant impact.

Floodplain:

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

No changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood) is likely to occur.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

No. This project is located in a developed subdivision. It should not create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife or deteriorate critical fish or wildlife habitat.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

No. This project should not create any adverse affect on any unique or endangered species since it is located in a developed subdivision area.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

No. The land use will not change. It will still be used for domestic purposes.

Historical Significance:

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

No. This project is in an already developed subdivision. Any destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance would have occurred when the area was first developed.

Populace:

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

No. This project should not affect the alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of the area or the community social structure.

Transportation:

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

No. There should not be any increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods.

Safety:

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

No. This project should not create any health hazard or affect existing emergency response or evacuation plans.

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. This project should not create or alter the need of additional 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. This project should not create a need for new or altered facilities for utilities.

Aesthetics:

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

No. Watering the lawn should enhance the aesthetics of the property.

Other:

No other significant impacts identified.

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None identified

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

A reasonable alternative to this project may be to drill a well to irrigate the .50 acre of lawn. However, given the small size of the project, the alternative would may not be economically feasible. The no action alternative would result in the applicant not being able to water her lawn.

PART III. CONCLUSION

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this action. There are no significant impacts identified, therefore an EIS is not required.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Terry Scow

TITLE: Water Resources Specialist

DATE: [Automatic date code removed]