

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. 76D-111221-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Lincoln County Fairground, C/O Lynette Starling, PO Box 1414, Eureka, MT 59917
3. **Water source name:** Mills Spring Creek
4. **Location affected by action:** NW¼ NW¼ SW¼, Section 11, Township 36N, Range 27W, Lincoln 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. The applicant is seeking a beneficial water use permit for the purpose of a fish pond. Lincoln County and Fish, Wildlife & Parks are working together on creating the fairground pond as a place for local youth to catch fish. A six inch pipe will divert 50 gpm on a year around basis in to the pond with the water being returned immediately back to Mills Spring Creek. Fish, Wildlife & Parks will conduct the engineering design of the pond which will be located in the above affected location.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** Lincoln County, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Lincoln County Conservation District.

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 are no unique geologic features on this site. The land is part of the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and has been cultivated and planted with grass.

Erosion:

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

The development of this pond will have no impact on erosion or siltation patterns.

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?

The area has been trampled by fair goers for many years. All of the native plant species have been destroyed from past development and there are no endangered or threatened plant species. The project will eliminate weeds by decreasing the land 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?

Some minor alteration of the surface water temperature will most likely occur; however, it should have no bearing on the one downstream stock water right prior to sinking in to the ground.

Floodplain:

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

To mitigate and accommodate any flood event that may occur a wetland overflow area has been established in the design.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

A site visit found the fairgrounds to be in a highly developed area and no wildlife frequent this site. Currently there are no fish in this source so creation of a barrier preventing migration is not an issue.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

A site visit was made and there are no endangered or threatened species.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

This development will be an additional attraction at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds and will not change the existing land use.

Historical Significance:

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

NO

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?

The pond will be 15 feet in depth and therefore has the potential for a child to drown. Rules will be established to help prevent any such mishap.

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?

Aesthetics will be improved.

Other:

NO

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

3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** An alternative would be to locate the pond at a different location or possibly use another source of water. The no action alternative would deny local youth a well maintained fishing pond.

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: No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no EIS is necessary.

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: June 29, 2000