

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.
76D-P111250-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
DOUG ADDAMS
5931 CHRISTOPHER DR.
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83815
3. **Water source name:** UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF THERRIAULT CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** SESWNE, SECTION 25, T36N, R26W, 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. THIS APPLICATION IS TO OBTAIN THE LEGAL RIGHT TO USE THE WATER FROM AN UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF THERRIAULT CREEK FOR AN ON-STREAM FISHPOND. THIS EA CHECKLIST WILL ADDRESS THE IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT. THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO USE UP TO 30 ACRE-FEET PER YEAR FOR AN ON-STREAM FISHPOND.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
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?

THE SOIL WILL BE ALTERED AT THE PROJECT SITE DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE POND. IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS, THE CHANNEL WILL BE REROUTED AROUND THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. ONCE THE POND IS COMPLETE, THE STREAM WILL BE DIVERTED INTO ITS NATURAL CHANNEL. THE AREA SURROUNDING THE POND WILL BE REVEGETATED WITH A NATIVE WILD-GRASS MIXTURE. THE IMPACTS TO THE SOILS WILL BE TEMPORARY DURING CONSTRUCTION ONLY.

Erosion:

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

THE STREAM WILL BE ALTERED FROM ITS ORIGINAL STATE WITH THE ADDITION OF AN ON-STREAM POND. DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE POND, THE STREAM WILL BE DIVERTED AROUND THE PROJECT SITE TO MINIMIZE EROSION. THE STREAM WILL BE PERMANENTLY ALTER FROM ITS CURRENT STATE. HOWEVER, THE STREAM AND POND WILL BECOME STABLE SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION. REVEGETATION OF THE SITE WILL MITIGATE EROSION AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION.

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 APPLICANT WILL REVEGETATE THE SITE WITH A NATIVE GRASS MIXTURE UPON PROJECT COMPLETION. A QUERY WITH NHP INDICATED NO KNOWN VEGETATION SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN NEAR THE PROJECT SITE.

Air:

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

NO IMPACTS

Water:

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

THE STREAM WILL BE TEMPORARILY MOVED INTO A SIDE CHANNEL UNTIL THE POND IS COMPLETED. ALTHOUGH THE PROJECT WILL ALTER WATER QUALITY TEMPORARILY, THE AFOREMENTIONED DIVERSION WILL MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE.

Floodplain:

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

THE ADDITION OF AN ON-STREAM POND WILL CREATE AN INCREASED HAZARD TO THE APPLICANT'S PROPERTY. THE SIZE OF THE POND DOES NOT INDICATE A HIGH HAZARD FACILITY.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

A QUERY WITH NHP INDICATES SEVERAL WILDLIFE SPECIES FREQUENT THE AREA YEAR ROUND. THE COMPLETED PROJECT WILL MOST LIKELY INCREASE THE WILDLIFE FREQUENCY OF THE AREA.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

A QUERY WITH NHP INDICATES SEVERAL SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN ARE LOCATED WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE PROJECT SITE. DURING CONSTRUCTION, WILDLIFE MAY BECOME SCARCE. HOWEVER, A GREATER FREQUENCY OF WILDLIFE IS EXPECTED UPON PROJECT COMPLETION.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY WILL INCREASE WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

Historical Significance:

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

NO IMPACT

Populace:

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

NO IMPACT

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?

THERE IS A GREATER HAZARD OF DROWNING IN A POND THAN IN A SMALL STREAM. HOWEVER, THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

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 IMPACT

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 IMPACT

Aesthetics:

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

THE SCENIC VISTA WILL BE ENHANCED

Other:

NO

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 HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND LITTLE IMPACT TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.
2) REJECT THE APPLICATION DUE TO UNKNOWN LONG TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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. THE IMPACTS ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO REQUIRE AN EIS.

PREPARED BY:

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