

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 change application no. 76LJ-G002512-01
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Dayton R. & Elizabeth A. Seabaugh, 395 Lower Valley Road, Kalispell, MT 59901
3. **Water source name:** Wileys Slough
4. **Location affected by action:** NW¼ SE¼ NW¼, Section 12, Township 27N, Range 21W, Flathead County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The DNRC shall issue an Authorization to Change if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA are met. The applicant proposes to establish a common pump site by using an existing pump station to irrigate land permitted by water right permit 76LJ-P002512-01. The existing pump station for statement of claim 76LJ-W007497-00 will become the point of diversion for both water rights. The place of use for these two established water rights are on opposite sides of Wileys Slough which created the need for the applicant to obtain a joint application for proposed work in Montana's streams, wetlands, floodplain and other water bodies. This permit allows the point of diversion to be changed to the common location described in number 4 above. It does not authorize disturbance to the wetland complex by burying the mainline across the slough. The joint application and subsequent permits from the Natural Stream bed & Land Preservation Act (310), Floodplain Permit, Section 404/Section 10 Permits and Navigable Rivers Land Use License/Easement address the pipeline installation. Mitigation requirements are addressed in the joint application.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** Flathead Conservation District and the Flathead Regional Development Office were both contacted. These two agencies approved the physical act of burying the pipeline.

**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?

As a requirement of the FCD permit all disturbed areas shall be shaped, seeded to grass and lightly mulched to control erosion and

prevent the infestation of noxious weeds. A site visit found no unique geologic features or archeology sites.

**Erosion:**

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

All stream bank and adjacent areas disturbed by the construction activity shall be protected with temporary erosion control measures during the construction activities. The area shall be reclaimed and revegetated immediately after construction.

**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 site visit was made and no endangered species were found. Weed free gravel and/or fill must be used and weed control will be undertaken and maintained on any disturbed areas.

**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?

All construction activities performed in the slough and immediate vicinity, shall be conducted in a manner to reduce in-stream turbidity along with minimizing disturbances to the Stream bed and/or stream bank.

**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?

NO

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

No endangered plant or animal species were found to be on this project site.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

### **Existing Land Use:**

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

This will remain as established farm land.

### **Historical Significance:**

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

The land has been tilled and irrigated for 26 years and has no historical significance.

### **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?

NO

### **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?

NO

**Other:**

NO

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2.           **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
3.           **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** No action would mean keeping two pump sites rather than the establishment of one common point of diversion.

**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:       September 20, 2000