

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

Revised 10-00

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:  
[http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis\\_ea.html](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html)

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. **Applicant/Contact name and address: BENNETT, BILL #41H P112418**
2. **Type of action: INSTALL A WELL**
3. **Water source name: GROUNDWATER**
4. **Location affected by action: NESESWNW SEC 17 T 12S R5E**
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. A WELL WILL BE DRILLED TO PROVIDE DOMESTIC WATER**
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: SHPO, NRCS, GALLATIN COUNTY PLANNER**

Part II. Environmental Review

**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Water quantity, quality and distribution**

Water quantity: Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

Determination: SEE GROUNDWATER SECTION BELOW.

Water quality: Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.

Determination: SEE GROUNDWATER SECTION BELOW.

Groundwater: Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.

Determination: THE WELL HAS BEEN RATED AT 10 GPM AND UP TO 1 A.F. PER YEAR. THIS IS MORE THAN LIKELY A NEGLIGIBLE AMMOUNT THAT WILL NOT HAVE A NEGATIVE AFFECT ON GROUNDWATER. THERE IS NO SCIENTIFIC PROOF THAT USING WATER FROM THIS SOURCE WILL IMPAIR OTHER WATER SOURCES.

### **Diversion works**

Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.

Determination: THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS WELL WAS COMPLETED BY A LICENSED DRILLER (#512). AS THIS PROJECT IS UTILIZING GROUND WATER, THERE WILL BE NO CHANNEL IMPACTS, FLOW MODIFICATIONS, BARRIERS OR IMPACTS TO RIPARIAN AREAS.

### **Unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources**

Endangered and threatened species: Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."

Determination: DURING THE WELL PERFORATION ONLY A VERY LITTLE SOIL DISRUPTION MAY OCCUR. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WILL LEAD TO NO-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES TO PROPOGATE. THE USFWS LISTED ONLY ONE ITEM IN THIS AREA: Ute Ladies' Tresses. IT IS UNLIKELY FOR IMPACTS TO OCCUR..

Wetlands: Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.

Determination. NO KNOWN WETLANDS EXIST IN THE PROJECT AREA.

Ponds: For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.

Determination: NOT APPLICABLE - THIS APPLICATION WILL BE USING GROUNDWATER.

### **Geology/Soil quality, stability and moisture**

Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.

Determination: UPON PHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE NRCS THERE APPEARS TO BE NO ISSUES IN THIS AREA WITH THE SOIL. SOURCE OF CONTACT: TONY, BOZEMAN, MT FIELD OFFICE.

**Vegetation cover, quantity and quality/Noxious weeds**

Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.

Determination: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DOMESTIC WELL DISTURBS VERY LITTLE LAND. THEREFORE, THIS IMPACT IS NEGLIGIBLE. SOURCE: NRCS.

**Air quality**

Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

Determination: THERE ARE NO FORESEEN AIR QUALITY EFFECTS

**Historical and archeological sites**

Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Determination: I HAVE CONTACTED SHPO. IT APPEARS THERE ARE NO SITES REFERING TO ABOVE.

**Demands on environmental resources of land, water, and energy**

Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.

Determination: NO ADDITIONAL IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WERE IDENTIFIED.

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

**Locally adopted environmental plans and goals**

Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: I HAVE CONTACTED THE GALATIN COUNTY PLANNER ABOUT THIS DOMESTIC WELL. THERE ARE NO INCONSISTANCIES WITH LOCALLY ADOPTED PLANS OR GOALS IN THIS AREA.

**Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities**

Assess whether the proposed project will impact assess to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.

Determination: YES. ENCROACHMENT OF SUBDIVISIONS NEAR ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS YELLOWSTONE WILL HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON ALL RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.

### **Human health**

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: THERE WILL BE GREATER AMMOUNTS OF HUMAN BY-PRODUCTS AND WASTE CREATED

### **Other human environmental issues**

For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity ? NO FORSEEN IMPACT
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? INCREASED REVENUES
- (c) Existing land uses ? LESS OPEN SPACE
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? NO FORSEEN IMPACT
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? INCREASED POPULATION
- (f) Demands for government services ? INCREASED SERVICES
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? NO FORSEEN IMPACT
- (h) Utilities ? INCREASED SERVICES
- (i) Transportation ? **NO FORSEEN IMPACT**
- (j) Safety ? INCREASED RISK OF ACCIDENTS
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? NO FORSEEN IMPACT

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population: THE RADIATION AND PROPOGATION OF WELLS IN THIS AREA COULD HAVE DRAMATIC IMPACTS. THIS IS A HEADWATER'S AREA AND IS PRONE TO HAVE A HYDROLOGIC CONNECTION WITH DOWNSTREAM FLOW. IN LIGHT OF SPEAKING WITH JIM DOMINO FROM THE DNRC AND JOHN SHEPARD FROM THE GALLATIN PLANNERS OFFICE MY JUSTIFIED INFORMATION RESTS: THIS IS A SINGLE WELL AND MAY HAVE SLIGHT TO NO IMPACT. WITH**

**INCREASING POPULATION IN THIS AREA THE POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT MAY OCCUR.**

- 3. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider: AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE HABITORS COULD LIVE IN A PLANNED COMMUNITY WHERE THERE IS PLENTY OF MUNICIPAL WATER.**

PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? PROBABLY NOT

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS SHOULD HAPPEN

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: PORTER L. DASSENKO

Title: WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST Date: 11/22/00

Name:

Title:

Date: