

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Revised 11-00

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Glain Trust
C/O Leroy & Sallie Glain
580 West Village Dr.
Bigfork, MT 59911

Thomas W. & Jeanne C. Trumbull
588 West Village Dr.
Bigfork, MT 59911
2. **Type of action:** Provisional Permit to Appropriate Water No. 76LJ-114027-00
3. **Water source name:** Echo Lake
4. **Location affected by action:** SE¹/₄ NW¹/₄ NW¹/₄, Section 8, Twp. 27N, Rge. 19W, Fl. Co.
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:** The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in §85-2-311, MCA are met. The applicants are seeking a joint water use permit for the purpose of irrigating their respective tracts 4EF and 4EG. The total area irrigated will be approximately 1.12 acres between the two parcels. A three-quarter horsepower Goulds Model J7S jet pump capable of diverting 15.5 gpm will be used. The physical work of installing the underground sprinkler system has been done on the Glain property; however, Trumbull on tract 4EG has not completed installation of the underground sprinkler system making it necessary for some ground disturbance. The maximum period of use will be from March 15 to October 15 and will benefit the applicants by creating a permanent grass cover around the homes.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)**

State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Natural Heritage Program

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: Echo Lake is not on the DFWP dewatered stream list. Echo Lake has a surface area of 725 acres and average depth of approximately 20 feet, with a maximum that exceeds 70 feet.

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: Echo Lake has a surface area of approximately 725 acres. It is primarily spring fed with one small inlet known as Echo Creek. It has no surface drainage outlet. It has an average depth of 20 feet with a maximum depth that exceeds 70 feet. It is estimated the volume contained in the lake is in the area of 14000 acre-feet. This request is only .0001 percent of that amount spread out over .58 percent of the year. The quality of Echo Lake will not be impacted from this minimal water usage.

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 use of water from Echo Lake will not impact groundwater.

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 diversion works consist of a pump, suction line, pressure tank and distribution lines for the lawn and garden sprinkler system. The 3/4 horsepower, Goulds Model No. J7S Jet Pump is capable of supplying 15.5 gpm and will not impact the lakeshore since installation has already taken place and riparian areas have grown back covering the ground disturbance.

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: The 15.5 gpm of water from Echo Lake is an imperceptible amount of water regarding impact to the source. The Montana Natural Heritage Program was contacted to determine proximity of threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or "species of special concern," if any. None were identified within the project area.

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: The project does not involve nor is it near wetlands.

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

Determination: The project does not involve ponds.

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: A portion of the place of use has already been watered by the sprinkler system without evidence of saline seep.

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 installation of the waterline has been completed. Vegetation has grown back or turf has been planted in the yard area. The planting of grass will be a deterrent to the establishment of weeds.

Air quality

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

Determination: Planting grass should decrease the potential for pollution from dust. No air pollution will occur from the establishment of turf.

Historical and archeological sites

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

Determination: A search request through the State Historic Preservation Office did not identify any archeological or historical sites within the project area.

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 other impacts 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: The project is consistent with the land use of the area. Many private residential lots are developed around the shoreline of Echo Lake.

Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities

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

Determination: There will be no impact to the quality of recreation or wilderness activities nor will access be denied to any established recreation areas except by Forest Service road closures that occur throughout public domain in Flathead County.

Human health

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: The project will have no effect on human health.

Private property

Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes___ No_X_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination: Private property rights are not impacted or regulated by this proposed action. The right to use water belonging to the State of Montana will become a property right if approved.

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
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? NO
- (c) Existing land uses ? NO
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? NO
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? NO
- (f) Demands for government services ? NO
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? NO
- (h) Utilities ? NO
- (i) Transportation ? NO
- (j) Safety ? NO
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? NO

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:** This area of the Flathead Valley is located in an area that has been developed for many years. Further developments are limited by the availability of residential lots, making secondary and cumulative impacts of little or no concern.
3. **Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:** No mitigation measures are necessary for a project with no impacts.
4. **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:** The applicants have a well that is reasonable to consider as an alternative to using lake water. The no action alternative also leaves the well as an obvious method to achieve a lawn & garden if alternatives were deemed necessary.

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.

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

Name: Rich Russell

Title: Water Resources Specialist

Date: December 12, 2000