

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

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

Revised 11-00

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:** Larry F. Brazda, PO Box 755, Lakeside MT 59922
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3. **Type of action:** Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ-30017170
4. **Water source name:** Flathead River (Flathead Lake)
5. **Location affected by action:** NW SW NW of section 15, T 25N, R 20W, Lake County.
6. **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 applicant is seeking a water use permit from Flathead Lake for domestic use. Water will be diverted at a rate of 36 gpm up to 1 acre-foot from January 1 through December 31.
7. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:**  
**(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)** MT Historical Society, MT Natural Heritage Program and the MT DFWP.

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: No impact due to the size of the source.

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: No impact.

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: NA

### **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: No impacts. The system will use a 2 hp submersible pump similar to many others used on this source.

### **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: No species of special concern were identified in the immediate area that would be impacted by this action.

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: NA

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

Determination: NA

### **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: No impacts are anticipated from this small project.

### **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: Weed will be the responsibility of the applicant to control.

**Air quality**

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

Determination: NA

**Historical and archeological sites**

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

Determination: No unique sites were identified on this site.

**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: None 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 many other like projects in the area.

**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: No impacts

**Human health**

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No impacts are expected.

**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:

**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 ? Slight
  - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? Some beneficial increase.
  - (c) Existing land uses ? Slight. A home is being built.
  - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? None
  - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? Slight
  - (f) Demands for government services ? Slight
  - (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? None
  - (h) Utilities ? Slight increase in demand.
  - (i) Transportation ? Slight
  - (j) Safety ? None
  - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? None were identified.
2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:** None were identified as a result of this action. However, continued development of this type will eventually cause secondary and cumulative impacts.
3. **Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:** None are justified by this action.
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:** Other than the No Action Alternative, the only other one considered was to have the applicant drill a well to supply water to his home. This alternative could be more expensive than the chosen alternative.

PART III. Conclusion

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action: Because no significant impacts were identified in this EA, it is the appropriate level of analysis for the action.

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

Name: Wes McAlpin

Title: WRS, KRO DNRC Water Resources

Date: May 3, 2006