

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

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

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. Applicant/Contact name and address: Hawke's Nest Water Association, 485 Judy Avenue, Shelby, MT 59474-1947
2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30025329-76I
3. Water source name: Groundwater well
4. Location affected by project: The SE of section 11 and the N2 of section 14, T 29N, R 16W, Flathead County aka the Hawke's Nest Subdivision.
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits: The applicants wish to obtain a water use permit for a community water system which serves 4 different owners for domestic, lawn & garden irrigation and fire protection purposes. The system has been operational for approximately 10 years.
6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) US National Park Service, MT Historical Society, MT DEQ, MT Natural Heritage Program and the MT DFW & P.

**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: NA

**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: NA

**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:* No well log was provided by the applicants. However, due to the seasonal type limited use of this system, no impacts are anticipated.

**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 has already been installed and completed.

**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:* This area is frequented by bald eagles and grizzly bears on a routine basis. No significant impacts to any endangered species are expected due to 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:* The soil moisture content will improve on areas that are sprinkled.

**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:* No impacts expected.

**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 historic features have been identified on this parcel.

**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.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.

Determination: This action is consistent with other like developments approved by Flathead County.

**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

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes\_\_\_ No **XX**\_\_\_ 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? None
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? Some benefits to tax revenues.
- (c) Existing land uses? Slight changes when all four cabins are constructed.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? Some impacts even though cabins in this area are used mostly in the summers due to deep snow and cold temperatures.
- (f) Demands for government services? Slight increases in demand.
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None
- (h) Utilities? Slight increase in demand.
- (i) Transportation? Some increase in traffic.
- (j) Safety? Slight
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.

**2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:***

Secondary Impacts: None identified.

Cumulative Impacts: Over a period of time, developments of this nature are bound to have cumulative impacts on the environment. However, at this time no one knows when this will happen.

**3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** None are justified for 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:*** Since this system has been completed and is operational, no other alternatives were considered.

**PART III. Conclusion**

**1. *Preferred Alternative:*** Failure to approve this permit would prevent the applicants from using the water system which was built to serve their cabin sites. Forcing them to tear out the system may cause more environmental damage than allowing them to use the system.

**2**      *Comments and Responses*

**3.**      *Finding:*

*Yes\_\_\_ No\_XX\_ 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 or cumulative impacts were identified as a result of this action, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the action.*

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

*Name: Wes McAlpin*

*Title: Water Resource Specialist, Kalispell RO, DNRC Water Resources*

*Date: 01/25/2007*