

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:
http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:*

TREELINE SPRINGS, LLC
PO BOX 1369
Ennis, MT 59729

2. *Type of action:* Application for a beneficial water use permit #30013632-41F

3. *Water source name:* groundwater

4. *Location affected by project:* Sec. 14 T6S, R2E, Madison, Co.

5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*

The applicant is planning on drilling 6 wells for municipal use to irrigate a proposed golf course, to supply water for six reservoirs, to provide water for domestic uses, to provide water to a clubhouse, village and lodge and to provide water for snowmaking. A total appropriation is predicted at 390 gpm and 258 acre-feet. **The DNRC shall issue a permit if the applicant proves that the criteria in # 85-2-311, MCA, are met.**

6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)*

MONTANA STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE
MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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: The source of water is groundwater. Not identified by DFWP.

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: The source of water is groundwater, not on the DEQ list.

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: Groundwater is proposed to be diverted by 6 wells. The max flow has been planned at 390 gpm, and up to 285.5 acre-feet per year. DNRC hydrogeologist-Russell Levens has identified the project not inducing surface water.

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: Six wells will be pumped into collection points and will be pumped into the proposed irrigation system. Also an extensive pipeline system will be used to bring service to the commercial, domestic and snowmaking 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: According to a report from the Montana Natural Heritage Program, there are two species of special concern within the project area. The Lynx and the Grizzly Bear are listed under the Endangered Species Act as Threatened. The occurrence of both

of these species covers multiple townships and it is unlikely that this permit would have any significant impact on them. Water will be used at the new place of use to irrigate a golf course.

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: A map from the National Wetland Inventory shows that there are no wetlands near the proposed new pump sites.

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

Determination: Six ponds are proposed to collect the water from the wells. Wildlife may utilize the ponds proposed. No impact to fisheries has been identified.

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: It is unlikely that there would be degradation of soil quality or alteration of soil stability as a result of this permit. It is likely the soil will become better drained. According to the Madison County soil survey, the soils in this area are not heavy in salts that could contribute to 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: Possible affects could be from the excavation of ponds, burying pipeline, drilling wells and the creation of a golf course.

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

Determination: No impacts to air quality are expected due to this project

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.*

Determination: According to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), there are no previously recorded cultural sites or previous cultural resource inventories within the area. SHPO recommends that a cultural resource inventory be conducted due to the lack of any previous inventory. As this project is located on private property, no reconnaissance survey is required and any cultural resource inventory conducted would be at the discretion of the property owner.

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: There are no known environmental plans or goals in this 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: This project may have a significant impact on recreational or wilderness activities. The project is near a wilderness area.

HUMAN HEALTH - Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: This change application will have no impact 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:

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 Impacts identified.
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No Impacts identified.
- (c) Existing land uses? No Impacts identified.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No Impacts identified.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No Impacts identified.

(f) Demands for government services? No Impacts identified.

(g) Industrial and commercial activity? No Impacts identified.

Utilities? No Impacts identified.

(i) Transportation? No impacts identified

(j) Safety? No impacts identified

(k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances?

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

Secondary Impacts No secondary impacts have been identified at this time.

Cumulative Impacts No cumulative impacts identified at this time.

3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures: None at this time.

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:

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative COMPLETE THE PROJECT AS PROPOSED.

2. Comments and Responses NONE AT THIS TIME.

3. Finding:

Yes ___ No x 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: An EA is adequate for this project.

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

Name: Porter Dassenko

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: 2/28/2007