

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Gary Byers, PO Box 2958, Columbia Falls, MT 59912
2. *Type of action:* Permit to Appropriate Water No. 76I 30030030
3. *Water source name:* Ground Water Well
4. *Location affected by action:* SW1/4,SW1/4,SE1/4 Section 25, Township 37N, Range 22E
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
This application is to obtain a water use permit for a well located in the Glacier National Park Compact Area in the above described locations. The applicant proposes to divert water at a rate of 10 GPM up to 1.63 acre-feet per year. The proposed use is for a single-family domestic use with a 1 acre lawn and garden area. The improvement to the condition of the property benefits the appropriator.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

National Park Service is being notified per compact requirement.

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: Not applicable as the source is ground water.

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: Not applicable as the source is ground water.

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 will derive ground water from the aquifer at a rate of 10 gpm. The well is drilled to a depth of 59 feet below ground surface and has a static water level of 11.5 feet. There should not be an impact to groundwater quality or quantity according to the information provided on the well log.

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: A 6-inch diameter hole was drilled to a depth of 59 feet by a licensed well driller. Requirements and administrative rules of Montana for well drillers were followed and a well log filed at the Groundwater Information Center at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology.

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: Bear, both black bear and grizzly bear, as well as other wildlife frequent this area of Flathead County. The well is drilled and should not impact area wildlife.

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: There are not wetlands in the area of this project.

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

Determination: Not applicable, the project does not involve a pond.

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 impact

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 land use will not change so no impact is anticipated.

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

Determination: No impact

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

Determination: There will be no impact to any historical or archeological sites. The well is drilled.

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

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 planned land use.

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.

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

Determination: The project should not have an 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: Not applicable

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 well and its location and place of use has no apparent secondary impact.***
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures: None***
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: No action would most likely require water to be hauled for drinking. This is not a reasonable alternative when completed to a well producing 10+ gpm.***

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 responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Wes McAlpin
Title: Water Resources Specialist
Date: December 21, 2007