

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WATER PROTECTION BUREAU  
Metcalf Building, Helena, Montana 59620  
(406) 444-3080**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)**

**Division/Bureau:** Permitting & Compliance Division, MGWPCS Permits;

**Project or Application:** Woody Mountain Court; MTX000111

**Description of Project:** The permit renewal authorizes the discharge of treated residential-strength wastewater from the proposed Woody Mountain Court, located approximately 1 mile east of east Missoula. The permittee is Triple Tree, Inc. The permitted discharge is for a daily design capacity of 8,750 gallons per day (gpd) from a 25-lot mobile home subdivision. Raw sewage and wastewater is collected in a community septic tank where settleable and floatable solids are removed. The wastewater will receive Level 2 treatment. Effluent enters a dose tank-pump tank, which discharges to a subsurface drainfield prior to entering the ground water. Outfall 001 is located in the SW ¼ of Section 17, Township 13 North, Range 18 East in Missoula County at 46° 52' 55.8" North latitude and -113° 54' 45.1" West longitude. A source specific 300-foot ground water mixing zone is granted for Outfall 001. Discharge is to the ground water, which is "Class I" according to Montana Ground Water Quality Standards and Beneficial Uses.

**Benefits and Purpose of Proposal:**

Adequate treatment of residential-strength wastewater before discharging to ground water.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider:**

None

**Listing and appropriate evaluation of mitigation, stipulations and other controls enforceable by this or another government agency:**

See Statement of Basis

**Affected Environment and Effects from the Proposed Project:**

<b><u>Key to Rank</u></b>	
NA	<i>Not applicable</i>
N	<i>No effects</i>
B	<i>Potentially beneficial effects</i>
A	<i>Potentially adverse effects</i>
M	<i>Corrective action required</i>
P	<i>Additional permits will be required</i>

Rank	Consideration	Remarks
<b>PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>		
N	1. SOIL SUITABILITY, TOPOGRAPHIC AND/OR GEOLOGIC CONSTRAINTS (soil moisture, unstable soils or geologic conditions, steep slopes, erosion potential, subsidence potential, seismic activity)	Discharge will increase moisture in the unsaturated zone. No low permeability layers exist between the subsurface drainfields and the shallow ground water. There are no known unique geological features at the site.

N	2.	HAZARDOUS FACILITIES (power lines, hazardous waste sites, distances from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petroleum storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities and propane tanks)	
N	3.	AIR QUALITY (effects to or from project, dust, odors, emissions)	No significant impacts have been determined.
N	4.	GROUNDWATER RESOURCES & AQUIFERS (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, number of aquifers, mixing zones)	There will be no significant degradation outside of the mixing zone for Outfall 001 (see Statement of Basis for details and calculations). No ground water monitoring is required in the permit renewal.
N	5.	SURFACE WATER RESOURCES (quality/nondegradation, quantity/reliability, distribution, uses/rights, storm water controls, source of community supply, community treatment, mixing zones)	The nearest downgradient (west-northwest) surface water from Outfall 001 is the Clark Fork River, which is over 300 feet from the proposed subsurface drainfield. Impacts to surface water were previously determined nonsignificant degradation (March 2000). This review has been updated using the design flow and has been determined to be nonsignificant.
N	6.	VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITATS, INCLUDING FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (threatened, endangered, sensitive species, prime habitat, population stability, potential for human wildlife conflicts, effectiveness of post-disturbance plans)	The ground surface above the proposed drainfield area consists of natural grasses.
N	7.	UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE, OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES (biologic, topographic, wetlands (within one mile), floodplains (within one mile), scenic rivers, natural resource areas, etc.)	
N	8.	LAND USE (waste disposal, agricultural lands [grazing, cropland, forest lands, prime farmland], recreational lands [waterways, parks, playgrounds, open space, federal lands], access, commercial and industrial facilities [production & activity, growth or decline], growth, land-use change, development activity)	The drainfield area provides a naturally vegetated open area for wildlife.
N	9.	HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, & ARCHEOLOGICAL (sites, facilities, uniqueness, diversity)	Should cultural materials be inadvertently discovered, the permittee shall contact the State Historical Preservation office so the site may be investigated.
N	10.	AESTHETICS (visual quality, nuisances, odors, noise)	The septic tank, Level 2 treatment system, and drainfield (Outfall 001) are subsurface and are not visible and will not create aesthetic issues.
N	11.	DEMANDS ON OR CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INCLUDING LAND, WATER, AIR, OR ENERGY USE (need for new or upgraded energy sources, potential for recycling, etc.) {See (4), (5), and (8).}	Potable water will be provided from a public supply well in accordance with the Pubic Water Supply Bureau.

Rank	Consideration	Remarks
<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>		
NA	12. CHANGES IN DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS (population quantity, distribution and density, rate of change)	The proposed development is for year-around residences. Plans and specifications will need to be approved through the DEQ Subdivision Section since their approval has expired after 3 years.
N	13. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS (quality, quantity and affordability)	The wastewater treatment system will serve the entire 25-lot mobile home court.
NA	14. POTENTIAL FOR DISPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION OF BUSINESS OR RESIDENTS	
N	15. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY (medical services and facilities, police, fire protection and hazards [see (2)], emergency medical services [see (8), LAND USE for waste disposal])	The facility is for year-around residences. Should there be a need for any major change in design prior to construction, a permit modification would be necessary.
N	16. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME PATTERNS (quantity and distribution of employment, economic impact)	
NA	17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND REVENUES	
NA	18. EFFECTS ON SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES (social conventions/standards of social conduct), DEMANDS ON SOCIAL SERVICES (law enforcement, educational facilities [libraries, schools, colleges, universities], welfare, etc.)	Provides residential housing.
N	19. TRANSPORTATION NETWORK (condition and use of roads, traffic flow conflicts, rail, airport compatibility, etc.)	
N	20. CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, OR PLANS (conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning or capital improvement plans)	
NA	21. REGULATORY RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ( <i>Are we regulating pursuant to a police power? Does the Agency action restrict the use of the property beyond the minimum necessary to achieve compliance with the Act? What are the costs of such additional restrictions resulting from proposed permit conditions? Are there other, less restrictive ways of achieving the same goal?</i> See your assigned legal counsel for assistance preparing this section. [See the Private Property Assessment Act checklist accompanying this permit for details.]	

**Other groups or governmental agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:**  
DEQ Subdivision Section

**Public Involvement:**  
Thirty-day public comment period

**Individuals or groups contributing to this EA:**

Tanner Wilson with Northwest Territorial Landworks, Inc.

**Summary of Issues:**

See Statement of Basis

**Summary of Potential Effects:**

See Statement of Basis

**Cumulative Effects:**

None

**Recommendation:**

Issue Ground Water Discharge permit renewal

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:**

Prepare an EIS

Prepare a more detailed EA

No further analysis

EA prepared by: Pat Potts

Date: November 3, 2010

**Bureau Check-off**

AWMB \_\_\_\_\_

CSB \_\_\_\_\_

EMB \_\_\_\_\_

IEMB \_\_\_\_\_

WPB \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by:**

Jenny Chambers, Bureau Chief  
Water Protection Bureau  
Permitting & Compliance Division

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(Print name and title)

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(Signature)

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(Date)