

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:* LaDona Monk
125 Ashley Hills Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
2. *Type of action:* Permit to Appropriate Water 76LJ 30063181
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater
4. *Location affected by project:* SESWNW of Section 15, Township 28 north, Range 22 west, Flathead County
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*

The Applicant proposes to divert water from groundwater, by means of two wells, 160 and 175 feet in depth, from January 1 through December 31 at a rate of 92 GPM up to 39.4 AF, from points in the SESWNW of Section 15, Township 28 north, Range 22 west, Flathead County, for multiple domestic use (11.2 AF) and lawn and garden irrigation (28.2 AF), from January 1 through December 31. The Applicant proposes to provide water to 50 households and for lawn and garden irrigation on 13.2 acres. The place of use is generally located approximately 3.5 miles west of Kalispell in the NW of Section 28 in Township 28 north, Range 22 west, Flathead County, Montana.

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

Montana Natural Resource Program Species of Concern
 US Fish and Wildlife Service Wetlands Mapper
 Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey
 Montana DEQ..... MT Clean Water Act Information Center

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 is groundwater, therefore this is not applicable.

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 is groundwater, therefore this is not applicable.

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.

The Applicant proposes to divert water from ground water, by means of two wells from January 1 through December 31 at a rate of 92 GPM up to 39.4 AF. The wells are completed in the deep alluvial aquifer of the Flathead Valley. This aquifer is prolific, and is considered hydraulically controlled by the Flathead River and Lake. These sources will possibly experience depletion in the amount consumed by the proposed appropriation at some point in the future. The consumptive amount for this proposed use is calculated to be approximately 20.8 AF at an average rate of 13 GPM.

Determination: Given the extensive nature of the aquifer in this area it is unlikely this proposed appropriation will have significant, long-term impact on groundwater or surface water availability.

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.

The proposed appropriation includes the use of two wells located approximately 57 feet apart, Ashley Hills No. 1 (GWIC #82929) and No. 2 (GWIC #259159). These wells were drilled by licensed well drillers in accordance with MCA Title 37, Chapter 43 and ARM Title 36, Chapter 21; license number WWC-365 for well No. 1 and WWC-450 for No. 2. Both wells are completed in the deep alluvial aquifer. Well No. 1 was completed in 1986 to a depth of 190 ft, has a casing diameter of 6 inches from -2 to 178, a static water level of 77.65 ft, and perforations from 165-175 ft. Well No. 2 was completed in 2010 to a depth of 199 ft, has a casing diameter of 8 inches from -2 to 158 feet and 7 inches from 153 to 160 feet, a static water level of 78.22 ft, and perforations from 160-175 ft.

These wells will be capable of pumping at a total combined rate of 92 GPM while simultaneously pumping at 46 GPM during the peak irrigation season demand. The exact model of pump in well No. 1 is not known, but has been in use for numerous years and has proven capable of 46 GPM. Based on onsite evidence, past well test documents, and measured performance, the pump appears to be a Red Jacket 3 HP model 8FC. The proposed pump for well No. 2 is a Goulds 40GS50 capable of producing 46 GPM.

Determination: No impact.

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."

The Montana Natural Heritage Program website was referenced to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern" in vicinity of Township 28N and Range 22W, that could be impacted by the proposed project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service does not identify any threatened and endangered species in this geographic area. The State of Montana, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management identified the following species of special concern: Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*); Fisher (*Martes pennanti*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*); Black Tern (*Clidonias niger*); Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*); Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*); and Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*).

Determination: This proposed project is associated with the use of groundwater and therefore should not impact the above listed species.

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: The proposed place of use is not within the boundaries of wetlands mapped by the national wetlands inventory program.

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

Determination: N/A

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 degradation of soils is expected.

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: This proposed project will result in the use of water from two existing wells. Groundwater development will not impact existing vegetative cover.

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: Not applicable; project not located on State or Federal Lands.

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 should be no significant impacts on recreational or wilderness activities from this proposed use.

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

Determination: No impact.

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: No impact.

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:

Secondary Impacts: None

Cumulative Impacts: None

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:

The “no action” alternative to this proposed project will result in the landowner not having access to water for domestic purposes.

PART III. Conclusion

- 1. Preferred Alternative:** As proposed
- 2. Comments and Responses:** None

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: No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no EIS is necessary.

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

Name: Tim Eichner

Title: Hydrologist/Water Resources Specialist

Date: August 3, 2012