

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
WATER RIGHTS BUREAU
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of action:** Water use permit application no.
Water right change application no. 41K-187161-12
Petition or Other Action:

2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Kelly-Moore Paint Co Inc., 987
Commercial ST, PO Box 3016, San Carlos, CA 94070

3. **Water source name:** Sun River

4. **Location affected by action:** NWNESW Sec. 20, TWP 21N, RGE 06W, Teton
County

5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** DNRC
shall issue an authorization for change of appropriation if the
applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA, are met. Since
January 16, 1900, water has historically been diverted from Sun River
by a headgate located in the NWNESW Sec. 20, TWP 21N, RGE 06W, Teton
County. From March 15 to November 15, water is delivered to the place
of use through a ditch known as the Floweree Canal. The claimed rate
is 157.40 CFS up to 78,031.05 acre-feet per year for irrigation of
22,920 acres in Teton County.

Applicant proposes to change a portion of the place of use and install
a 128.86 acre pivot in Secs. 24 and 25, TWP 21N, RGE 04W. 74.66 acres
under the pivot have historically been flood irrigated and will be
converted to sprinkler irrigation. There will be 54.2 new acres under
the pivot. In exchange, 54.2 acres of flood irrigated land located
outside of the pivot in Sec. 24, T21N R04W will be taken out of
production. The historic point of diversion and headgate structure
will not be changed. Once diverted, water will continue to be
delivered using the Floweree Canal to a new pump site located in the
canal in Sec. 24, TWP 21N, RGE 04W. From that point, it will be
delivered to the pivot via pipeline.

6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
None

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Soils/Geologic Features:

Degradation of soil quality or alteration of soil stability, moisture
content, geologic substructure, unique geologic features, archeological
sites?

No impact expected.

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or
lake shores?

No impact expected.

Vegetation/Noxious weeds:

Change in or adverse affect on diversity and production of local plant species including any unique or endangered species (including trees, shrubs, grass, and aquatic plants)? Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?

No impact expected.

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

No impact expected.

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution?

No impact expected.

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)?

No impact expected.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife?

No impact expected.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

No impact expected.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

No impact expected.

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance?

No impact expected.

Populace:

Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? Alteration of social structure of community?

No impact expected.

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?

No impact expected.

Safety:

Creation of any health hazard or affect on existing emergency response or evacuation plans?

No impact expected.

Public Services:

Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? Have an effect upon local or state tax base?

No impact expected.

Utilities:

Creates need for new or altered facilities for any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?

No impact expected.

Aesthetics:

Alteration of any scenic vista or recreation opportunity or creation of an aesthetically offensive site to the public?

No impact expected.

Other:

None

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** No significant impacts have been identified. If an authorization is not issued, the applicant will not be able to enjoy the economic benefits resulting from the conversion of flood to sprinkler irrigation, such as improved crops, reduced labor, etc., due to better water application and efficiency of the sprinkler system.

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:

There will be no significant impacts, therefore, no EIS is required.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Dixie Brough

TITLE: Water Resource Specialist

DATE: January 21, 1997