

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. 76N-G(W)000499-00
Petition or Other Action:
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Clarence L. Eldredge, 1119 16th St.
3. **Water source name:** Shroder Creek
4. **Location affected by action:** SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23, Township 25N, Range 27W, Sanders Co.
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The DNRC shall issue an Authorization to Change if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA are met. The applicant is seeking to move the point of diversion from Shroder Creek to a point on the Thompson River in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23, Township 25N, Range 27W. The old point of diversion on Shroder Creek will be abandoned and the two mile existing ditch filled in. This is part of an environmental quality incentives program to assist in a Bull Trout recovery program. Discontinuing use of the ditch will stop spawning Bull Trout from using the ditch and will aid in their recovery.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
NRCS

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

Erosion:

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

NO

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

Air:

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

NO

Water:

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

NO

Floodplain:

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

NO

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

NO

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

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

NO

Historical Significance:

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

NO

Populace:

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

NO

Transportation:

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

NO

Safety:

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

NO

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

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?

YES

Aesthetics:

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

NO

Other:

NO

-
2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** No impacts have been identified. If the Authorization is not issued the applicant will not be allowed to change his point of diversion which in turn would be a detriment to the remaining Bull Trout in the Thompson River drainage.

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: Rich Russell
TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: April 17, 1998