

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- Type of action:** Water use permit application no.  
Water right change application no.40B- (C)050649-00  
Petition or Other Action:
- Applicant/Contact name and address:** Keefer Land & Livestock Co, Fergus  
Route, Roy, MT 59471
- Water source name:** groundwater well
- Location affected by action:** SE NW SW Sec 29, T18N, R21E Fergus Co.
- 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. The applicant is replacing an existing  
stock and domestic well (W202116-40B and C050649-40B) located in the  
SE NW SW Sec 29, T18N, R21E with a new 20 gpm well located in the SE  
NW SW Sec 29, T18N, R21E. The existing rights were for 25 gpm up to  
13.4 acre-feet, and 45 gpm up to 19.5 acre-feet.
- Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**  
None

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

- 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?

NO

**Aesthetics:**

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

NO

**Other:**

NO

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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 would need to find an alternative water source for his stockwatering and domestic use.

**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:

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: 1/19/99