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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of action:** 76G-106676

2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Roy Prock
409 Eastside Rd.
Deer Lodge, MT 59722-9766

3. **Water source name:** Peterson Creek

4. **Location affected by action:** SESENE Sec 8, T6N, R8W (POD)
E2E2 Sec 23, T7N, R9W
E2E2 Sec 26, T7N, R9W
E2E2 Sec 35, T7N, R9W

5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** Water will be conveyed through an existing irrigation ditch and pipeline system to provide water to a series of stockwater ponds. Water will be taken from the irrigation supply line, through pipes or a pivot lateral, and discharged into the ponds. The ponds will be filled at the end of the irrigation season (typically the end of July) and later in the fall (October through December).

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?
NONE

Erosion:
Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores?
Except for a short period after reservoir construction, when erosion off of the dam structure may occur, the reservoirs will decrease the in-stream silt load.

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?
NONE

Air:
Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.
NONE

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

None, if the reservoir filling is managed so that spilling does not occur.

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

None, There will bo no additional diversion locations on Pererson Creek, and the existing irrigation diversion will not be altered.

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:
Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife?

For fish there should be little change as this water will be taken in the fall when irrigation diversions have been curtailed and there is more water in the stream. Wildlife should benefit from at several new watering locations.

Endangered Species:
Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NONE

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:
Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

None, the added stock watering locations should increase the pasture productivity or at least useability.

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

NONE

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

NONE

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

NONE

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

NONE

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?

NONE

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?
NONE

Aesthetics:
Alteration of any scenic vista or recreation opportunity or creation of an aesthetically offensive site to the public?
None, the area is not readily visible from publicly accessed locations.

Other:

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2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: NONE

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:

1. Wells could be drilled to supply stock water. The land owner has attempted some wells without success. Development of wells, especially in an area of uncertain productivity, is expensive. Wells may not be available at the best locations for grazing management.
2. No action would cause some parts of the pasture to be under utilized because of stockwater shortages.

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:
Any impacts from the development are minor.

PREPARED BY: Jim Beck

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TITLE: AG SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]