

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. 41I-106685
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Noel, Duane and Beth
1821 Kelley Rd
Helena MT 59602
3. **Water source name:** Groundwater
4. **Location affected by action:** NWNWNW Sec 9, T10N, R3W
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** A 125' deep well is planned to provide water for irrigation of 40 acres. Water will be supplied through a center pivot lateral.
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?

None, The proposal will not involve a surface water diversion.

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, Given proper irrigation management.

Floodplain:

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

None

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

None

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, General land use will remain the same.

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?

The pump and center pivot lateral may require an additional electrical hookup, but any additional requirements would be small compared to the infrastructure in place to serve the surrounding area.

Aesthetics:

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

None

Other:

None

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts:

- 3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** Because of the Upper Missouri Basin Closure, only the development of groundwater or the purchase and change of an existing water right can supply additional irrigation water. No action would leave the impacts as they are now, but would lower the applicant's crop production. The use of a purchased water right would have to be considered from the standpoint of the property from where the right was removed.

PART III. CONCLUSION

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:

The action is typical of most small irrigation developments. The impacts will be minimal and will be limited to the well and lateral construction period and during the early portion of the first season.

PREPARED BY:

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