

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 right change application no.  
G(W)020697-00-41S
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** DUANE SCOTT  
PO BOX 164  
GERALDINE, MT 59446
3. **Water source name:** WARM SPRING CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** T17N, R17E AND T18N, R17E FERGUS COUNTY
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A TEMPORARY CHANGE OF USE AUTHORIZATION IF THE APPLICANT MEETS THE CRITERIA IN MCA 85-2-402 AND MCA 85-2-407. THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO TEMPORARILY DIVERT WATER FROM WARM SPRING CREEK FOR DUST CONTROL IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION.
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

**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?

YES ROAD CONSTRUCTION WILL CAUSE SOME TRAFFIC HAZARDS.

**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:** YES ROAD CONSTRUCTION MAY HAVE MANY SECONDARY IMPACTS BUT THE PROJECT IS TEMPORARY AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF 1999.
  3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** THE DNRC IS REQUIRED TO ISSUE A TEMPORARY

AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE IF THE APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN  
MCA 82-2-402 AND MCA 85-2-407.

**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 A is the appropriate level of  
analysis for this proposed action:

THE TIME FRAME FOR THE CHANGE IS ONLY 2 MONTHS AND THE SIZE OF THE PROJECT  
IS QUITE SMALL. THEREFORE, THERE SHOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: 8/23/99