

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. 41T-108476-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** ALAN SHAMMEL
23 SALT CREEK RD
HILGER, MT 59451
3. **Water source name:** DOG CREEK
4. **Location affected by action:** NW NE NW SECTION 29, T18N, R18E,
FERGUS CO.
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO DIVERT WATER FROM DOG CREEK INTO A PIPELINE THAT WILL FOLLOW DOG CREEK APPROXIMATELY 2400 FT AND WILL FLOW INTO A STOCK TANK. THE OVERFLOW WILL BE RETURNED TO DOG CREEK. THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A PERMIT TO APPROPRIATE WATER IF THE APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN MCA 85-2-311.
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?

YES SOIL QUALITY AND STABILITY WILL LIKELY BE DEGRADED AT THE LOCATION OF THE STOCK TANK.

Erosion:

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

YES EROSION AND SILTATION PATTERNS WILL LIKELY BE ALTERED AT THE POINT OF DIVERSION AND AT THE POINT WHERE THE EXCESS FLOW IS RETURNED TO THE STREAM BED.

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?

YES THE PROJECT INTENDS TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF WATER IN DOG CREEK BELOW THE PLACE OF USE WHERE THE WATER IS RETURNED TO THE STREAM BED. THE PIPELINE WILL CARRY WATER ACROSS THE CONTACT ZONE WITH THE MADISON FORMATION, WHICH DEPLETES THE STREAM FLOW CONSIDERABLY.

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?

YES THE DIVERSION AND EXPOSED PIPELINE COULD BE CONSIDERED AESTHETICALLY OFFENSIVE.

Other:

NO

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NONE
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** THE DNRC IS REQUIRED TO ISSUE THE PERMIT IF THE APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN MCA 85-2-311.

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:

WHILE THERE IS SEVERAL ASPECTS OF POTENTIAL IMPACT, THE IMPACTS WOULD BE SMALL IS SCALE AND WOULD NOT AFFECT ANYONE OTHER THAN THE APPLICANT.

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: 9/28/99