

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

- Type of action:** Water right change application no. 41G-G(W)199248-00
- Applicant/Contact name and address:** Salvagni Ranch L.L.C.
246 MT Hwy 2 E
Whitehall MT 59759-9610
- Water source name:** Big Pipestone Creek
- Location affected by action:** NWNESW S01 T01N R04W Jefferson Co
- Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:**
The applicant proposes to add the pod in Section 01 to run a center pivot sprinkler on historically irrigated acreage. By moving the pod the applicant will leave more water in the source and irrigate the same number of acres with less water more efficiently.
- 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?

There may be a temporary disturbance while the system is being installed, but the effects should be short term.

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?

Any change would be minimal and would likely be temporary also. Installing this system should not effect the spread or establishment of noxious weeds.

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:

None

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts:

None

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

There are no reasonable alternatives to this action. No action would result in the water right remaining as is. This is an historic right. Adding a point of diversion near the sprinkler system will leave more water in the channel which would not have an adverse affect. The water is being used more efficiently. This historic right will continue to be used for irrigation of 52 acres.

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:

An EIS is not required. The land use is not changing, so there could not possibly be significant environmental impact.

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: [Automatic date code removed]