

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 TEMPORARY PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 40C-Q111490-00
- Applicant/Contact name and address:**
M. K. WEEDEN CONSTRUCTION
PO BOX 1164
LEWISTOWN, MT 59457
- Water source name:** FORT PECK LAKE
- Location affected by action:** SESWSE SEC. 6, T19N, R30E, PETROLEUM COUNTY
Crooked Creek Marina
- Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** The DNRC shall issue a temporary water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA are met. This application is to use 200 GPM up to 3.24 acre-feet for dust control and compaction during road construction on Crooked Creek Road beginning SE sec. 13, T19N, R28E and ending SE sec. 6, T19N, R30E, Petroleum County. This temporary permit will expire 08/03/2000.
- Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Montana Natural Heritage Program
State Historic Preservation Office
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This environmental assessment addresses only the possible impacts that may occur at the point of diversion. The point of diversion is in close proximity to the boat ramp at the Crooked Creek Marina. Other possible environmental impacts associated with the project should be addressed in the Environmental Assessment completed by the Federal Lands Highway Administration.

- 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 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Diversion of water will occur near the boat ramp where the soil is stable allowing for heavy loads to be transported by water trucks. No unique geologic features will be degraded as this area already experiences significant traffic.

Erosion:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Pumping from Fort Peck Lake with an industrial pump should not modify the lake shore.

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 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It is unlikely any significant plant populations exist at the point of diversion given the heavy traffic already experienced in the area. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program web-site found no plant species of concern identified at the point of diversion. It is unlikely that any noxious weeds would be spread from the point of diversion by the tanker trucks.

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

A slight deterioration of air quality might be experienced periodically due to the increased exhaust emissions of the tanker trucks.

Water:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In the immediate area of the suction hose from the pump there may be some increased turbidity in the water. Given the vast quantity of water in Fort Peck Lake and the temporary period of this permit, changes in water quantity in Fort Peck Lake will not be measurable. Water quality could be impacted if the petroleum products used to operate the pump were to spill. A search of MT Dept. of Environmental Quality web-site shows that Fort Peck Lake has been identified by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as needing a TMDL plan developed. This temporary permit will have no significant impact on the total maximum daily loads in Fort Peck Lake.

Floodplain:

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

NO IMPACT

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The point of diversion already experiences considerable traffic and public visitation. Therefore, no change in wildlife habitat will occur.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Montana Natural Heritage Program web-site found no bird species of concern in the area of the point of diversion. Given that the point of diversion is located at a marina, it is unlikely any other animal endangered species are present. If they were present, this temporary activity would have no increased impact.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

It is possible that the diversion of water at the marina may interfere with the use of the marina. The applicant has contacted the marina operator and has obtained permission to divert water in the marina area.

Historical Significance:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

A literature search by the State Historic Preservation Office indicates three previous cultural inventories have been conducted in the area and recommends no further surveys of the site.

Populace:

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

NO IMPACT

Transportation:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Increase traffic hazards may result in the marina area.

Safety:

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

NO IMPACT

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 IMPACT

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 IMPACT

Aesthetics:

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

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The diversion of water at the marina may interfere with recreation opportunities.

Other:

NO

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** The impacts addressed by the Federal Lands Highway Administration in there environmental assessment may be considered secondary impacts. These impacts have been mitigated, if necessary in the project plan.
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** The contractor would have to obtain water in possibly a more sensitive location in terms of water quantity and other environmental impacts. The no action alternative would result in the road construction not occurring.

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:

An EA is adequate for this action. There will be no significant impacts, therefore, an EIS is not required.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST

DATE: [Automatic date code removed]