

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 PERMIT APPLICATION NO.
43C-106059-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
Kenneth J. Wahl
3650 Riverview Dr
Redding CA 96001
3. **Water source name:** Unnamed Tributary of West Rosebud Creek
4. **Location affected by action:** SENWSW Section 4, Twp 5 South, Rge 18 East, Stillwater County
5. **Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A WATER USE PERMIT IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-311, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE GPM UP TO 145.17 ACRE-FEET FOR WILDLIFE PONDS.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Montana Historic Preservation Office
Montana Natural Heritage Program
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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? **These ponds will fill with groundwater to a certain level, then be filled with surface water to capacity. When filled to capacity with surface water, they may cause some additional water to be in the soils surrounding the ponds. The impact is not expected to be significant.**

The Montana Historic Preservation office did not identify any historical or archeological sites of significance in this area.

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores? **These ponds should have no impact on erosion or siltation patterns in the area.**

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? **Soil will be disturbed and noxious weeds may arise. It is expected that the landowner will take appropriate measures to ensure there is no permanent establishment of noxious weeds.**

The Montana Natural Heritage Program did not identify any unique or endangered plant species in this area.

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants. **The construction of these ponds should have no affect on air quality.**

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution? **Ponding of the water could cause a rise in the temperature of the water, but the affect is not expected to be significant.**

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)? **The construction of these ponds should have no significant affect on the floodplain routing in this area.**

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife? **This proposed use should have no adverse affect on fish or wildlife.**

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species? **The Montana Natural Heritage Program did not identify any unique or endangered animal species in this area. This proposed use should have no adverse affect on endangered species.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area? **The present land use is pasture land and this use would change that for the area of the ponds only. Grazing would still take place in the area around the ponds.**

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance? **The Montana Historic Preservation Office did not identify any areas of historic significance within this project area. No historic items were noted during a site visit to the area.**

Populace:

Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? Alteration of social structure of community? **The construction of these ponds should have no affect on the populace in the area.**

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods? **This proposed use should have no significant affect on transportation.**

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? **If constructed properly, these ponds should not create an aesthetically offensive site.**

Other: NO

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: **NONE**

3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:
No action. The construction of these ponds would not take place.

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, NO EIS IS REQUIRED.**

PREPARED BY:

NAME: Marty Van Cleave
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]