

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.
43D-P107089-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
Evergreen Development Inc.
PO Box 21325
Billings MT 59104-1325
3. **Water source name:** Wells
4. **Location affected by action:** NWSENE Sec 7, T3S, R24E, Carbon 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 45 GPM UP TO 21 ACRE-FEET FOR A NEW SUBDIVISION TO CONTAIN 21 HOMESITES.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Natural Heritage Program
State Historic Preservation Office
Carbon County Planning Office

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? **The area will be changed from what appears to be irrigated pasture to residential. There will still be a substantial amount of lawn and garden irrigation in the area. The State Historic Preservation Office indicated that there were no previously recorded historic or archeological sites in the area of this proposed development.**

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns which modify stream beds or lake shores? **There should be little potential for erosion from the proposed development.**

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? **The Montana Natural Heritage Program Office did not identify any plant species of special concern in the area of this proposed development. Soil will be disturbed when this development is being built, so there is some potential for the spread of noxious weeds. Once the lots are occupied, the noxious weeds should be controlled by the landowner.**

Air:

Deterioration of air quality, or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants. **This proposed development should have no significant affect on air quality in the area.**

Water:

Alteration of surface water or groundwater quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity or quantity or distribution? **The presence of 21 homesites in an area that previously had none could cause an increase in the possibility of groundwater contamination**

from sewage and fertilization. If operated according to normal specifications, there should be little possibility of significant environmental impact.

Floodplain:

Changes in drainage patterns, course or magnitude of flood flows, or exposure of people/property to hazards (flood)? **This proposed development should have no impact on the floodplain.**

Wildlife Habitat/Migration:

Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat? Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife? **Some wildlife will likely be displaced as a result of this development, but the impact is not expected to be significant.**

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species? **The Montana Natural Heritage Program Office indicated there is a significant Blue Heron rookery in this area. This proposed development is in an area of open pasture and should have no significant adverse impact on the bird rookery.**

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

Existing Land Use:

Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area? **This will be an alteration of the land use but the adverse affect should not be significant. The existing land use is marginal irrigated land.**

Historical Significance:

Destruction or alteration of a natural area of scientific or educational value or prehistoric or paleontological importance? **The State Historic Preservation Office did not identify any items of historical significance in the area. A site visit was made and no significant items of historical significance were observed.**

Populace:

Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area? Alteration of social structure of community? **There will be an increase in the population of the area with 21 new homesites. The main impact from this should be to Laurel and Billings. This should not have a significant adverse affect on the area.**

Transportation:

Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods? **There could be some transportation issues as the highway serving this area is a very busy one. The roads leading in and out of the subdivision will have to be approved by the Montana Department of Transportation. The potential adverse environmental impact should not be significant.**

Safety:

Creation of any health hazard or affect on existing emergency response or evacuation plans? **With additional people in the area, there will be some impact on the emergency response or evacuation plans. The impact is not expected to be significant.**

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? **The addition of 21 families in this area would cause an increase in public services needed. The impacts will be addressed by the planning board for Carbon County.**

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? **There would be an increase in utilities needed with the addition of 21 homesites. The Carbon County planning board will address those concerns.**

Aesthetics:

Alteration of any scenic vista or recreation opportunity or creation of an aesthetically offensive site to the public? **If the development is planned and constructed in a proper manner, there should be little adverse affect on the aesthetics in the area.**

Other: **There should be no other significant adverse environmental impacts from this proposed development.**

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts: **NONE**
3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative: **No action. The developers could decide not to construct this subdivision.**

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 SHOULD BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS, THEREFORE, NO EIS IS REQUIRED.**

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: [Automatic date code removed]