

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.
76K-P109483-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**
David A. Sabey
101 Elliot Ave West, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98119-4220
3. **Water source name:** GROUNDWATER WELL
4. **Location affected by action:** NESWNW, SECTION 16, T27N, R19W, FLATHEAD 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 OBTAIN A LEGAL RIGHT TO USE THE WATER IN A WELL. THIS WELL WAS DRILLED ON THE OWNERS PROPERTY USING STANDARD WELL DRILLING PRACTICES WITH MINIMAL DISTURBANCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS EA CHECKLIST WILL ADDRESS IMPACTS TO THE PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE WELL LOCATION. THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO DIVERT WATER YEAR ROUND AT A RATE OF 125 GPM NOT TO EXCEED 223 ACRE-FEET PER YEAR. THE PURPOSE IS FOR TWO HOMES AND 88 ACRES OF IRRIGATION IN THE NW QUARTER OF SECTION 16.
- 6.
7. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**
MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE (SHPO)
NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

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?

THIS APPLICATION WILL INCREASE THE SOIL MOISTURE CONTENT OVER 88 ACRES FOR IRRIGATION PURPOSES.

A QUERY WITH SHPO REVEALED NO KNOWN ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES THAT WILL BE EFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED USE.

Erosion:

Alteration of erosion or siltation patterns that modify streambeds or lake shores?

NO, THE PROPOSED SITE DOES NOT COME INTO CONTACT WITH ANY WATER BODIES.

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 PROPOSED USE IS FOR PASTURE IRRIGATION. THE AREA IS PREDOMINATELY RURAL AGRICULTURAL LAND. THE APPLICANT PROPOSES TO KEEP THE PASTURE AND SURROUNDING AREA IN ITS NATURAL STATE WITHOUT CHANGE IN VEGETATION TYPE.

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, turbidity, quantity, or distribution?

THERE WILL BE SLIGHT ALTERATION OF GROUNDWATER QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION DUE TO WELL PUMPING.
IF FERTILIZERS ARE USED ON THE PASTURE, A PORTION OF THEM MAY LEACH INTO THE SHALLOW GROUNDWATER AQUIFER. THE AMOUNT OF LEACHATE WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE WITH RESPECT TO THE VOLUME OF THE AQUIFER.

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?

FISH HABITAT WILL NOT BE AFFECTED AS THE PROPOSED PROPERTY DOES NOT BORDER AND WATER BODIES. THE NHP SEARCH RESULTED IN SEVERAL SPECIES SIGHT LISTINGS. HOWEVER, THE SITES WERE NOT WITHIN THE SAME SECTION AS THE PROPOSED APPLICATION. THEREFORE, THE PERMIT ISSUANCE WILL NOT CREATE A BARRIER TO THE MIGRATION OF FISH OR WILDLIFE.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

SEE **WILDLIFE HABITAT/MIGRATION** ABOVE. THE COMPLETE LISTING FROM NHP IS ATTACHED FOR ADDITIONAL REFERENCE. THIS APPLICATION SHOULD NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT ANY 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 EXISTING LAND USE IS RURAL AGRICULTURAL LAND. THE PROPOSED WATER USE WILL INCREASE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY OF THE EXISTING LAND USE.

Historical Significance:

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

A QUERY WITH SHPO INDICATED NO KNOWN SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS AREA.

Populace:

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

NO, THIS APPLICATION IS TO IRRIGATE 88 ACRES AND TO SUPPLY TWO HOMES. TWO HOUSEHOLDS WILL NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY.

Transportation:

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

NO, TWO HOUSEHOLDS WILL NOT ADVERSELY EFFECT EXISTING TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

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?

THE TWO DOMESTIC HOMES WILL NEED UTILITIES.

Aesthetics:

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

NO

Other:

THE APPLICANT WILL BE INFORMED OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NHP. SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE VICINITY OF THIS PROJECT BUT WERE NOT IN THE DIRECT LOCATION.

2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** NO KNOWN IMPACTS
3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:**
 - 1) ISSUE THE PERMIT, THERE IS A NET LONG TERM POSITIVE IMPACT TO THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND LITTLE TO NO IMPACT TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.
 - 2) REJECT THE APPLICATION DUE TO UNKNOWN LONG TERM CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO THE HUMAN OR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. THE APPLICANT WILL NOT HAVE WATER FOR THEIR PASTURE OR DOMESTIC USES.

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. THE IMPACTS ARE NOT SIGNIFICANT ENOUGH TO REQUIRE AN EIS.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: CRISTY CARTER

TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST

DATE: [Automatic date code removed]