

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 use permit application no. 76LJ-111220-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Robin & Craig Harrison, 360 Tetrault Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901
3. **Water source name:** Whitefish River
4. **Location affected by action:** SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 34, Township 30N, Range 21W, Flathead Co.
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. The applicant is seeking a water use permit to irrigate one acre of lawn and garden from the Whitefish River. A one horsepower submersible pump will be used to divert 24 gpm for 3.5 hours per day during the irrigation season from June 1, to October 1, inclusive of each year in the above affected location.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** Montana Natural Heritage Program and the State Historic Preservation 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?

No archeology sites have been identified and there are no unique geologic features. Soil quality will not be affected from the sprinkler system.

Erosion:

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

NO

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?

There will be a positive effect by the elimination of 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?

There will be a minor impact to the quantity but it will be imperceptible.

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?

The Whitefish River has no specific data on the presence of Bull Trout; however, the pump is small and will have a screened intake to eliminate possible annihilation of fry.

Endangered Species:

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

No endangered species have been identified for this location.

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?

The State Historic Preservation Office found nothing for this location.

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?

Minor

Aesthetics:

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

Landscaping will have a positive effect.

Other:

NO

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2. **Secondary and cumulative impacts:** None
 3. **Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative:** If the permit is not issued the applicant would need to find an alternative water source such as a well. If the area were left in its natural state the positive effect of enhanced aesthetic value would not be experienced.

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: No significant impacts have been identified, therefore no EIS is necessary.

PREPARED BY:

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TITLE: Water Resources Specialist
DATE: June 26, 2000