

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 change application no.  
43BJ-G(W)120282-00
- Applicant/Contact name and address:**  
EVERGREEN INC.  
HC 54, BOX 365  
NYE, MT 59061
- Water source name:** EAST BOULDER RIVER
- Location affected by action:** SESWSW, SEC 10, T3S, R13E, SWEET GRASS COUNTY,  
NWSWSE, SEC 33, T2S, R13E, SWEET GRASS COUNTY.
- Narrative summary of the proposed project and action to be taken:** THE DNRC SHALL ISSUE A WATER USE AUTHORIZATION IF AN APPLICANT PROVES THE CRITERIA IN 85-2-402, MCA ARE MET. THIS APPLICATION IS TO ADD TWO POINTS OF DIVERSION AND CHANGE A PORTION OF THE CLAIMS PURPOSE TO INDUSTRIAL. THE DIVERSIONS WILL BE TRUCK MOUNTED PUMPS AND THE WATER WILL BE USED FOR ROAD WATERING. 4.5 ACRES OF EXISTING IRRIGATION WILL BE TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION TO PROVIDE WATER FOR THIS CHANGE. THE FLOW RATE IS .128 CFS UP TO 13.9 ACRE-FEET ACRE-FEET.
- Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**  
MT FWP, MT DNRC, MT NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM AND THE MT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

**PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

- 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 , THERE WILL BE NO DISTURBANCE OF SOIL STRUCTURE.

**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?

NO

**Air:**

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

NO, NOT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT LEVELS.

**Water:**

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

NO , THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF WATER USED.

**Floodplain:**

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

NO, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN DRAINAGE PATTERNS.

**Wildlife Habitat/Migration:**

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

NO

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO, NONE REPORTED IN AFFECTED AREA.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
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**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?

NO, NO ITEMS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE REPORTED IN THE AFFECTED 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

**Transportation:**

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

NO, TRUCKS ON THE ROAD WILL HAVE MINIMAL AFFECT ON TRAFFIC PATTERNS OR MOVEMENT.

**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?

NO

**Other:**

NO

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

**3. Reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative: NO IMPACTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. IF THE CHANGE APPLICATION WAS NOT APPROVED, AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE FOR WATER WOULD BE SOUGHT.**

**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.

PREPARED BY:

NAME: JAN LANGEL  
TITLE: WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST  
DATE: [Automatic date code removed]