

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.  
76LJ-Y113032-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:**  
LARRY F. BRAZDA  
140 AURORA DR  
LAKESIDE, MT 59922
3. **Water source name:** FLATHEAD LAKE
4. **Location affected by action:** NE SW NW, SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 26N, RANGE 20W,  
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. THIS APPLICATION IS TO USE 50 GPM UP TO 15 ACRE-FEET FOR MULTIPLE DOMESTIC FROM MARCH 1, TO NOVEMBER 30 INCLUSIVE OF EACH YEAR. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL CONSIST OF FIVE DOMESTIC HOUSEHOLDS EACH HAVING ONE IRRIGATED ACRE OF LAWN AND GARDEN FROM THE MANMADE WATER WAY CONNECTED TO FLATHEAD LAKE AT PEACEFUL BAY.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:** FLATHEAD COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE WAS CONTACTED. THE DEVELOPMENT AREA FOR THE WATER SYSTEM IS WITHIN AN AREA WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN DISTURBED DUE TO THE APPROVAL OF A LAKESHORE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT BY THE FLATHEAD COUNTY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND THE FLATHEAD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. BEFORE APPROVING THE 5 LOT SUBDIVISION AND ALLOWING WORK TO CONTINUE UNDER A PREVIOUSLY GRANTED MAJOR VARIANCE APPLICATION FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF A MANMADE WATERWAY THE DEVELOPER WAS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, (EIS).

THIS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WILL LOOK AT POSSIBLE IMPACTS CAUSED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A WATER USE PERMIT AND NOT THE APPROVAL OF THE SUBDIVISION AND THE MAINTENANCE WORK DONE ON THE MANMADE WATERWAY. THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT LOCATED AT THE FLATHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 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?

A SITE VISIT FOUND NO UNIQUE GEOLOGIC FEATURES OR ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES. THE PROPOSED LANDSCAPING WILL ASSIST SOIL STABILITY AND NO SALINE WAS APPARENT IN THE SOIL; HOWEVER, A SOIL SAMPLE WAS NOT TAKEN.

**Erosion:**

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

NO MORE WATER WILL BE PUMPED THAN WHAT IS NEEDED. THERE WILL BE NO EROSION.

**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?

A SITE VISIT FOUND ALREADY AUTHORIZED DOZER WORK COMPLETED.

**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?

FLATHEAD LAKE IS A CLASS A-1 WATER BODY ON THE DEQ 303(d) LIST FULLY SUPPORTING ALL USES EXCEPT FOR ONLY PARTIAL SUPPORT OF AQUA LIFE. THIS APPROPRIATION IN RELATION TO THE AVAILABLE AMOUNT WILL NOT HAVE AN EFFECT ON WATER QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

**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?

AN ON SITE INSPECTION FOUND AN AREA ALREADY DEVEPOLED AND OCCUPIED. THIS IS MERELY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN A DEVELOPED AREA WHERE AN OCCASIONAL DEER MAY STILL PASS THROUGH. ANY IMPACT WOULD BE MINOR.

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

THE ON SITE VISIT FOUND NO ENDANGERED PLANT OR ANIMAL SPECIES ON OR ADJACENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT SITE.

**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 ON SITE VISIT FOUND NO CULTURAL PROPERTIES TO BE IMPACTED BY THIS UNDERTAKING.

**Populace:**

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

THE WATER SYSTEM WILL NOT ALTER THE POPULACE.

**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?

MINOR

**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?

NEW ELECTRIC POWER WILL BE NEEDED AND ANY IMPACT IS MINOR.

**Aesthetics:**

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

THE AESTHETICS WILL BE IMPROVED WITH IRRIGATION WATER FOR LANDSCAPPING.

**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 USE OF THIS WATER WERE NOT APPROVED, THE DEVELOPER WOULD NEED TO DRILL A WELL AT A MUCH GREATER EXPENSE.

**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. An EIS WAS COMPLETED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND THIS ACTION IS FOR THE WATER USE WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAS ONLY MINOR IMPACT.

PREPARED BY:

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