

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. 76K-113048-00
2. **Applicant/Contact name and address:** Paul K. & Lavon R. Mooring, P.O. Box 1077, Bigfork, MT 59911
3. **Water source name:** Swan Lake
4. **Location affected by action:** W½ SW¼ SE¼, Section 30, Township 26N, Range 18W, Lake 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. The action of issuing the Permit to Appropriate Water is an after the fact request by the applicant to become compliant with the Water Use Act of July 1, 1973. The water system was installed in 1988 and has been used since that time. This application is merely to have the water use recognized as a legal property right by the State of Montana. Swan Lake is such a voluminous source that the use of water by the applicant is imperceptible. The applicant is requesting 10 gpm up to 1.63 acre-feet for domestic household use. The physical work was completed 12 years ago and therefore removing it would be a greater impact to the environment than leaving it in place. The facts in this situation signify there will be no impact to the physical or human environment.
6. **Agencies consulted during preparation of the environmental assessment:**  
None

**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

**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

**Water:**

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

NO

**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?

NO

**Endangered Species:**

Adverse effects on any unique or endangered species?

NO

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| <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

**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?

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:** Drill a well rather than use lake water or continue illegally using water.

**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 impacts have been identified, therefore no EIS is necessary.

PREPARED BY:

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DATE: August 24, 2000