

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Water Resources Division  
Water Rights Bureau

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact**

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:  
[http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis\\_ea.html](http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html)

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Riverside Country Club  
2500 Springhill Rd.  
Bozeman, Mt 59718-8466
2. *Type of action:* 30018381-41H
3. *Water source name:* Well
4. *Location affected by project:* NWSWNW Sec 25 T2S R5E, Gallatin County
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*  
The applicant has drilled a 116 foot deep well located within the Bozeman Solvent Site Controlled Groundwater Area ( BSSCGWA). A total of 5 acres of golf greens and tees will be irrigated using 34 GPM up to 9.39 acre-feet. A Permit is needed because this well is in the BSSCGWA. The DNRC shall issue a permit if the applicant proves that the criteria in # 85-2-311, MCA, are met.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) Montana State Historical Preservation Office, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Gallatin County Planning Office, Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

**Part II. Environmental Review**

**1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Water quantity** - Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.

*Determination:* The source of water is groundwater from a well, which has not been listed as chronically or periodically dewatered by the DFWP.

**Water quality** - *Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

*Determination:* These wells are not on the DEQ, 303 (d) list. Water quality is improved when water from the BSSCGWA is used for irrigation.

**Groundwater** - *Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

*Determination:* This groundwater is not immediately or directly connected to the surface water, so there will be no impact to surface flows.

**DIVERSION WORKS** - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

*Determination:* This 34 GPM well was drilled by a licensed well driller. The well will have no channel impact, or impact on riparian areas or create any barriers.

#### **UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Endangered and threatened species** - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any "species of special concern," or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or "species of special concern."*

*Determination:* No species of concern have been identified in this area.

**Wetlands** - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

*Determination:* This well was not drilled in a wetland.

**Ponds** - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

*Determination:* This application does not involve a pond. There will be no impact to existing resources.

**GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

*Determination:* Saline seep is not found in this area. This well will not degrade soil quality, alter soil stability, or moisture content.

**VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS** - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

*Determination:* Existing vegetative cover was altered when the motel was constructed. A lawn is being planted, and noxious weeds will likely be controlled.

**AIR QUALITY** - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

*Determination:* No significant impacts

**HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES** - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project.*

*Determination:* Since the golf course is already built, and the well already drilled SHPO has concluded that any historic or archaeological sites that may have been located within the area have already been destroyed.

**DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY** - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

*Determination:* None identified

## **HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

**LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS** - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

*Determination:* The Gallatin County Planning board has no restrictions against using this well for irrigation of a golf course.

**ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES** - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

*Determination:* This project is located on private land, with no access to wilderness activities. No impact is expected. Being a golf course, members & their guests may golf, and x-country ski in the winter. Both are recreational activities.

**HUMAN HEALTH** - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

*Determination:* No impact on human health is expected.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** - Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.

Yes \_\_\_ No X If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

*Determination:* Private property rights are not impacted by this proposed action.

**OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

*Impacts on:*

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? No significant impact
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? No significant impact
- (c) Existing land uses? No significant impact
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No significant impact
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No significant impact
- (f) Demands for government services? No significant impact
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No significant impact
- (h) Utilities? No significant impact
- (i) Transportation? No significant impact
- (j) Safety? No significant impact
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? No significant impact

**2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:***

Secondary Impacts No secondary impacts have been identified

Cumulative Impacts No cumulative impacts have been identified

**3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** Mitigation or stipulations are not planned at this time.

**4. *Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:*** The applicant could use their existing water rights from the East Gallatin River to irrigate the lawn. They prefer to use a well to irrigate the greens and tees, in case that the East Gallatin River water becomes unavailable.

*PART III. Conclusion*

1. ***Preferred Alternative*** The applicant prefers to irrigate using their well.
2. ***Comments and Responses*** No comments or responses were received at this time.
3. ***Finding:***  
Yes \_\_\_ No ***X*** *Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?*

*If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:* Significant impacts have not been identified. An EIS is not required for this action.

*Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Jan R Mack  
*Title:* Water resources Specialist  
*Date:* January 31, 2006