

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Revised 11-00

Note: Instructions to DNRC staff for preparing this EA can be found at:
http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/eis_ea.html

Part I. Proposed Action Description

- 1. Applicant/Contact name and address:** Beverly J. Withey, Carol Lou Gustafson & Clifford R. Crick, 62 E Nicklaus Ave., Kalispell, MT 59901
- 2. Type of action:** Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ- 30016455
- 3. Water source name:** Groundwater well
- 4. Location affected by action:** S2 SE SE SE, section 27, T35 N, R21 W, Flathead County in lot 13 of Skyline Acreage subdivision.
- 5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:** The applicants propose to divert water from a 26 foot deep drilled well at a rate of 8 gpm up to 1.63 acre-feet annually for domestic and lawn & garden purposes. The means of diversion is hand pump. This well was drilled some time in the last 30 years , however, no well log can be found nor was any water right filed.
- 6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:**
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) MT State Historic Preservation Office, MT Natural Heritage Program, MT DEQ & MT Dept of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

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 for this project is groundwater that has not been determined to be hydrologically connected to surface water in the area.

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: No impact. The source is groundwater.

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: No known impacts. There is no record or well log for this well. With the flow rate applied for, no adverse impacts are anticipated.

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: No impacts. This is an existing system with no modifications anticipated.

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: Although this area contains several sensitive plants and is frequented by Gray Wolves, Grizzly Bears and the Lynx, no impacts are anticipated because no additional construction or system modification has been identified as part of this proposed action. This well and mobile home have been in use at this site since at least 1995.

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 action does not involve any wetlands.

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

Determination: No impacts. There are no ponds on this site.

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: Not impacts. This project has been completed for quite some time with no alterations proposed for this action. There is no saline seep in this area.

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: No impacts. No additional ground will be disturbed by this action.

Air quality

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

Determination: No 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: No impacts. No historic sites were identified on this tract.

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: This project is consistent with the land use of the area.

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 will not impact this type of activities.

Human health

Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.

Determination: No impacts.

Private property

Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights. Yes___ No_XX_. If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.

Determination:

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 ? None
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues ? None
- (c) Existing land uses ? None
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? None
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? None
- (f) Demands for government services ? None
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? None
- (h) Utilities ? None
- (i) Transportation ? None
- (j) Safety ? None
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances ? None

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population: Secondary or cumulative impacts to surface water will be assessed by the National Park Service as part of the Glacier National Park Compact with the State of Montana.

3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures: No mitigation measures are required 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: No other reasonable alternatives were considered for this project. If the no

action alternative is taken, the applicants will no longer be able to use the well that has served their property for many years and they will be required to haul water for their cabin which will cause more environmental impacts than those identified in this action.

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: Because no significant impacts were identified as a result of this action, the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this project.

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

Name: Wes McAlpin

Title: Water Resource Specialist, Kalispell RO, DNRC Water Resources

Date: February 15, 2006