

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:** Jim F. & Elizabeth M. Gurden, 10336 Longview Rd., Atwater, CA 95301
- 2. Type of action:** Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30018612-76LJ
- 3. Water source name:** 120 foot deep drilled well.
- 4. Location affected by action:** Section 2, T 36N, R 22W, Flathead County in the Glacier National Park Compact Area.
- 5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:** The applicants propose to use water from this well at their cabin site for domestic and lawn irrigation. No well log can be found, however, the well will be pumped at a rate of 8 gpm with a maximum annual use of 1.63 acre-feet.
- 6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:** MT Natural Heritage Program, MT Historical Society and MT Dept of Fish, Wildlife & Parks Website. **(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)**

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 the water for this project is groundwater, which 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 expected impact. The source for this action 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 expected impacts. The use will for a single family recreation cabin site that will be used on a limited basis.

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: Minimal impacts are expected.

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 general area contains several sensitive plants and is frequented by Gray Wolves, Grizzly Bears and the Lynx, no impacts are anticipated during construction of the cabin on this project. No migration barriers will be built nor will there be any impacts to surface flow due to this action.

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 or near this property.

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: No anticipated impacts. There is no saline reported 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: Slight impacts only. The well has already been drilled and the cabin built.

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 inventoried on this site.

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 accepted land uses in 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: No impacts.

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 ? Slight increase in tax revenues.
- (c) Existing land uses ? Slight
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment ? None
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing ? Slight
- (f) Demands for government services ? Slight
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity ? None
- (h) Utilities ? Slight
- (i) Transportation ? Slight seasonal only.
- (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 not be able to utilize the well on their property 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
Date: February 16, 2006