

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:*

Bar C, INC.  
3750 Christiansen Lane  
Dillon, MT 59725

2. *Type of action:* Application for beneficial water use permit # 30018432-41B

3. *Water source name:* Groundwater

4. *Location affected by project:* NESENE, Sec. 11 T6S, R7W, Madison, Co.

5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*

Bar-C Inc. has applied for an application for a 2100 gpm well to irrigate 619.7 acres in section 1,11,12, T6S, R7W, Madison, Co.  
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)*

**MT Natural Heritage Program - Species of Concern, T/E**  
**MT Dept. of Environmental Quality - 2004 Montana Water Quality Integrated Report**  
**MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks - Montana Fisheries Information System**  
**The Montana Noxious Weed Survey and Mapping System**

## **Part II. Environmental Review**

### **1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

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| <b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b> |
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#### **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 613' well. Groundwater has not been designated as chronically or periodically dewatered. If this groundwater were to recharge the surface water in the area, there may be some effect.

**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:* This well is not on the DEQ, 303 (d) list.  
No impacts identified,

**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:* Pump tests have been conducted and has been determined that the well is vertically separated from the surface. The department hydrogeologist examined the findings from the applicant's consultant and concluded the project meets the "311" criteria.

**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:* The well is 613', capable of producing 2100 gpm and was drilled by a licensed contractor. The well will have no channel impact, or impact on riparian areas or create any barriers.  
No impacts identified.

## **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:* The well appears to be in an area that is well drained. Saline seep has not been identified 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:* A crop is planned to be cultivated in the irrigated area.

No Impacts identified.

**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 identified.

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

*Determination:* The proposed use of groundwater to irrigate existing fields will not cause degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project. The site is already developed and no additional ground disturbance will be required to complete the proposed project.

No impacts identified

**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:* A 350 HP electric pump will divert the proposed project.

## HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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

*Determination:* No Impacts identified.

**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 identified.

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

*Determination:* No impacts identified.

**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:*

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

**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:***

**No Mitigation or stipulation measures have been identified**

**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:***

Proceed with the application process

*PART III. Conclusion*

**1. *Preferred Alternative***

**No preferred alternative identified**

**2 *Comments and Responses***

**No comments or responses received.**

**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:*

An EA is adequate for the scope of this project.

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

*Name:* Porter Dassenko

*Title:* Water Resource Specialist

*Date:* 3/28/2006