

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

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Jan & Alice Caldwell, 10629 North Fork Rd., Polebridge MT 59928
2. *Type of action:* Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 30019516-76LJ for groundwater appropriation less than 35 gpm and 10 acre-feet within the confines of the Glacier National Park Compact Area
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater from a drilled well
4. *Location affected by action:* SE NE Section 21, T 35N, R 21W, Flathead County.
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*  
The applicants are seeking a domestic a water right from groundwater within the confines of the Glacier Park Compact Area, therefore, a water use permit is required. They will utilize a 102 foot deep drilled well which was constructed in May of 2004 for their water source. The water will be pumped with a ½ hp pump at a rate of 7gpm for domestic purposes and incidental lawn & garden irrigation.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*  
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) MT Historical Society, MT Dept of FW & P, US Park Service and the MT Natural Heritage Program.

**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 water is from a groundwater source 100 feet below the earth's surface.*

**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:* The source for this right is from groundwater, not surface.

**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:* Due to the depth of this well and the low flow rate requested, no 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:* The diversion works were installed nearly 2 years ago.

#### **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:* This area is habit for grizzly bears, the lynx, wolves, bald eagles and other endangered species. All construction on this project were completed in 2004 so no additional impacts are expected nor are there any barriers as a result of this action that would hinder migration or halt the movement of these species.

**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:* There are no wetlands associated to this action.

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

*Determination:* NA

**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:* All soil alteration has already occurred. There is no known saline seep in the 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:* The applicant will be responsible to control any noxious weeds on the parcel.

**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:* There are no known historic sites on the property. Since all construction and ground disturbances occurred in 2004, any archeological sites on the property may 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:* No other impacts have been identified.

<b>HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</b>
--------------------------

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

*Determination:* This action is consistent with other like developments 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 anticipated.

**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 adverse impact after initial construction.
  - (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? Slight increase in revenues.
  - (c) Existing land uses? No change after construction.
  - (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No impact.
  - (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No change after construction.
  - (f) Demands for government services? Slight increase in demand.
  - (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No impacts.
  - (h) Utilities? Slight increase in demand.
  - (i) Transportation? Slight impact since a home has been built.
  - (j) Safety? Immeasurable.
  - (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.
2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*** It is doubtful that this action by itself will cause a measurable secondary or cumulative impact on the environment. However, as more and more developments of this nature occur, there is a chance for these impacts to have an affect.
3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** None were justified at this time especially since this action took place nearly two years prior to this application.
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:*** Since this action has already taken place, it will be the only alternative considered.

### **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, this EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the action.*

*Name of person responsible for preparation of EA:*

*Name:* Wes McAlpin  
*Title:* Water Resources Specialist  
*Date:* April 5, 2006