

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:*

Melody Hake  
55 Runway Lane  
Livingston, MT 59047

2. *Type of action:* Application for a beneficial water use permit #30021472-43B

3. *Water source name:* Groundwater

4. *Location affected by project:* S2SE, Sec.6 T5S, R9E, Park, Co

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

The applicant is applying for a water right to irrigate a pasture. The proposed crop will consist of alfalfa. Pumping test show the water is physically available with minimal drawdown.

6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)*

Montana State Historic Preservation  
Office, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Gallatin County Planning Office,  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 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 a well, which is not 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:* This well is not listed on the DEQ,303(d) list.

**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:* Groundwater availability has been determined available by pump testing. Drawdown from the test indicates insignificant impacts.

**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 is a 160' well. This 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:* The Montana Natural Heritage Program was contacted. They found no record of species of special concern.

**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:* It is conceivable that wetlands may exist along riparian corridors. It is unknown if they would be impacted by development

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

*Determination:* This project does not involve a pond.

**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:* Soil quality may be enhanced with the addition of additives such as topsoil, and fertilizer to domestic lawns & gardens. Moisture content will be increased as the pasture is irrigated. Soil stability should be unchanged. There is no evidence of saline seep.

**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:* Noxious weeds may spread if the applicant does not control them.

**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:* SHPO was contacted. Since this well was already drilled any archeological or historical sites that may have existed have already been impacted. Therefore an inventory is not required.

**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:* There will be additional demand for energy to supply this new well.

## **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 project site is located in an area approved by Park County Planning Board.

**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 recreational or wilderness activities. No impact is expected.

**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\_\_\_ 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 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

The new appropriation of water may lower the overall potentiometric surface

Cumulative Impacts No cumulative impacts have been identified

**3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:** N/A

**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:** N/A

*PART III. Conclusion*

**1. Preferred Alternative:** Proceed with the application process

**2. Comments and Responses** None received at this time.

**3. Finding:**

Yes\_\_\_ No  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 this project*

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

*Name:* Porter Dassenko

*Title:* Water Resource Specialist

*Date:* 4/27/2006