

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* Michael Blend dba Glacier Meadows, PO Box 7505, Kalispell MT 59904
2. *Type of action:* Application For Beneficial Water Use Permit 30028079-76LJ
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater from a 360' drilled well.
4. *Location affected by action:* SE NE of section 36, T 30N, R 22W, Flathead County.
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
The applicant proposes to use a well drilled in May of 2006 to serve 7 homes and 7 lots within the original Happy Valley Homesites. The subdivision for these 7 lots has been rewritten with the new subdivision being known as Bear Trail.
6. *Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:*
(include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction) MT DEQ, Flathead County Zoning and Planning, MT Historical Society, MT FW & P webpage 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: No impact. The source is groundwater.

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.

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: The source well is drilled to a depth of 360 feet bgs. Due to the depth of this well, there should be no impacts to water quality in the area. Testing conducted by the applicant's consultant indicates minimal drawdown to other wells in the area.

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 was drilled by a licensed driller in May of 2006. The installation of the remaining infrastructure should have limited impacts.

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 impacts expected.

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: NA

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: The soil moisture content will increase after this system is completed and the development is built out. There is no known saline seep problems 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: The individual landowners will be responsible for weed control on their lots.

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

Determination: Little to 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 historic sites were identified in this area. Past development would have already destroyed such sites if they did exist.

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 a re-write of a small portion of an old subdivision. The project is very consistent with like development in the valley.

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 are expected.

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? Slight changes
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? Positive impacts to county taxes with the construction of 6 additional homes.
- (c) Existing land uses? At present, the land is not used.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None to slight.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? This development will add 6 more homes to the neighborhood.
- (f) Demands for government services? Some demand with the 6 additional homes.
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None
- (h) Utilities? Some impacts due to the 6 new homes.
- (i) Transportation? The six new homes will create additional traffic in the area and on Hwy 93.
- (j) Safety? The additional traffic will most likely cause most of the safety issues.
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None seen

2. ***Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*** It is doubtful that any measurable impacts will be seen as a result of these 6 additional homes.

3. ***Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:*** None appear to be justified as a result of this actions

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:*** The no action alternative would prevent the owner-applicant from developing the six additional lots, which would have an adverse economical impact on his business. Due to the density of this development, it is the preferred alternative versus subdividing a larger more desirable parcel for the 6 homes.

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 cumulative or secondary impacts were identified as a result of this action, the 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: [Automatic date code removed]