

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:* Engdahl Family LLC, 6470 Timber Bluff Pt., Colorado Springs CO 80918-6204
2. *Type of action:* Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit No. 76LJ 30063093
3. *Water source name:* Flathead Lake
4. *Location affected by project:* SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of Section 33, Township 26N, Range 20W, Flathead County
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*
The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

The applicant proposes to divert water from Flathead Lake, by means of a submersible pump, from January 1 through December 31 inclusive each year at 20 GPM up to 1.82 AF, from a point in the SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of Section 33, Township 26N, Range 20W, for domestic use from January 1 through December 31 and domestic lawn and garden use on 0.7 acres from April 15 through October 15. The place of use is Lot 1A, Block 2, Hughes Bay and is generally located in the SW¹/₄NW¹/₄ of Section 33, Township 26N, Range 20W, Flathead County and is approximately 5½ miles north of the Flathead Reservation's northerly border.

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

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Natural Resources and Conservation Service soil maps
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
United States Fish and Wildlife Wetland Mapper

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 is not identified as chronically or periodically dewatered by 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: Flathead Lake is listed by the DEQ as having aquatic life as an impaired use with further data needing to be collected. This impairment seems to be caused by a mixture of sources including upstream impoundments, atmospheric deposition, unspecified urban stormwater and municipal point source discharges. These probable sources bring mercury, nitrogen, phosphorus, polychlorinated biphenyls and sedimentation/siltation to the source. It would seem that this appropriation of domestic and domestic lawn and garden use up to 1.82 AF of water with 0.85 AF returning back to source would not likely increase impairment of the source.

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: N/A

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 will consist of a 2 HP Goulds 18GS20 submersible pump located in a 6" perforated pipe mounted on a stand and sitting on the bottom of Flathead Lake to provide year-round access to water. The water line, to the residence where a pressure tank and pressure switch is located, will be a 2-inch diameter HDPE pipe. Total dynamic head is approximately 305 feet with the pump producing around 20 GPM with a service connection pressure between 40 and 60 psi. Pump specifications included in the file show that the system is capable of delivering and controlling the requested 20 GPM.

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 to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern”, that could be impacted by the proposed project. They identified the following animal and plant species that are threatened, or have special status, that are located regionally: Wolverine, Fisher, Great Blue Heron, Brown Creeper, Black Tern, Cassin’s Finch, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Pygmy Whitefish, Bull Trout, and Lake Trout. These species are found throughout this region and not necessarily at this particular spot. No immediate impact.

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 property is not located within a designated wetland boundary.

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

Determination: No pond. No impact.

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: Proposed area is composed mainly of Kingspoint gravelly silt loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes. This soil is well drained with a moderately high to high water transmissivity. No impact to soil quality or alteration of soil stability is expected.

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: This is private land and it is ultimately the owner’s responsibility to keep noxious weeds under control

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 are anticipated.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal Lands.*

Determination: N/A – project not located on State or Federal Lands.

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 were identified during this EA.

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 inconsistency noted.

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 impact expected.

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

Determination: No impact expected.

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: No impact.

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 identified.
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? None
- (c) Existing land uses? None
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? None
- (f) Demands for government services? None
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None
- (h) Utilities? None
- (i) Transportation? Not significant

(j) Safety? None

(k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified

2. Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:

Secondary Impacts None identified

Cumulative Impacts None identified

3. Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures: None 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: No reasonable alternatives identified

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative

Project should be completed as explained in application

2. Comments and Responses

3. Finding:

Yes___ NoXXX 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:

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

Name: Kathy Olsen

Title: Water Resource Specialist

Date: May 2, 2013