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: Stacey Weldele-Wade
15875 Circle View Dr.
Frenchtown, MT 59834

2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit No. 76K 30161713

3. Water source name: Lindberg Lake/Swan River

4. Location affected by project: NESESW Section 23, T19N, R17W, Missoula County Diamond L Bar Lakeshore Tracts #3, Lot 80

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

Stacey Weldele-Wade submitted an Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit to DNRC requesting an appropriation of 12 gallons per minute (GPM) up to 0.91 acre-feet (AF) of water from Lindbergh Lake. The water will be used for domestic use in one dry household and lawn and garden irrigation of 0.25 acre. The applicant proposes to divert water from the using a ½ horsepower (HP) submersible pump placed in the lake that conveys water through a 1-inch PVC pipe to a frost-free yard hydrant. DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment:

Montana Natural Heritage Program - Species of Concern
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks - 2005 Dewatered Stream List, 2022 Dewatered Streams Map
Montana Department of Environmental Quality – 303(d) List of Impaired Streams

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.*

Lindbergh Lake is not listed on the 2005 Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MT FWP) Impaired Stream List nor the MT FWP Dewatered Streams Map updated January 21, 2022. The application is for a diversion out of Lindbergh Lake, which is tributary to the Swan River. The Swan River is also not listed on the 2005 Impaired Stream list nor the 2022 Dewatered Streams Map. The appropriation of 12 GPM up to 0.91 AF of water from Lindbergh Lake will not cause dewatering in the Swan River basin.

Determination: No impact.

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.*

The Department of Environmental Quality has not assessed water quality in Lindbergh Lake or the Swan River from Lindbergh Lake to Swan Lake. The minimal withdrawal of water requested by the Applicant will not result in impairment of water quality. The Applicant will have a composting facility for waste due to the restrictions on the lot prohibiting septic approval. Septic discharge is a source of groundwater contamination resulting in elevated levels of nitrogen and nitrates that will not be applicable for this dry house.

Determination: No significant 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.*

This is a surface water appropriation.

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.*

The proposed diversion will consist of a ½ HP submerged electric pump placed in Lindbergh Lake in front of the Applicant's shoreline. Water will be conveyed to the place of use via a 1-inch PVC pipe which brings water to the yard hydrant. The location of the pump on the lakebed will not cause any channel impacts or flow modifications in Lindbergh Lake. The use of a pump in a lake for domestic water supply will not create any barriers to fish migration. The construction of the water conveyance system may require trenching to bury the pipeline up to the shoreline. This may cause a temporary disturbance to riparian vegetation on the Applicant's property. This disturbance would be small. The project does not involve a dam or well.

Determination: No significant impact.

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."*

The Montana Natural Heritage Program was used 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.

The Montana Natural Heritage Program identified the following animal species: Evening Grosbeak, Varied Thrush, Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, Fisher, Little Brown Myotis, Hoary Bat, Common Loon, Bull Trout, Pygmy Whitefish, Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Bat Roost (non-Cave) habitat occurring within the vicinity of Township 19 North, Range 17 West, Missoula County. In addition, the following sensitive plant species were also identified; Blunt-leaved Pondweed, Pod Grass, Northern Bog Clubmoss, Red Spoon Peatmoss, Water Howellia, Spiny-spore Quillwort, Roundleaf Sundew, and English Sundew.

The location of the proposed appropriation is on the northeastern shore of Lindbergh Lake in Section 23. This part of the lake shore is developed with multiple summer and full-time residences. Any impact to sensitive mammal species such as Wolverine, Fisher, Lynx and Grizzly Bear most likely has already occurred. Shoreline development on Lindbergh Lake is limited to the eastern shoreline in Sections 14 & 23. The remainder of the Lindbergh Lake shoreline is owned by the United States Forest Service and has no development potential. This limits the impacts to larger mammal species in the area due to development restrictions. Plant species may be impaired if they are located on the Applicant's property and in the path of the pipeline. It is not known whether the plants identified exist on the Applicant's property.

Determination: No significant 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: N/A project does not involve wetlands.

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

Determination: N/A project does not involve ponds.

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.*

The use of water from Lindbergh Lake for domestic use and lawn will not cause degradation of soil quality or stability. The soils at Lindbergh Lake are not susceptible to saline seep.

Determination: No impact.

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.*

Existing vegetative cover impacts will be limited to a 50–75-foot length, from the hydrant to the submerged pump, during the time of installation of the pump and 1-inch PVC pipe. Once the installation is complete, it is anticipated that any impacted vegetation will return and there will be no permanent impairment. The project is located entirely on private property, and the applicants will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds.

Determination: No impact.

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

Adverse air quality impacts from increased air pollutants are not expected as a result of this project. The water will be diverted using a submersed electric pump. No air pollutants were identified as resulting from the Applicant's proposed use of Lindbergh Lake for domestic and lawn and garden purposes.

Determination: No impact

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. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.*

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.*

All impacts to land, water, and energy have been identified and no further impacts are anticipated.

Determination: No impact.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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

The project is located in an area with no locally adopted environmental plans

Determination: No impact.

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.*

The project is to build one dry cabin on private property along a shoreline with many pre-existing domestic residences. The proposed project will not inhibit, alter, or impair access to the present recreational opportunities in the area. The project is not expected to create any significant pollution, noise, or traffic congestion in the area that may alter the quality of recreational opportunities.

Determination: No impact.

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

The project does not pose a significant risk to human health.

Determination: No impact.

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: 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 identified.

(c) *Existing land uses?* None identified.

(*d)* *Quantity and distribution of employment?* None identified.

(e) *Distribution and density of population and housing?* None identified.

(f) *Demands for government services?* None identified.

(g) *Industrial and commercial activity?* None identified.

(h) *Utilities?* None identified.

(i) *Transportation?* None identified.

(j) *Safety?* None identified.

(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:***

No reasonable alternatives were identified in the EA.

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:***

Not applicable.

PART III. Conclusion

1. ***Preferred Alternative:*** None identified.

2 ***Comments and Responses:*** None.

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 THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ANALYSIS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION BECAUSE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS WERE IDENTIFIED.

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

Name: Caitlyn Wade
Title: Water Resource Specialist
Date: February 1, 2023