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*: Whitefish Village LLC, c/o Janco Accounting, 426 2nd Ave E, Kalispell MT 59901

2. *Type of action*: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ 30070830

3. *Water source name*: Groundwater

4. *Location affected by project*: Whitefish Hills Village located in the SW¼NE¼, S½NW¼ and the SW¼ of Section 24, and the W½NW¼ Section 25, and the E½NE¼ of Section 26 all in Township 30N, Range 22W, Flathead County approximately 3.5 miles south of Whitefish, Montana

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 two groundwater wells PWS #1 (GWIC #276426) and PWS#2 (GWIC #278439) with depths of 800 feet each, from January 1 through December 31 at 148 GPM (0.33 CFS) up to 73.95 AF from points in the S½SW¼NE¼ of Section 24, Township 30N, Range 22W for 29.57 AF of multiple domestic use (88 hook-ups) from January 1 through December 31and 44.38 AF for domestic lawn and garden irrigation on 21.04 acres from April 15 through October 15. The place of use is Whitefish Hills Village located in the SW¼NE¼, S½NW¼ and the SW¼ of Section 24, and the W½NW¼ Section 25, and the E½NE¼ of Section 26 all in Township 30N, Range 22W, Flathead County approximately 3.5 miles south of Whitefish, Montana.

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

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

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: Source of supply for this application is groundwater with depletions to Flathead Lake, Flathead River and Stillwater River. None of these surface sources are listed as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

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: Source of supply for this application is groundwater with depletions to Flathead Lake, Flathead River and Stillwater River. According to the Department of Environmental Quality, the aquatic life of the Stillwater River is impaired by sedimentation/siltation and habitat alterations/alteration in stream-side or littoral vegetative covers. DEQ reports a TLMD is required to address factors showing impairment mainly due to management factors. Flathead River was not assessed by DEQ at the time of this report.

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: Depletions to Flathead Lake, Flathead River and the Stillwater River will occur at a year-round rate of 20.4 GPM. No impact.

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: Proposed means of diversion will include two groundwater wells both at depths of 800 feet bgs, 720 feet apart and constructed in 2014 by Glazier Drilling (MT license #WWC-655) described as PWS#1 or East well (GWIC 276426) and PWS#2 or West well (GWIC #278439). At testing, static water levels were 335.6 feet bgs and 335 feet bgs respectively. This public water supply system was designed by WMW Engineering and will be regulated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). PWS#1 will have a Goulds Model 150L25 submersible pump with a 25-hp motor rated to produce 148 GPM at 492.5 total dynamic head (TDH). A Goulds Model 150L30 submersible pump with a 30-hp motor is installed in PWS#2, rated to produce 148 GPM at 592.5 TDH. By design, the two wells will be pumped alternately and will be controlled by the level in a 120,000 gallon storage tank. A booster pump station comprised of three horizontal end suction centrifugal pumps with VFD motor control (two

capable of 100 GPM at 116 feet TDH and one fire pump capable of 600 at 116 feet TDH), an Amtrol WX-404 pressure tank and appurtenances including sample taps, isolation valves, suction and discharge pressure gauges, flow meter and flush to waste piping will be used to meet peak demands of the system. An 8-inch and 6-inch class 150 PVC water main, gate valves and 88 one-inch service connections will distribute water to individual users after being treated in the booster pumphouse. Pump curves and system specifications were included in the application.

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: Hoary Bat, Fisher, Evening Grosbeak, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Loon, Cassin's Finch, Varied Thrush, Northern Alligator Lizard, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Subarctic Bluet, Watershield, Pygmy Water-lily and Water Bulrush. 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: There is a freshwater emergent wetland in the vicinity of this proposed subdivision according to the US Fish and Wildlife wetlands mapper software. The subdivision as platted would avoid this area. No impact.

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

Determination: According to the US Fish and Wildlife wetlands mapper software, a freshwater pond does exist in the vicinity of the proposed subdivision. The subdivision as platted would avoid the pond area. 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: The majority of soils in this area are Whitefish cobbly silt loam and are naturally well-drained with a moderately high capacity to transmit water. This soil has a nonsaline to very slightly saline profile.

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: There will be a mixture of natural and managed landscaping. No impact.

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

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.*

Determination: NA-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: None

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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

Determination: Subdivision approval is moving through the proper agencies.

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.

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

Determination: No impact.

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?* No

(b) *Local and state tax base and tax revenues?* Increased revenues as lots develop.

(c) *Existing land uses?* Yes, as lots develop

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

(e) *Distribution and density of population and housing?* Increase in this area

(f) *Demands for government services?* None

(g) *Industrial and commercial activity?* None

(h) *Utilities?* Yes, to supply the subdivison

(i) *Transportation?* Increase with greater traffic

(j) *Safety?* None

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

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

Secondary Impacts None

Cumulative Impacts None

3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:* None

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:* Project should be completed as proposed.

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative

2 Comments and Responses

3. *Finding:*

*Yes___ No **XX** 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: Impacts for the project will be evaluated with this permit process and through other agencies.

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

Name: Kathy Olsen
Title: Kalispell Deputy Regional Manager
Date: May 29, 2015