

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:* Jenny A McDermid, 2918 Champlain St SW, Calgary AB T2T 3J6 CANADA
2. *Type of action:* Surface Water Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ 30072797
3. *Water source name:* Whitefish Lake
4. *Location affected by project:* Tracts 1Y and 1YN in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31N, Range 22W, Flathead County and approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Whitefish
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 Whitefish Lake, by means of a pump, from January 1 through December 31 inclusive each year at 17 GPM up to 0.72 AF, from a point in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31N, Range 22W, Flathead County for domestic use and April 15 through October 15 for lawn and garden use on 0.15 acres. The place of use is generally located on Tracts 1Y and 1YN in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 4, Township 31N, Range 22W, Flathead County and approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Whitefish.

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
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: Whitefish Lake is not identified by DFWP as being a chronically or periodically dewatered stream.

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: Whitefish Lake, in the reporting cycle 2014, was conditioned as minor-moderate impairment. Aquatic life impairment is associated with management decisions, primarily the introduction of mysis shrimp. Sedimentation increase appears to be associated in part with logging and road building. Fish consumption advisory exists for mercury and PCBs. Drinking water quality from this source should be checked. No impacts.

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: No 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 Applicant proposes to pump surface water from Whitefish Lake via a Myers Predator Series 3ST102-20 P4, 1 HP pump located inside a 6-inch perforated PVC barrel placed underneath an existing floating dock. A 1.25-inch transmission main connected to the pump conveys water for approximately 130 feet to the main house and an additional 95 feet to the guest house. With an elevation gain of approximately 33 feet and a total dynamic head of 258 feet, approximately 6 GPM will be available at the guest house. Water is to be treated at the main house before being pumped to the guest home. Pump 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:

Wolverine, Hoary Bat, Canada Lynx, Fisher, Grizzly Bear, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Loon, Northern Alligator Lizard, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Pygmy Whitefish, Bull Trout, Sheathed Slug, Crested Shieldfern, Creeping Sedge, Giant Helleborine, Slender Cottongrass and A. Lichen. 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: No wetland identified. No impact.

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: This area in the Flathead National Forest is primarily made-up of rock outcrop, structural breaklands.

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: Some natural vegetation will be replaced with footprints of buildings and drive.

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: No other impacts.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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

Determination: Uses appear to be in compliance with environmental plans and goals.

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 ___ NoXX 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 impact.
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? To be assessed
- (c) Existing land uses? No impact
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No impact
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No impact
- (f) Demands for government services? No impact
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No impact
- (h) Utilities? Brought to property
- (i) Transportation? No impact

(j) Safety? No impact

(k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None

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

Secondary Impacts No impacts

Cumulative Impacts No impacts

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: Single domestic and small lawn and garden is reasonable

PART III. Conclusion

1. Preferred Alternative

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: Personal real property

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

Name: Kathy Olsen

Title: Deputy Regional Manager

Date: November 25, 2015