

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:

MCCRANE FAMILY, LLC  
8140 LINDBERGH LAKE RD  
CONDON, MT 59826-8813

2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit No. 76K 30163120
3. Water source name: Lindbergh Lake / Swan River
4. Location affected by project: E2NWNE Section 23, T19N, R17W, Missoula County  
Diamond L Bar Lakeshore Tracts #2, Lot 24A
5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:

McCrane Family LLC (Applicant) submitted an Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit to DNRC requesting an appropriation of 33 gallons per minute (GPM) up to 1.98 acre-feet (AF) of water from the Swan River (Lindbergh Lake). The water would be used for domestic use in one residence and to irrigate 0.39 acres of lawn and garden. The Applicant proposes to divert water from Lindbergh Lake by means of a 3 HP pump, from January 1 to December 31, from a point in the NENWNE Section 23, T 19N R 17W. The place of use is generally located in the E2NWNE Section 23, T 19N, R 17W, otherwise known as Lot 24A of Diamond L Bar Lakeshore Tracts #2. The proposed point of diversion is approximately 40 feet off the shoreline of Lot 22A and would be shared with the point of diversion for Statement of Claim 76K 105114 00. The Applicant owns Lot 22A, Lot 24A, and Lot 23 in between. Water would be conveyed across Lots 22A and 23 to the place of use on Lot 24A. The 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:**

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| <h2><b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b></h2> |
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### **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 33 GPM up to 1.98 AF of water from Lindbergh Lake will not cause dewatering in the Swan River basin.

*Determination:* No significant 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.

*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 3 HP submersible electric pump placed in Lindbergh Lake in front of the Applicant's shoreline, where another pump already exists. Water will be conveyed to the place of use via a 2-inch pipe buried 6ft underground, where there is already existing piping. The location of the pump in the lake will not cause any channel impacts, flow modifications, nor create any barriers to fish migration. The construction of the water conveyance system utilizing existing underground pipelines will limit disturbance to riparian vegetation on the Applicant's property. 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.

Project does not involve wetlands.

*Determination:* N/A

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

Project does not involve ponds.

*Determination: N/A*

**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 significant 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 due to the Applicant utilizing existing underground piping for the first half of the water conveyance. Some new underground trenching and pipeline installation will need to occur for water to reach the proposed place of use. Once the installation is complete, it is anticipated that impacted vegetation will return or the land where pipeline was laid in will be built on top of. The project is located entirely on private property, and the applicants will be responsible for controlling noxious weeds.

*Determination: No significant 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 submersible 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 significant 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.*

The project is not located on State or Federal Lands.

*Determination: N/A*

**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 significant 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:* N/A

**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 proposed project is to build one residence and a driveway 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 significant impact

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

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

*Determination:* No significant 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 significant 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 mitigation or stipulation measures were 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:**

Not applicable

**PART III. Conclusion**

**1. Preferred Alternative:** No alternatives identified

**2. Comments and Responses:** None

**3. Finding:**

Yes\_ No  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 Stevens

*Title:* Water Resource Specialist

*Date:* July 5, 2024