

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Notice to Water Users  
(Pursuant to Section 85-2-307, MCA)

The following application has been submitted to appropriate water in the State of Montana.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION PROPOSES TO GRANT AN APPLICATION FOR BENEFICIAL WATER USE PERMIT. DESCRIBED BELOW ARE THE PERTINENT FACTS WHICH SUMMARIZE THE APPLICATION. THE DRAFT PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION (PD) DOCUMENTING THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE WATER RIGHT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <https://dnrc.mt.gov/Water-Resources/Water-Rights/application-status-environmental-assessments/>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2026.** PUBLIC COMMENTS MUST BE FILED ON A PUBLIC COMMENT FORM, FORM 654, AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATED DEADLINE. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANY WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICE. MAIL PAPER COPIES OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO: DNRC WATER RIGHTS BUREAU, PO BOX 201601, HELENA, MT 59620-1601. SUBMIT ELECTRONIC COPIES OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO: DNRCWATERRIGHTSCOMMENTOBJECTION@MT.GOV. PER 85-2-307(5)(C), MCA, IF NO PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE RECEIVED, THE DRAFT PD WILL BE ADOPTED AS FINAL AND THERE WILL BE NO OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THIS APPLICATION.

DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THE APPLICATION, OR REQUESTS TO OBTAIN THE DRAFT PD OR PUBLIC COMMENT FORM TO THE WATER RESOURCES OFFICE AT 655 TIMBERWOLF PARKWAY, SUITE 4, KALISPELL, MT 59901-2387, PHONE: 406-752-2288, FAX: 406-752-2843.

IF ISSUED, THE RIGHT WILL BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR EXISTING WATER RIGHTS.

**Application Number:** 76LJ 30164488  
**Owners:** JAMES R DEATS  
PO BOX 4744  
WHITEFISH, MT 59937-4744  
BEAR DEN RANCH LLC  
PO BOX 4444  
WHITEFISH, MT 59937-4444  
**Priority Date:** OCTOBER 17, 2025 at 12:00 A.M.  
**Purpose (Use):** FISHERY  
IRRIGATION  
RECREATION  
**Maximum Flow Rate:** 200.00 GPM  
**Maximum Volume:** 44.57 AC-FT  
**Maximum Acres:** 21.32  
**Source Name:** SKYLES LAKE  
**Source Type:** SURFACE WATER

**Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		SWSENE	33	31N	22W	FLATHEAD

**Period of Diversion:** JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31  
**Diversion Means:** PUMP

**Reservoir:** OFF STREAM **Reservoir Name:** FISHERY/STORAGE POND

<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
SESENE	33	31N	22W	FLATHEAD	

**Depth:** 12.00 FEET  
**Surface Area:** 0.33 ACRES  
**Current Capacity:** 1.98 ACRE-FEET

**Purpose (Use):** FISHERY **Purpose Clarification:** PRIVATE FISHPOND  
**Volume:** 3.37 AC-FT  
**Period of Use:** JANUARY 1 to DECEMBER 31  
**Place of Use:**

<u>ID</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Govt Lot</u>	<u>Qtr Sec</u>	<u>Sec</u>	<u>Twp</u>	<u>Rge</u>	<u>County</u>
1		SESENE	33	31N	22W	FLATHEAD	

**Purpose (Use):** IRRIGATION **Purpose Clarification:** CHRISTMAS TREE IRRIGATION

