

**CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**COMPANY NAME:** Frank Wall of Eco Star Energy Systems **Project:** POP's 12-13 **LICENSE:** 00672

**LOCATION:** S15 T27N R31W **County & Nearest Town:** Lincoln County, Libby

**PROPERTY OWNERSHIP:**  Federal  State  Private

**TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** Frank Wall of Eco Star Energy Systems will explore mineral structure for Libby Creek Ventures. The company will drill up to four 300' conventional rotary holes for mineral exploration.

**Reclamation Plan:** The drill holes will be properly plugged. Soil disturbance will be seeded.

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (explain under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	
RESOURCE	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are soils present which are fragile, erosive, susceptible to compaction, or unstable? Are there unusual or unstable geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations?	<b>[N] The drilling will be in the ditches of existing roads. No sumps are to be constructed.</b>
2. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential to violate ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degrade water quality?	<b>[N] No known groundwater resources. Libby Creek is approximately 1,000' from drill holes. If water is found, operator will plug holes according to MMRA and attendant regulations.</b>
3. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)?	<b>[Y] The drill does not require a Montana Air Quality Permit, letter dated 17 August 2006 from Eric Thunstrom, ARMB, MT DEQ. Proximity to the Cabinet Wilderness Class I Airshed required a permit determination.</b>
4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be significantly impacted? Are any rare plants or cover types present?	<b>[N] Spotted Knapweed, Orange Hawkweed, and Ox-eye Daisy are noted on the site.</b>
5. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish?	<b>[Y] The area is used by wildlife. The limited scope, time allowed to be on-site and restriction to existing road limits any potential impact.</b>
6. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Species of special concern?	<b>[Y] Libby Creek is bull trout habitat; and the area and the nearby Cabinet Wilderness is known to hold grizzly bear. The project will not impact bull trout as it is 1,000' feet from Libby Creek. Grizzly bear are of concern April through June; this project will be in September.</b>
7. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	<b>[N] No known cultural sites are at the drill sites. The USFS, per the standing agreement with the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, is conducting a cultural assessment. Drill holes are on existing roads and not likely to impact cultural resources.</b>

<b>IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	
8. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light?	<b>[N]</b>
9. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	<b>[N]</b>
10. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project?	<b>[N]</b>
<b>IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION</b>	
11. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area?	<b>[N]</b>
12. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	<b>[N]</b>
13. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number.	<b>[Y] Two to five temporary jobs of less than one month duration are expected for this project.</b>
14. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue?	<b>[N]</b>
15. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc.) be needed?	<b>[N]</b>
16. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	<b>[Y] The project meets the requirements of the Kootenai National Forest Management Plan.</b>
17. ACCESS TO, AND QUALITY OF, RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract?	<b>[Y] The Cabinet Wilderness Area is accessed by this road and is nearby. The drilling is on the existing road. Vehicles on the road will be able to drive by the drilling operation. Flaggers will control traffic.</b>
18. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing?	<b>[N]</b>

19. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[N]
20. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[N]
21. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Are we regulating the use of private property under a regulatory statute adopted pursuant to the police power of the state? (Property management, grants of financial assistance, and the exercise of the power of eminent domain are not within this category.) If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
22. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the proposed regulatory action restrict the use of the regulated person's private property? If not, no further analysis is required.	[N]
23. PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS: Does the agency have legal discretion to impose or not impose the proposed restriction or discretion as to how the restriction will be imposed? If not, no further analysis is required. If so, the agency must determine if there are alternatives that would reduce, minimize or eliminate the restriction on the use of private property, and analyze such alternatives.	[N/A]
24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:	[N/A]

25. Alternatives Considered: No alternatives considered. The plan as proposed meets existing law, regulations and management plans.

No Action: No Action is not recommended as the project complies with all existing laws and management plans in effect.

Approval: Recommended

Approval with modification: N/A

26. Public Involvement: Public Notice posted by the Libby Ranger district

27. Other Governmental Agencies with Jurisdiction: Libby Ranger District, USFS

28. Magnitude and Significance of Potential Impacts: Potential impacts are small in magnitude and insignificant.

29. Cumulative Effects: None

**Recommendation for Further Environmental Analysis:**

EIS     More Detailed EA     No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist Prepared By:** Ryan Harris  
Reclamation Supervisor

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Signature

18 August, 2006  
Date