

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Water Resources Division Water Rights Bureau
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT</b> <b>For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact</b>

**Part I. Proposed Action Description**

1. *Applicant/Contact name and address:* John Frederick, Jr  
80 Beaver Drive  
Polebridge, MT 59928
  
2. *Type of action:* Permit to Appropriate Water 76LJ-30047580
  
3. *Water source name:* Groundwater Well
  
4. *Location affected by project:* SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 27, Township 35N, Range 21W, Flathead County
  
5. *Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:*

This application is to obtain a water use permit for a well located in the Glacier National Park Compact Area in the above-described location. The applicant proposes to divert water at a rate of 7.5 gpm up to 1 acre-feet per year. The proposed use is for a domestic use from January 1 to December 31 inclusive of each year.

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

The National Park Service ..... Water Rights Branch  
 Montana Natural Resource Program ..... Species of Concern  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service ..... Wetlands Mapper

## **Part II. Environmental Review**

### **1. Environmental Impact Checklist:**

<b>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</b>
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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.

*Determination:* Not applicable, the source is groundwater.

**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:* Not applicable, the source is groundwater.

**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.

The well will derive groundwater from the aquifer at a rate of 7.5 gpm. The well was drilled to a depth of 20-feet below ground surface (bgs). No well log was provided so this well was likely not completed by a licensed well driller. There should not be an impact to groundwater quality or quantity according to the information provided.

*Determination:* 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.

A well was drilled to a depth of 20-feet. No well log was provided so this well was likely not completed by a licensed well driller.

*Determination:* No 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 website was referenced to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species in vicinity of Township

35N and Range 21W, that could be impacted by the proposed project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service identified the threatened Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*), and Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*); and the delisted Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*). In addition the State of Montana, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management identified the following species of special concern: Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*); Fisher (*Martes pennant*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*); Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*); Common Loon (*Gavia immer*); Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*); Black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*); Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*); Westslope Cutthroat (*Onchorynchus clarkii lewisi*); Adnate Moonwort (*Botrychium adnatum*); Frenchman's Bluff Moonwort (*Botrychium gallicomontanum*); Western Moonwort (*Botrychium hesperium*); Pale Moonwort (*Botrychium pallidum*); Peculiar Moonwort (*Botrychium paradoxum*); Arctic Sweet Coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus var. frigidus*); and Gray Lungwort Lichen (*Lobaria hallii*).

*Determination:* The well is drilled and should not impact area wildlife.

**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 are no wetlands in the area of this proposed project.

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

*Determination:* Not applicable, the project does not involve a pond.

**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:* No 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.*

*Determination:* The land use will not change so no impact is anticipated.

**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.*

*Determination:* There will be no impact. The well is drilled.

**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: The project is consistent with planned land use.

**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: The well is drilled on private property. It will not impact recreation or effect wilderness activities.

**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 X \_\_\_ 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? No
- (c) Existing land uses? No
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? No
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? No
- (f) Demands for government services? No

- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? No
- (h) Utilities? No
- (i) Transportation? No
- (j) Safety? No
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? No

**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:**

*PART III. Conclusion*

**1. Preferred Alternative:** As proposed

**2. Comments and Responses:** None

**3. Finding:**

Yes \_\_\_ No **X** 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: No significant impacts have been identified; therefore, no EIS is necessary.

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

Name: Tim Eichner

Title: Water Resources Specialist

Date: January 28, 2010