MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
1420 EAST SIXTH AVE
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 444-2452

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

FUR FARM LICENSE APPLICATION

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Lindsey Sweeney Fur Farm

Application Date: April 26, 2010

Name, Address and Phone Number: Lindsey Sweeney, 10055 Valley Grove, Lolo, MT 59847, 406-239-2002

Description of Project:

This project is an application for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to issue a commercial fur farm license to Lindsey Sweeney for the purpose of raising and selling bobcats and bobcat kittens to the general public. Fur farm licenses are issued to qualified facilities and are renewed on an annual basis. Prior to licensing, the facilities are inspected and are inspected periodically following licensure. In addition, fur farms must turn in an annual report for license renewal reporting current inventory and the acquisition, birth, disposition, death, etc. of all animals in inventory. The proposed facility is located approximately 10 miles north of Lolo, Montana at 10055 Valley Grove, Lolo, MT. Valley Grove is a public roadway that intersects Highway 93 between Lolo, MT and Missoula, MT.

The animals will be housed in a raised 4’x 8’x 16’ outside enclosure. The outside enclosure is divided into four equal rectangular pens of 4’x8’x4’. The outside enclosure is constructed with wood and 1”x 1” wire mesh and is covered by a slanted galvanized tin roof. The entire outside enclosure area is also contained within a chain link perimeter fence covered with

fabric to provide privacy, to keep wildlife away from the bobcat enclosures and prevent escape of the captive reared bobcats as required by statute.

The outside enclosure is attached to an outbuilding. Located in each pen is a trap door that leads to a nesting box located inside the outbuilding. The nesting boxes are raised to the level of the outside pen and measure 2’x4’x4’. The trap doors can be raised independently to allow the animals to enter or exit the nesting boxes separately. The outbuilding is constructed of cement and wood. The nesting boxes have locking access door inside the outbuilding. There is a locking mechanism on the outbuilding door as well as a heavy wire screen over the door window.

The pens and outbuilding are located adjacent to the applicant’s residence.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction: Missoula county commissioners, United States Department of Agriculture.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources.				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats.				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area.				X		
4. Vegetation covers quantity and quality.				X		
5. Water quality, quantity and distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation.				X		
7. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture.				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors.			X			8.
9. Historical and archaeological sites.				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy.				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments:

(A description of potentially significant or unknown impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

8) There could be an increase in smell of bobcat urine and feces dependent on the waste management practice employed by Sweeney.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment:

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity.				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat.				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue.				X		
4. Agricultural production.				X		
5. Human health.			X			5.
6. Quantity and distribution of community and person income.				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational activities.				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals (ordinances).				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing.				X		
10. Demands for government services.			X			10.
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity.				X		

Comments:

(A description of potentially significant or unknown impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

5) The risk of injury to the public is minor due to the primary enclosure and the secondary fence around the primary enclosure.

10) Increase in demand for service by FWP due to license review and inspection.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful, if they were to occur?

There are no potential or adverse effects that would pose any significant impact on the environment due to the completion of this project.

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

No, there are no impacts associated with this project that taken collectively will have a significant or

potentially significant impact.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

1. No action alternative. Under the no action alternative the facility would not be licensed
2. Proposed (Preferred) Alternative. The facility would be granted a license to raise bobcats commercially.

List proposed mitigate measures (stipulations) for license: None

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on this EA: USDA/APHIS, Missoula County Commissioners

EA prepared by: __DOUGLAS E. JOHNSON_____

Date completed: _May 16, 2010_____

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

Based on the above assessment, which has identified a very limited number of minor impacts from the proposed action and no significant negative impacts from the proposed action, an EIS is not required and this checklist Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of review.

Describe public involvement, if any:

This EA has been posted on the state web site making it available for public comment from May 24, 2010 to June 4, 2010 as required by department guidelines. Legal notice for publication will be submitted to the following newspapers: Missoulian and the Ravalli Republic (Hamilton). A copy of the EA (or notification of its availability) will be mailed to adjacent landowners and other interested individuals and agencies. Comments may be e-mailed to Warden Doug Johnson at dejohnson@mt.gov or mailed to the attention of Sharon Rose at FWP Region 2, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, Montana 59804. Comments must be received by FWP no later than 5 p.m. on June 4, 2010.

Recommendation for license approval:

License approved

_____ _____
Wildlife Manager Date

_____ _____
Warden Captain Date