

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS  
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION**

Name and address of applicant Dick Etter  
159 Paint Horse Trail  
Darby, MT 59829

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes

Location:

County Ravalli Township 10N Range 19W Section 20 SE1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located Tincup Creek

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction  
Rainbow Trout/ cutthroat trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes

Species of special concern present in the drainage YES

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations? None\_\_\_ Minor x Major  
Comments:

Rainbow trout present in Tincup Creek near pond. Cutthroat also present, hybridized.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? None\_\_\_ Minor x Major  
Comments:

Both species present already.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None\_\_\_ Minor x Major  
Comments:

Minimal since already present

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location? None\_\_\_ Minor x Major

Comments:

Rainbow and cutthroat unlikely to reproduce in pond

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

Possible, since neither species is likely to reproduce in the pond.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

Possibly, there is a considerable number of fishponds in the Bitterroot drainage. While this pond could have some impact, the cumulative effect of all ponds is unknown.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

The proposal to have this private fish pond will require the stocking of fish. The application is for rainbow and cutthroat trout. The alternative is not to stock.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

The inlet and outlet are screened, but escapement is likely. Current laws regarding the transfer of live fish from one water body to another govern the legality of movement of fish planted in this pond to other waters. This movement of fish to other waters would be enforceable under this regulation.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? Yes/No If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

No

EA prepared by Chris Clancy—Fisheries Biologist 2/23/00

Comments will be accepted until March 27, 2000

Comments should be sent to: Chris Clancy  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1801 N. First St.  
Hamilton, MT. 59840  
E-mail: cclancy/r1\_bitterroot@fs.fed.us