

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant Cheryl Dooley
411 North Gold Creek Loop
Hamilton, MT 59840

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes--in 1995
to previous owner

Location:

County Ravalli Township 5N Range 21W Section 22 SE1/4

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

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

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, in some
ponds

Species of special concern present in the drainage Unknown

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish
populations? None___ Minor x Major___
Comments:

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to
competition and/or predation? None___ Minor x Major___
Comments:

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this
introduction? None___ Minor x Major___
Comments:

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location? None___ Minor_x Major
Comments:

Pond is small and has limited inflow and outflow.

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

Possible-pond is quite small and has little water flowing into or out of it.

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 renew this private fish pond includes the stocking of fish. The application is for rainbow trout.

Alternatives are to stock different species. Three potential species are:

Brook trout - not presently allowed by MFWP policy.

Brown trout - not previously stocked in this pond.

Westslope cutthroat - The westslope cutthroat that are commercially available do not originate from the Bitterroot and have a different genetic makeup than Bitterroot fish. **Not** a desirable species to stock.

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

Water for this pond is supplied by Gold Creek, and continues on past the pond and eventually to the Bitterroot River. The pond outlet should be screened but escapement at some time is possible. Even with screens, 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:

None

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

None

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

The proposed action occurs on private lands. This issue can be handled at the EA level

EA prepared by Larry Javorsky—acting Fisheries Biologist 03/30/00

Comments will be accepted until April 30, 2000

Comments should be sent to: Larry Javorsky
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