

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

Description of water body:

Name: Peterson Reservoir
County: Pondera
Water code: 14-8490
Legal Description: T29N R05W Sec30 SE1/4

Name of the drainage where reservoir is located:

Reservoir is located on private land in a side coulee of Lone Man Coulee, which is in the Dry Fork of the Marias drainage. The landowner has agreed to allow public access if MFWP stocks fish.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, in the Marias River.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

No Species of Special Concern are present in the immediate drainage.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: No impacts are expected. Overflow from the reservoir does not reach any streams as it flows into a dry coulee.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation?

None Minor Major

Comments: The landowner is not aware of any existing fish populations in the reservoir. Rainbow trout were stocked many years ago but have since died off.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None Minor Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location:

None Minor Major

Comments: It is not likely trout will spawn successfully due to absence of an inlet or outlet stream.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Yes - all fish could be eradicated from the reservoir by poisoning with rotenone.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? No.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).
Do not stock.

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

None necessary beyond this EA.

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

Tom Peterson, landowner
Montana anglers

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

Steve Leathe, Region 4 Fisheries Manager, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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. Impacts expected to be very minor and insignificant.

EA prepared by: Dave Yerk

Date: February 25, 2004

PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE: March 31, 2004

Comments should be sent to: Dave Yerk, MTFWP, PO Box 733, Choteau, MT 59422;
email: dyerk@3rivers.net