

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION
(Revised June 2004)**

Name and address of applicant: Crow Coulee Ranch Corporation
C/o Dan Roddy & Andy Taylor
Box 487
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended?

Stocking permit #4-010 was issued for this pond on 25May 2000. Stocking of brook, brown, cutthroat and rainbow trout was authorized. Pond owner has requested addition of largemouth bass, crappie, yellow perch, and fathead minnows.

Location of pond:

County: Choteau
Legal description: T24N R11E Sec 2, SE 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located about 15 miles east of Loma, MT on unnamed intermittent tributary to Crow Coulee. Crow Coulee drains intermittently to the Missouri River about 10 miles downstream from the confluence with Marias River.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout authorized in 1980. Owner wishes to add largemouth bass, white crappie, black crappie, yellow perch, and fathead minnows to list of authorized species.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes. These species are all found in Missouri drainage in this general area.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None in immediate drainages. Several species in Missouri River (blue sucker, pallid sturgeon, sicklefin & sturgeon chubs, sauger).

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: None Minor Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: These species are already present in drainage.

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: Trout unlikely to spawn successfully due to intermittent inlet stream. Bass, perch, crappie and minnows would likely reproduce.

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

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.

Species restrictions.

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. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Steve Leathe

Date: June 25, 2004