

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

Name and address of applicant: Richard Lester
30 Castle Mtn Estates Road
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Meagher
Legal description: T9N R7E Sec 17, SW 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is very small pit supplied with water from domestic well. Pond is located about 1.5 miles SE of White Sulphur Springs, MT. Pond has no outlet.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

Water is supplied from well developed for household use. Applicant stated that well is permitted.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, all are common in the Smith River drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None in local area. A few remnant Westslope cutthroat trout populations exist above isolated barriers in headwater streams in the Smith River drainage.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. No fish currently exist.

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, pond has no outlet.

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 lack of inlet stream.

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 23, 2004