

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION
ONE-TIME STOCKING PERMIT**

Name and address of applicant: John Fosket
6020 Birdseye Road
Helena, MT 59602

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended?

Pond would qualify for private pond permit, but currently are issuing a one-time permit to stock westslope cutthroat trout. Native westslopes from nearby Hardie Pond will be transplanted temporarily by FWP while Hardie is being chemically treated to remove illegally introduced white suckers. Westslopes will be seined in Fosket Pond and moved back to Hardie Pond when sucker eradication project is complete.

Location of pond:

County: Lewis & Clark
Legal description: T11N R5W Sec 23, SW 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is very small (0.1 acre) and located on a small spring. There is no outlet. Pond is located about one mile from Threemile Creek and 10 miles NW of Helena. Threemile Creek joins Tenmile Creek which then connects to Big Prickly Pear Creek above Lake Helena.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes, pond has groundwater right certificate (#411 30015407) issued in May 2005

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Westslope cutthroat trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

No fish currently in pond. Westslopes found in Hardie Pond in nearby Threemile Creek.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None in Fosket Pond. Westslopes in upper Threemile Creek.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. No fish in Fosket Pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: No fish in Fosket Pond. Project is intended to benefit westslope cutthroat in Hardie Pond.

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 absence 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: John Fosket.

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

John Fosket and FWP staff.

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: September 20, 2005

Public Comments:

No public comments will be solicited. This is a temporary minor transfer of fish. The transplanted cutthroats will be removed and restocked in Hardie Pond when sucker removal project is complete. An EA for the Hardie Pond sucker eradication project was released for public comment in June and a decision notice to proceed was issued on 26 August 2005.