

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

Name and address of applicant: Ernie Turner
P.O. Box 350
Clyde Park, MT 59018

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit in the past? No.

Location:

County: Park Township: 02N Range: 08E Section: 35

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Brackett Creek

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

Is this species native to the drainage? If not, was it introduced legally (i.e. by a fish management agency)? Species is native to the drainage.

List species of special concern present in the drainage: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes__ No X

Explain: Inlet to the pond screened and has a waterfall barrier and the outlet is screened with the Agri-drain and outflow would dissipate through a ditch system before reaching Brackett Creek.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of wild fish populations?

None__ Minor X Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: If fish were moved from the pond to Brackett Creek they would have potential to interbreed with wild fish including Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

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

None__ Minor X Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: If fish were moved from the pond to Brackett Creek they would have potential to compete with wild fish.

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

None__ Minor X Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: Impacts would be limited to aquatic life present in the pond

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

None__ Minor X Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: Small inlet stream is present, but would at best provide very little or no spawning.

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

Yes. Inflow to the pond could be stopped and nets or chemical removal could take place.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

Yes. Private ponds constitute a cumulative impact to wild fisheries and aquatic systems.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

No action. The landowner would not be granted a permit to stock the pond.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any. Pond must be screened screens must be functional at all times. Only Yellowstone cutthroat trout from an approved source are to be stocked.

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

N/A

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

N/A

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? Yes___ No__X_ If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

The limited impacts of this action are not significant enough to warrant an EIS.

Literature Cited: N/A

EA prepared by: Scott Opitz for Bruce Rich

Comments will be accepted until: N/A

Comments should be sent to: Bruce Rich
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59718