

April
9 EA-28-06

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

Name and address of applicant: Cole Brothers
Arlin Cole
HC 50 Box 3
Alzada, MT 59311

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Carter

Legal description: T16S R59 E Sec 13

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located in the Hay Creek drainage that flows into the Little Missouri Drainage.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

This is a pond that has been previously permitted for both rainbow trout. in previous years. The owner would like to add northern pike to the pond license.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Northern pike are presently found in the drainage

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Sturgeon chub exist in the Little Missouri River down stream of this site.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: No significant genetic impacts are expected.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Northern pike currently exist in the Little Missouri drainage. Pike are effective predator that can deplete minnow populations within a stream system. The Hay Creek drainage that this pond is located has limited fisheries value. The introduction of this species to the pond should not cause risk as there is not a fishery in Hay Creek.

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: Northern Pike will reproduce in this pond.

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:

Notification via State of Montana electronic bulletin board.

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 minor.

EA prepared by: April 25, 2006 **DATE:**

Comments will be accepted until: May 9, 2006

Comments should be sent to:

Brad Schmitz
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301

Email: Brschmitz@mt.gov

EA Name: ColeBrothersPondEA.doc