

12
9A-33-06

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

Name and address of applicant: Hess Arabians Inc.
1655 Road 261
Glendive, MT 59330

may

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Dawson **Legal description:** T14 N R54E Sec 31 , SE1/4, NW ¼,

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located in the Cracker Box Creek drainage which flows into the Lower Yellowstone River.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout and largemouth bass are proposed for introduction into the private pond.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Both species are presently found in the drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

There are no known species of special concern in the Cracker Box drainage. There are species of special concern found in the Yellowstone drainage, including; sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, paddlefish, blue sucker and pallid sturgeon.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. In the unlikely event the stocked fish escape downstream, numbers would be too small to significantly impact the genetics of the existing fish populations. Both rainbow trout and largemouth bass are essentially non-existent in the Yellowstone River.

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. They are not able to survive in any appreciable number in the lower Yellowstone drainage and would not create much risk with this fishery.

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 are not able to spawn in this pond. Largemouth bass will have the ability to spawn and recruit to the fish population in this pond. Limited risk to the Yellowstone River fishery is expected due to the lacustrine nature of bass.

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: Brad Schmitz **DATE:** April 25, 2006

Comments will be accepted until: May 9, 2006

Comments should be sent to: Brad Schmitz

P.O. Box 1630

Miles City, MT 59301

Email: Brschmitz@mt.gov

EA Name: HessArabiansIncPondEA.doc