EA# 48-06
Date: July 24, 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Yellowstone Trails Ranch LLC
PO Box 582
Livingston, MT 59047

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

Location: County Park **Township** 5S **Range** 8E **Section** 24

Name of drainage where the pond would be located: Yellowstone

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

Is this species of fish legally present in the drainage? 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? No. Inlets to the pond are screened and the outlet is overflow into an isolated depression in the topography.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?
None ___ **Minor** X **Major** ___
Comments: If the fish were moved from the pond to the Yellowstone River they would have potential to interbreed with wild fish.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish population due to competition and/or predation? None ___ **Minor** X **Major** ___
Comments: If fish were moved from the pond to the Yellowstone River 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: Impact 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: Small inlet and outlet streams are 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? Yes. The pond could be drained and nets or chemical removal could take place. Draining and allowing winterkill may be an option as well.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? Yes. Private ponds constitute a cumulative impact too 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 and screens must be functional at all times. Only Yellowstone cutthroat trout from an approved source are to be stocked.

List any other agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:
N/A

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required?
No. The limited impacts of this action are not significant enough to warrant an EIS.

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Comments will be accepted until N/A