

EA# 82.06

Date: October 16, 2006

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Wueste Family Partnership, L.P.  
Robert Wueste  
PO Box 1322  
Dillon, MT 59725-1322

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

**Location:** County Beaverhead Township 3S Range 15W Section 1

**Name of drainage where the pond would be located:** Steel Creek/Big Hole River

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

**Is this species of fish legally present in the drainage?** Yes

**List species of concern present in the drainage:** Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Arctic Grayling, Lake Trout

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** No. Piped outlet carries excess flow at high point of water table into a static wetland with no surface connection to Steel Creek.

**Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?**

None  Minor  Major

**Comments:** Only in the event of a catastrophic flood or pond failure. In that event, native westslope cutthroat occupy habitats high in the drainage.

**Impacts to any life stage of existing fish population due to competition and/or predation?** None  Minor  Major

**Comments:** see above

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

None  Minor  Major

**Comments:**

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

None  Minor  Major

**Comments:** No spawning habitat is provided in or with the pond.

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

Yes, via the use of drawdowns and piscicides or age induced mortality in lieu of stocking.

**Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?** No. Very few ponds are stocked with WCT.

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

**Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.** Use of WCT in stocking; pond berms; no surface inflow or outflow from or to Steel Creek.

**List any other agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:**

None

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

**EA prepared by:** Bruce Rich  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**Comments will be accepted until:** N/A