

EA# 83-06

Date: October 16, 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Ruby Mountain Ranch and Cattle Co.,LLC
Sherwin Scott
508 Judy Lane
Alder, MT 59710

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

Location: County 25 Township 6S Range 4W Section 28

Name of drainage where the pond would be located: Ruby River

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow Trout
(Brown trout and westslope cutthroat trout withdrawn)

Is this species native to the drainage? If not, was it introduced legally?
Introduced by FWP and numerous Private Pond Owners.

List species of special concern present in the drainage: Westslope Cutthroat Trout
and Arctic grayling.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? No. Pond fed by groundwater pump-discharges
through outlet box into drainfield.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?

None X Minor Major

Comments: No surface connection to river with pond located high enough and far
enough from river to eliminate virtually all risk from flooding.

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

Comments: See above

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

None X Minor Major

Comments: See above

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

None Minor Major

Comments: No spawning habitat is available.

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

Yes, via use of licensed piscicides, pond draw down, and/or age related mortality attrition in lieu of additional stocking.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? Yes, if all or most of the private ponds in the lower Ruby River Valley were flooded under a catastrophic event.

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. No surface inlet and outlet to the river. Plants limited to rainbow trout from a licensed private Montana hatchery.

List any other agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction: RVCD; Ruby Watershed Committee

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? No

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Comments will be accepted until: N/A