

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

Name and address of applicant Robert Biggerstaff
P.O. Box 160217
Big Sky, MT 59716-0217

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

Location:

County: Gallatin **Township:** 3S **Range:** **Section:** 12

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

South Cottonwood Creek, West Gallatin River

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow Trout

Is this species native to the drainage? If not, was it introduced legally (i.e. by a fish management agency)?

Was legally introduced.

List species of special concern present in the drainage: Arctic grayling have been reintroduced to Gallatin River and Westslope Cutthroat are present.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes X No ___ **Explain:**

Inlet is an artificial recirculation stream, outlet is on Agridrain structure discharging pond to flood channel (usually dry) of South Cottonwood Creek.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of wild fish populations?

None X Minor ___ Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts:

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

None X Minor ___ Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts:

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

None X Minor ___ Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts:

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

None__ Minor Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: Pond inhabitants may be able to spawn in artificial stream, which contains some marginal spawning habitat.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? How?
Yes via draining and physical removal of pond fish.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

Yes, private ponds pose risks to wild fisheries.

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.

None.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

None.

List all agencies and individuals outside of FWP who have been notified of this proposed introduction:

None.

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.

An introduction of this scope does not warrant an EIS.

Literature Cited:

EA prepared by: Tim Weiss

Comments will be accepted until: N/A

Comments should be sent to:

Bruce Rich
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

Email Address:

brrich@mt.gov