

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

Name and address of applicant: Lazy K6 Ranch Inc.
c/o Steen Andreasen
Box 613
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Chouteau
Legal description: T26N R8E Sec 19, N 1/2

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located approximately 15 miles NW of Fort Benton on Slide Out Coulee, which drains to Chip Creek, and then to the Marias River approximately 10 miles upstream from the confluence with the Missouri River near Loma.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout, yellow perch largemouth bass.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes – all are found in the Marias drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None known in immediate drainage. Several species in the lower Marias and/or Missouri rivers, including pallid sturgeon, blue sucker, and several minnow species.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: ___ None X Minor
Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

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. Largemouth bass have been planted in nearby ponds and reservoirs in the past. Escapement of largemouth bass from this pond is likely to be minor and should not have any significant effect on the fish community in downstream waters; they likely would be at a competitive disadvantage in flowing water. Yellow perch are already present in the pond.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None Minor Major

Minor Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in this artificial pond and may affect the size structure.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: None Minor Major

Major

Comments: Trout unlikely to spawn successfully due to intermittent inlet stream. Largemouth bass may have the potential to reproduce depending on substrate availability.

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:

No notification of other agencies and individuals was made after completion of the E.A. due to very low probability of impacts from this action and an anticipated lack of public interest in this non-controversial project. Steen Andreason of the Lazy K6 Ranch Inc, Karen Zackheim, FWP Helena, and Ken Staigmiller of the MFWP Fish Health Lab were consulted during the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

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 very minor.

EA prepared by: George Liknes **DATE:** May 8, 2007

Comments will be accepted until: No formal public comment period provided for this action, but any public input will be accepted at any time.

Comments should be sent to:

MDFW&P, 4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

- Private Pond License**
- Commercial Pond License**
- One Time Permission to Plant Letter**
- Denial**

EA# Title Lazy K6 Ranch Inc. Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**
- Other (specify)**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/18/2007
Date