

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

Name and address of applicant: Russell Bradley
695 Garneill Loop
Garneill, MT 59453

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes for brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout.

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes. There is a 1993 permit for wildlife/waterfowl – 41S 86581 00 for 4.14 acre feet.

Location of pond: County: Fergus
Legal description: T11N R16E Sec 5

Name of the drainage where the pond is located: Pond is located on an unnamed tributary to Meadow Creek which flows into Ross Fork Creek (Judith drainage).

Fish species proposed for introduction:
Rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout

Are these species legally present in the drainage?
These species are legally present in the Ross Fork Creek drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:
Ross Fork does contain northern redbelly x finescale dace. Headwaters of the Judith contain westslope cutthroat trout.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** Outlet is not currently screened and needs to be screened prior to issuance of the private pond license. Creek is intermittent to Ross Fork.

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. Unlikely to have impacts on non-native rainbow, brook trout and brown trout. It is highly unlikely the stocked fish would interact with the WCT populations in the headwaters of the Judith drainage. Fish stocked in this pond would have to go down an intermittent drainage for one mile and then down Ross Fork for about 37 miles before reaching the Judith River. They would then need to move an additional 40 miles through habitat occupied by the non-native species proposed for stocking.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Stocked fish will eat some minnows if present in pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Unlikely trout would reproduce.

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

The pond is very small. Should be able to drain and/or chemically treat.

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:

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. No. Impacts expected to be minor.

EA prepared by: Anne Tews, Fisheries Biologist **DATE:** April 30, 2007

DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title: Environmental Review of Fish Introductions - Private
Pond Application by Russell Bradley T11R16ES5

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: Contingent on screening trickle tube.

DECISION REASONING:

Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.-
Water right is small volume for pond for fish.

Other (specify)



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/8/2007

Date