

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Richard E. Jergesen  
RT 2 Box 2342  
Lewistown, MT 59457

**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 1910 statement of claim for domestic for 6.5 acre-feet.

**Location of pond:** County: Fergus  
Legal description: T15N R18E Sec 17

**Name of the drainage where the pond is located:** Pond is near headwaters of Wolverine Creek (Tributary to Big Spring 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 in the Big Spring Creek drainage.

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:**  
None known to inhabit Wolverine Creek. The headwaters of Big Spring Creek contain westslope cutthroat trout above dry or seasonally dry reaches of stream.

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes  No  **Explain:** Outlet is screened. Pond flows into Wolverine Creek. Main drainage upstream is ephemeral and bypasses the pond.

**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 Big Spring Creek or Judith drainages. To reach the closest westslope cutthroat population, trout stocked in this pond would have to go down Wolverine Creek for four miles, down Big Spring Creek 5 miles and up Cottonwood Creek for 30 miles. All of these streams are 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:** September 13, 2007

**DECISION RECORD  
FISH POND LICENSE**

**DECISION: Issue**

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

**EA# Title Richard E. Jergesen Private Pond**

**APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, brown trout, brook trout**

**LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:**

**DECISION REASONING:**

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



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George Liknes  
Regional Fisheries Manager

10/04/2007

Date