



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ONE-TIME STOCKING LETTER # _____

P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-3186
FAX: 406-444-4952
January 22, 2008

Theodore M. Wright
796 Stendal Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

Dear Mr. Wright:

You are hereby authorized to plant **rainbow trout** in the pond on your property located at **T16NR21ES1** on Little Box Elder Creek, which is also known as Brickyard Creek. This authorization is good for one plant during **2008**. This One-Time Stocking Letter is not equivalent to a Private Pond License. Fish authorized to be stocked by this letter become the property of the state of Montana once they have been stocked in the specified water. This does not mean you must provide public access for fishing, but you or any other anglers fishing your pond will be required to abide by the state limits, seasons, and licensing requirements for your fishing district. Furthermore, you may not sell fish, eggs, or fry from your pond under the terms of this One-Time Stocking Letter.

In purchasing fish for your private pond, please be very careful with your source of fish and make sure that the private hatchery from which you obtain fish is certified free of all major fish diseases. At the present time, we are not allowing importation of trout or other salmonid species from out-of-state sources. Warmwater fish such as largemouth bass may be imported from out-of-state sources, after an importation permit is approved by our Fish Health Coordinator. Attached is a list of approved in-state fish sources; never transport fish to your pond from any source except legally licensed private fish hatcheries.

As you are probably aware, whirling disease (a protozoan parasitic infection) has been recently discovered in some of our major wild trout waters in Montana. Since this disease can have serious impacts on the wild trout populations and is very contagious, special care must be taken to insure that trout stocked in your pond are free of this parasite. One of the potential sources of whirling disease infections is through the introduction of infected fish.

If you wish to plant additional fish in the future, please contact the fisheries manager in your region. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining the health and integrity of Montana's fisheries. Good luck in your venture.

Sincerely,

M. Jeff Hagener
Director

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

Name and address of applicant: Theodore M. Wright
796 Stendal Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? No, there was approximately 1 cfs of water flowing through the pond when inspected on 12/18/07. At that time there had not been much recent precipitation in the area. I recommend a one time stocking permit for rainbow trout.

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes. There is a 1943 statement of claim for irrigation. 40B 130937

Location of pond: County: Fergus
Legal description: T16N R21E Sec 1

Name of the drainage where the pond is located: Located on Little Box Elder Creek, also called Brickyard Creek.

Fish species proposed for introduction:
Rainbow trout, brook trout

Are these species legally present in the drainage?
Pond was previously licensed for rainbow and brook trout.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:
Westslope cutthroat trout are found in the headwaters of Ford Creek in Collar Gulch but are not know from the headwaters of Little Box Elder

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes X No ___ **Explain:** In December 2007 water was flowing through the pond. Fish would escape and try to colonize the stream both up and downstream of the pond, which is why a private pond permit is NOT RECOMMENDED. Little Box Elder Creek in this vicinity has the characteristics of a prairie stream and is frequently dry and is not trout habitat. Fords Creek is also not trout habitat except in the headwaters of Chicago and Collar Gulches.

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. It is highly unlikely that trout stocked in this pond could reach the WCT in Collar Gulch. For fish in this pond to reach the WCT population they would need to travel about 20 miles down Little Box Elder Creek then about 60 miles up Fords Creek. Fords Creek and Little Box Elder Creek are prairie streams that cannot typically harbor

trout populations. It is likely that there are several culvert type barriers that would impede fish passage as well. Chicago Gulch has a thriving brook trout population that is much more likely to interact with the Collar Gulch population than any fish in the stocked pond.

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. The streams in the area of the pond are prairie streams and would likely not support trout.

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. It is possible that trout could potentially colonize upstream areas. However, water temperatures area likely too warm. If this stream was potential trout habitat it would likely have been colonized when the pond was previously licensed.

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

This pond would likely require chemical treatment. The stream running through the pond frequently dries up at which time it would be feasible to chemically treat the pond.

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:** January 7, 2008



DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue

- Private Pond License**
- Commercial Pond License**
- One Time Permission to Plant Letter**
- Denial – For issuance of a fish pond License.**

EA# Theodore M. Wright Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow trout for One Time Permission to Plant Letter.

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**
- Other (specify) – Pond is an instream pond and fish could escape from this pond. The landowner has not presented verification that game fish or fish species of special concern do not occur in the tributary stream or that the instream pond does not pose an unacceptable risk to game fish or fish species of special concern in adjacent waters. However, we recommend that a one time stocking letter be issued.**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

1/22/2008

Date