

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

**Name and address of applicant:** John Gronli  
104 Spring Creek Rd  
Martinsdale, MT 59053

**Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended?** Yes.

**Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond?** Yes. There is a 1936 Statement of claim for fish and wildlife. 40A 198563 00

**Location of pond:** County: Meagher  
**Legal description:** T9N R10E Sec 10

**Name of the drainage where the pond is located:** Located on unnamed tributary to Spring Creek

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

**Are these species legally present in the drainage?**

Pond has been licensed for rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout since 1972. These species are also present in the North Fork Musselshell drainage and were historically present in Spring Creek.

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:**

No native trout known from this part of the Musselshell. Non-native Yellowstone and westslope cutthroat in Bair Reservoir and some other drainages.

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes  No  **Explain:** Outlet flows into of Spring Creek but is screened.

**Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:**

None  Minor  Major

**Comments:** No significant impacts are expected. Pond is extremely small. It is unlikely that stocking in this pond will impact the genetics of the wild non-native brook, rainbow and brown trout found in the Spring Creek and North Fork Musselshell drainages. Wild populations of brook and brown trout species exist in the area and the small numbers stocked would likely have no impact. Rainbow trout are stocked in nearby reservoirs, but have not been sampled by FWP in the North Fork Musselshell or Spring Creek in the last decade.

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

None  Minor  Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. Stocked fish will eat some minnows if present in pond. It is possible that some stocked fish will end up in Spring Creek or the North Fork Musselshell, but the stocked fish should be much less numerous and less adapted to stream life than the existing wild fish.

**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.

Pond is very small and could likely be drained and pumped dry.

**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 23, 2008

**DECISION RECORD  
FISH POND LICENSE**

**DECISION: Issue**

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

**EA# Title John, Jeanne, & John T. Gronli Private Pond**

**APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow, Brook & Brown 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

1/30/2008

Date