

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

Name and address of applicant: Alan Lippert
PO Box 966
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Chouteau
Legal description: T26N R05E Sec29 SENESW1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Lippert's reservoir (called Pelton Reservoir by applicant and H Reservoir by MTDNRC) is located approximately 24 miles northwest of Fort Benton on an unnamed ephemeral coulee in the Teton River drainage. From the reservoir, this coulee meanders southeasterly for approximately five miles before reaching Captain Nelse's Coulee. Captain Nelse's Coulee flows southeasterly approximately three miles before reaching the Teton River.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes. The pond has a stockwater right with a priority date of December 31, 1917.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout and brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, rainbow and brook trout are found in the upper reaches of the Teton River drainage near the town of Choteau, MT.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Blue sucker, sturgeon chub, and sauger are Species of Special Concern found in the lower Teton River. Risks to these species from potential escapement of rainbow and/or brook trout from H Reservoir are negligible because water quality, water volume, and habitat in the lower Teton River are not suitable for the establishment of trout 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 X Minor ___ Major

Comments: Currently, there are no fish in H Reservoir. Escapement of stocked fish into the unnamed coulee could potentially occur in a major run-off event that results in overland surface flow. There is potential for stocked rainbow and brook trout to reach the Teton River. However, it is unlikely they would persist in this reach of the river because of high summer water temperatures. Escaped rainbow and brook trout may migrate to upstream reaches of the Teton towards Choteau, but no significant impacts are expected.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? ___ None X 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: There is little potential for rainbow trout to spawn in this location because of the absence of flowing water and suitable habitat. Brook trout may successfully spawn in the reservoir if there are areas of groundwater upwelling.

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 can be identified in the permitting process.

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 are expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Dave Yerk

Date: February 25, 2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Alan Lippert Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Brook trout.

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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

George Liknes

George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

3/24/2008
Date