

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

Name and address of applicant: Harry Pospisil
Box 285
Hobson, MT 59452

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

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes. There is a December 11, 2007 ground water certification for fishery. 41S 30030408

Location of pond: County: Judith Basin
Legal description: T14N R14E Sec 23

Name of the drainage where the pond is located: Located on unnamed tributary to Ross Fork Creek. Can also potentially be fed by irrigation canal from Ackley Lake.

Fish species proposed for introduction:
Rainbow trout, brook trout

Are these species legally present in the drainage?
Pond was licensed for rainbow trout and brook trout in 1962. These species are also present in Ross Fork Creek and other surrounding waters.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:
None are known from the Ross Fork drainage. Headwaters of the Judith have westslope cutthroat that should not be influenced by this pond.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** Pond is located on an ephemeral tributary to Ross Fork Creek which flows into the Judith. Pond is spring fed and has the potential to be filled from an irrigation ditch. Outlet is not screened, which is likely not practical to due to spring volume and clogging.

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. It is unlikely that stocking in this pond will impact the genetics of the wild non-native brook and rainbow trout in Ross Fork Creek and its tributaries. It is highly unlikely that trout stocked in this pond could reach any WCT populations, since they are protected by dry stream reaches or barriers and are located at least 60 miles away. Existing wild fish populations are much more likely to impact the WCT populations.

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 some stocked fish will end up Ross Fork Creek, 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: Highly 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 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:** March 14, 2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Harry Pospisil 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