

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

Name and address of applicant: S.M.I. Inc,
C/o William Klatt Pres.
Box 1649
Ennis, MT 59729

Note: The applicant applied for three ponds in the same drainage (Figure 1). This EA is for all three ponds.

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes. Approval is recommended for Ponds 1, 2 and 3.

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes.

Pond 1: 41S 73859 provisional permit March 29, 1990 for Fish and Wildlife 1.5 surface acres.

Pond 2: 41S 135398 original right March 1, 1938 for stock. On stream reservoir.

Pond 3: 41S 73858 provisional permit March 29, 1990. Fish and Wildlife; 8.3 acre feet 5 acre reservoir.

Location of pond: County: Fergus

Legal description: Pond 1: T18N R14E S27 SENESE
Pond 2: T18N R14E S26 NESESW
Pond 3: T18N R14E S26 W2NESE

Name of the drainage where the pond is located: Located on an unnamed tributary to Dry Wolf Creek. About four miles upstream of Wolf Creek.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Applicant requested largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish. Bluegill and catfish will not be approved.

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout and largemouth bass are now proposed.

Are these species legally present in the drainage? Yes.

Several ponds in this vicinity have been permitted for and/or are stocked with largemouth bass and the trout species.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None are know from Wolf Creek. Prairie fish surveys completed on Wolf Creek have found northern redbelly dace and it is likely the hybrid northern redbelly by finescale dace exists here. It is over 50 miles of prairie stream from the ponds to the Judith River, which contains species of special concern such as blue sucker and sauger. The headwaters of Running Wolf Creek contain Westslope cutthroat trout but are located about 50 miles upstream but are protected by dry stream reaches.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes X No ___ **Explain:** These ponds have on-stream outlets. The upper pond does not have a pipe and cannot be screened. The middle pond has a screen that

would be ineffective on small – medium size fish and the lower pond does not have a screen. It is possible for fish stocked in these ponds to go downstream.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

No significant impacts are expected. It is unlikely that stocking in this pond will impact the genetics of the wild non-native trout and largemouth bass. It is unlikely that trout stocked in this pond could reach any Westslope cutthroat trout populations.

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

None Minor Major

Population level effects are not likely. No significant impacts are expected. Stocked fish will eat some minnows if present in pond. Largemouth bass may also eat some in the downstream tributaries, but low flows will likely make habitat limited and short-lived.

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. Substrate in the vicinity has limited gravel. It is likely that largemouth bass will reproduce.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Removal would likely require pumping the reservoirs dry and/or using fish toxicants. The reservoirs do not have outlets that can be opened for draining.

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. Two of the species requested, bluegill and channel catfish will not be stocked.

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:** April 23, 2008

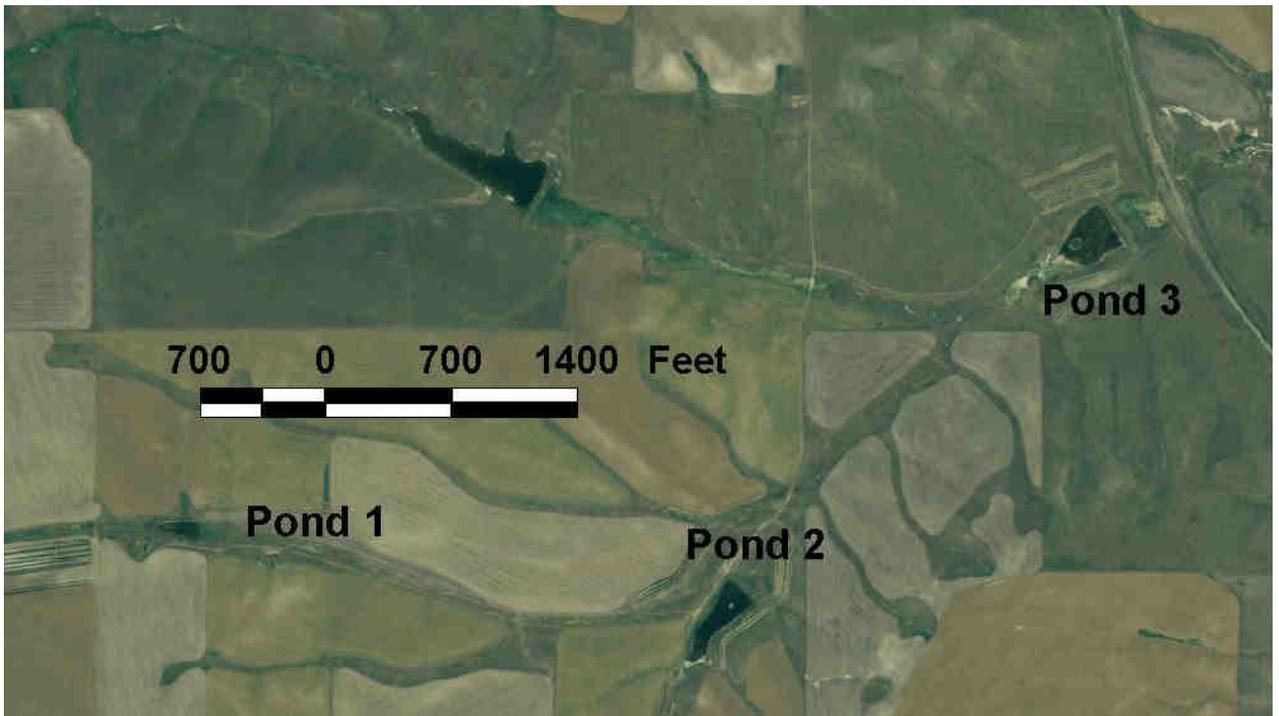


Figure 1. Location of SMI inc (Bill Klatt) ponds.



Upper pond April 22, 2008.



Middle pond and outlet structure April 22, 2008



Lower pond with outlet structure, April 22, 2008.

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# S.M.I. Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/23/2008

Date