

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

Name and address of applicant: Falls Coulee LLC
C/o Bill Clevenger
P.O. Box 669
Port Angeles, WA 98362

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

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes.
41S 12480-00 Statement of Claim for Stock, December 31, 1930.

Location of pond: **County:** Fergus
 Legal description: T21N R15E S35 NESWNE

Name of the drainage where the pond is located: Located on an unnamed tributary to Coyote Coulee.

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

Are these species legally present in the drainage? Yes.
Several ponds in this vicinity have been permitted for and/or are stocked with these trout species.
This pond was previously licensed for "trout."

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 30 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 80 miles upstream and are protected by dry stream reaches.

RISKS: Impacts should be similar to those seen during the last 30 years of trout stocking.
Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes X No ___ **Explain:** This ponds has an on-stream outlet. The pond does not have a pipe and cannot be screened.

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

Population level effects are not likely. No significant impacts are expected. Stocked fish will eat some minnows if present in pond.

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.

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.

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:** May 9, 2008



Downstream of Falls Coulee LLC pond



Falls Coulee LLC pond May 8, 2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title Falls Coulee LLC Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Brook Trout, Brown Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/23/2008
Date