

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

Name and address of applicant: George J. Rankin
1289 Nine Mile Rd.
Oilmont, MT 59466

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Toole
Legal description: T36N R01E Sec09 SW1/4
Latitude: 48.891010, **Longitude:** -111.621793

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Rankin's Pond is located approximately 14 miles east of Sunburst, MT, on an unnamed tributary of Kicking Horse Cr. This tributary flows approximately one-half mile before entering Kicking Horse Coulee. Kicking Horse Coulee flows approximately four miles before entering Willow Creek. Willow Creek flows southeasterly approximately 50 stream miles before entering Tiber Reservoir.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes. The pond has an irrigation right with a November 1, 1950 priority date.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Brown trout and rainbow trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, rainbow trout are found in the upper Marias River drainage. Brown trout and rainbow trout are present in the lower Marias River drainage immediately below Tiber Dam.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Westslope cutthroat trout are present in the headwaters of the Marias drainage in tributaries of the Two Medicine River. Sauger are found in the lower Marias River below Tiber Dam ; pallid sturgeon (Federally protected endangered species) are present in very low numbers downstream in the Missouri River.

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: Escapement of stocked fish into the unnamed coulee could potentially occur in a major run-off event. There is potential for stocked trout to reach Willow Creek and eventually Tiber Reservoir, however no negligible effects are anticipated because they are already present in the system.

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 trout to spawn in this location because of the absence of flowing water and suitable habitat.

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: May 28, 2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title George J. Rankin Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: Maintain screened overflow outlet culvert to prevent fish escape.

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

6/18/2008
Date