

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

Name and address of applicant: Sunny Brook Colony Inc.
PO Box 238
Chester MT 59522

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond?

Yes. There is a provisional permit with a priority date of 9/22/1999; it has an irrigation use and includes a reservoir record that lists the surface area as 2.5 Acres and a current capacity of 10 AF. Measurement of the surface area of the pond on a 2005 color aerial photo showed a surface area of 1.1 acres. The water rights number is 41P 105759-00.

Location of pond:

County: Chouteau

Legal description: T28N R8E S13 SENESW **Lat:** 48.17966 **Long:** -110.64536

Name of the drainage where the pond is located:

The Reservoir is located more than 2.5 miles upstream on a side drainage of Fourmile Coulee which enters the Marias River at River Mile 28.8. Fourmile Coulee is intermittent in nature.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout.

Are these species legally present in the drainage?

Yes. Rainbow trout are present in the Marias River drainage below Tiber Dam.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Blue sucker, sturgeon chub, and sauger are Species of Special Concern found in the lower Marias River. Risks to these species from potential escapement of rainbow trout from the reservoir are negligible because water quality, and habitat in the Marias River are not highly suitable for the long-term survival of trout species. Also, rainbow trout are already present in Marias River below Tiber Dam.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. Fish have to travel approximately 2.5 miles downstream Fourmile Coulee, an intermittent drainage, to reach the Marias River, where it enters at River Mile 28.8. If the stocked trout reached a population of rainbow trout, they should have very little influence on genetics of any remaining non-native rainbow trout or brown trout.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Currently, there are no fish in the reservoir. Escapement of stocked fish into Fourmile Coulee could potentially occur in a major run-off event that results in overland surface flow; however, it is a remote

possibility since the reservoir is filled by pumping water from the Marias River and the drainage area is small. The outlet is screened to prevent larger sized fish from escaping unless water access the dam spillway. There is potential for stocked trout to reach the Marias River, but the species is already present in the Marias River. Escaped rainbow may migrate to upstream reaches of the Marias River, but no significant impacts are expected.

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: There is little potential for rainbow 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. It should be possible to use chemicals at any water level in the pond, but water levels could be lowered to minimize the volume of water that would have to be treated to eradicate fish.

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: George Liknes

Date: July 16, 2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Sunny Brook Colony Inc. Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout.

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: Maintain screen on outlet in a functional condition.

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

7/16/2008

Date