

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Bruce C. Christensen
487 Wintergreen Ln.
Bozeman, MT 59715

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? - Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Meagher

Legal description: T10N, R4E, S30, SE SE NE (Lat: 46.59758° Long: 111.26730°)

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

- The pond is located in an unnamed tributary of Moose Creek, tributary of Camas Creek in the upper Smith River drainage.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

- Yes. Water right #: 41J 109134 00 Statement of Claim, which has an irrigation purpose. However, the pond inspection report stated that the current landowner does not use the pond for irrigation, but the headgate is still functional.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

- Rainbow trout & Brook trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

- Yes.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

- Species of Special Concern are not present in the unnamed tributary of Moose Creek. Westslope Cutthroat trout populations are present in other Camas Creek headwater tributaries, but stocking this private pond does not threaten those populations.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None X Minor Major

- Rainbow trout and Brook trout have been present in the pond since the pond was permitted in 1969. Spawning does not occur in the pond due to lack of suitable spawning habitat.

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

None X Minor Major

- Only large adult Rainbow and Brook trout exist in the pond.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None__Minor_Major__

- Aquatic invertebrates and amphibian larvae may be consumed accordingly.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location:

None__Minor_Major__

- A minor potential for reproduction does exist, but an appropriate spawning site is highly unlikely.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

- Yes, pond is only 3.69 surface acres and could be chemically treated.

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 (Rainbow and Brook trout).

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 very minor.

EA prepared by: Adam Strainer

Date: 7/24/08

Comments will be accepted until: No formal comment period was established because this action was deemed not to be controversial. Comments will be accepted at any time.

Comments should be sent to: MDFW&P, 4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title Bruce C. Christensen Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Brook Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

9/16/2008

Date