

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

Name and address of applicant: Ken Holman
154 East Portage Road
Floweree, MT 59440

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Cascade
Legal description: T22N, R5E, S19; NESWSW & SENWSW
Lat\Long: 47.64317, -111.14893

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The pond is located in Portage Coulee, which is a seasonally intermittent drainage. The Holman pond is located approximately 7.5 miles upstream from the mouth of Portage Coulee. The mouth of Portage Coulee is approximately 3.25 miles downstream from Morony Dam on the Missouri River. Also, the mouth of Portage Creek enters the Missouri River directly across from Widow Coulee Fishing Access Site.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

Yes. The Holman pond lies within two separate 1/64th's of a section within Section 19. Both 1/64th's of the section have legal water rights (41Q 206362 00 & 41Q 206363 00) with a priority date of December 31, 1941 and states the purpose as Stock. See attached water rights.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes. Rainbow trout are present in the drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Unknown but unlikely

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: This pond was established on an intermittent coulee that captures seasonal runoff. The dam structure has no outlet and therefore has an extremely limited potential for downstream fish escape. Also, adding rainbow trout to a pond that presently has only rainbow trout would have minor impacts on the genetic structure of the existing fish population, especially since rainbow trout rarely reproduce in a prairie pond setting due to lack of suitable spawning habitat.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Potential for impacts on existing fish populations will be minor. Since some adult fish remain in the pond and future stocking would consist primarily of fingerling rainbow trout, the impact would likely be on the newly planted fish.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Gammarus (freshwater shrimp spp.) are abundant in this pond and are the primary food source for trout in the pond. Gammarus will continue to be present in the pond post stocking, but densities may be reduced by predation.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: The reproduction potential in this pond for rainbow trout is very low and salmonid (trout) reproduction rarely occurs in prairie pond settings like this pond.

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.

Comments: Species restrictions. Rainbow trout only.

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:

Comments: 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.

Comments: No. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Adam Strainer **Date:** 3/26/09

Comments will be accepted until:

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 Ken Holman Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/13/2009
Date