

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Ben Galt
Catlin Ranch LP
3660 US Highway 12
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

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

Location of pond:

County: Meagher

Legal description: T8N, R7E, S7, SW¼NW¼SE¼

Latitude: 46.4659643901864° Longitude: -110.892515434769°

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

- The pond is located in the Catlin Spring/Spring Creek drainage, a tributary of the South Fork Smith River.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

- Yes. Water right #: 41J 146095 00 Statement of Claim, which has an irrigation purpose with a reservoir record that has a priority date of March 21, 1874.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

- Rainbow trout, brown 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 Catlin Spring/Spring Creek drainage. Westslope Cutthroat trout populations are present in other nearby 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 are present in the pond and brook trout are present in Spring Creek. We do not anticipate that spawning will occur in the pond due to lack of suitable spawning habitat. The planted fish should have no negative impacts to the genetic structure of the existing fish populations.

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

None Minor Major

- The only sport fish present in the drainage are rainbow and brook trout.

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

None Minor Major

- Planted fish may consume aquatic invertebrates and amphibian larvae and their densities may be modified, but we do not anticipate impacts at the population level.

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

None Minor Major

- A minor potential for reproduction does exist, but an successful spawning is unlikely.

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

- Yes, pond is only 0.6 surface acres and could be chemically rehabnilitated.

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, brown, brook, and westslope cutthroat 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: George Liknes

Date: 6/1/2009

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 Ben Galt/Catlin Ranch LP Private Pond

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

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

6/1/2009
Date