

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

Name and address of applicant: August and Ruth Otto
48108 Mt Hwy 19
Grass Range, MT 59032

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? yes

Water originates from springs/runoff upstream of the pond. Drainage area is less than 1 square mile upstream of the dam. The drainage downstream of dam is ephemeral at most. Downstream of the dam was dry on 5/26/09.

Does the pond have water rights? This pond has a ground water certificate for a Fish and Wildlife right from May 27, 2009. It is associated with an older right on this spring. The water rights are:38263-G4OB and 40B 30045980.

Location of pond:

County: Fergus

Legal description: T15NR23ES3

Latitude/Longitude: 47.08691667°, 108.79065°

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located in Fords Creek drainage, approximately two miles upstream of Fords Creek (Flatwillow drainage). It is not in a defined drainage.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout, brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Ponds in this drainage have been permitted for and/or are stocked with trout species.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None from this ephemeral drainage. None known from Fords Creek. Pure WCT are located in the headwaters of Fords Creek in Collar Gulch.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:**

Pond does not have an outlet structure. Screens are not practical on the current outlet. Unlikely even during high flows that stocked fish would go downstream. Trout would not survive long in going overland or in Fords Creek.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: None Minor Major

Comments: Non-native rainbow trout, and brook trout could likely not survive in Ford's Creek in this area. Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. Brook trout are found in Chicago Gulch, adjacent to Collar, have poor, but greater access than fish would

from this pond. It is extremely unlikely that fish stocked in this pond could make it to upstream populations. It would be 3 miles overland (no defined drainage) plus 28 miles upstream to reach Collar Gulch. A dam and reservoir, visible on aerial photos, likely completely blocks Fords Creek 15 miles downstream from the WCT.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? None Minor Major

Comments: See above. May eat minnows or other fish if present in pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Trout will consume some invertebrates in pond.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: None Minor Major

Comments: Inlet stream is a spring. Reproduction is unlikely for rainbow trout/brook trout.

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

Yes. This pond would likely need to be chemically treated and/or pumped to remove fish. There is no drawdown structure.

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.

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. Minor impacts expected.

EA prepared by: Anne Tews

DATE: 6/15/2009

DECISION RECORD

FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue

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

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.
- Other (specify) Pond does not meet criteria for private pond permit but impacts should be minimal.



7/2/2009

George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

Date