

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

Name and address of applicant: McKamey Ranch Co.
Ken McKamey
1909 Millegan Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

POND #1

County: Cascade

Legal description: T16N, R3E, S28; NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ & SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Lat/Long: 47.10823, 111.35891

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The pond is located in an Unammed tributary of Clark Creek in the Smith River drainage near Millegan Hill. The pond is approximately 0.7 miles upstream from the mouth of the unammed tributary and approximately 8.4 miles upstream from the confluence of Clark Creek and the Smith River. The mouth of Clark Creek is upstream from McKamey Ranch Co. headquarters on the Smith River approximately 2.0 miles.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

Yes. McKamey Pond #1 lies within three separate 1/64ths of a section within Section 28. The water right attached to the application was not correct, but WR# 41J 207400-00 has the correct location for the point of diversion and place of use with a Priority Date of December 31, 1957 and states the purpose as Fish and Wildlife. The location of the reservoir is in error. 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:

Although it is unknown if species of special concern are present in Clark Creek, it is unlikely. Westslope cutthroat trout are present in upstream tributaries of the Smith River and are occasionally found in the upper mainstem of the Smith River. Viable populations of rainbow trout are present throughout the Smith River mainstem.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: This pond was established on a spring-fed coulee that also captures seasonal runoff. The dam structure has a high release (surface) culvert (90° angle) that has a very minor potential for fish escape 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. In addition, 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. Adult fish remain in the pond and future stocking would consist primarily of fingerling Rainbow trout.

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 thrive in the pond post stocking.

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 & George Liknes **Date:** 5/28/09

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: McKamey Ranch Co Private Pond #1

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

7/8/2009
Date