

**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 #2
County: Cascade
Legal description: T16N, R3E, S33; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Lat/Long: 47.09260, 111.35389

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The pond is located on Spring Coulee, a tributary of Clark Creek in the Smith River drainage near Millegan Hill. The pond is approximately 1 mile upstream from the mouth of Spring Coulee, which enters Clark Creek approximately 9.1 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 #2 lies within the SWNESE 1/64th of a section within Section 33. The 1/64th of the section has a water right (41J 207430 00) with a priority date of September 30, 1969 and a fish and wildlife purpose of use. See the attached water right.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes. Rainbow trout are present in the drainage. The pond was been previously licensed in 1958 to the Colby Sheep Co. for Earl McKamey (License #5093) for rainbow and brook trout. Rainbow trout are currently present in the pond.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Unknown but 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 24" culvert outlet that flows into a field, however, the spring has very little flow and most pond level loss is through evaporation. 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. Rainbow trout are currently present.

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 #2

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