

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

Name and address of applicant: David J and Betty Wickens
564 Echo Drive
Hilger, MT 59451

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit?

Water originates from springs/runoff upstream of the pond. Drainage area is about 1 square mile upstream of the dam (Figure 1). The stream downstream of dam appears to be seasonal (Figure 2). Flow over the spillway was low, a few gallons per minute, on May 26, 2009 during high run-off conditions (Figure 2).

Does the pond have water rights? This pond has an irrigation right from November 1, 1952, WR# 41T 199414 00.

Location of pond:

County: Fergus

Legal description: T19N,R18E,S12 SESENW 47.43239; 109.37187

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located on an unnamed tributary to Dog Creek, approximately three miles upstream of Dog Creek.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout and brown trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

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

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None from this ephemeral drainage. None from Dog Creek during prairie fish sampling.

RISKS:

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

Pond does not have an outlet structure (Figure 2). Screens are not practical on the current outlet. During high flows stocked fish may go downstream via an ephemeral channel into Dog Creek. Rainbow trout and brown trout would not survive long in ephemeral drainage or in Dog Creek. There is potential for the fish to populate 1 or 2 downstream ponds.

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

Comments: Non-native rainbow trout and brown trout have access to Dog Creek. Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely.

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 small, likely ephemeral and has silty substrate. Reproduction is unlikely for rainbow trout.

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

Yes. According to nephew (Nat Stulc) of landowner the irrigation system probably does not work. This pond would likely need to be chemically treated and/or pumped to remove fish.

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: 5/29/2009

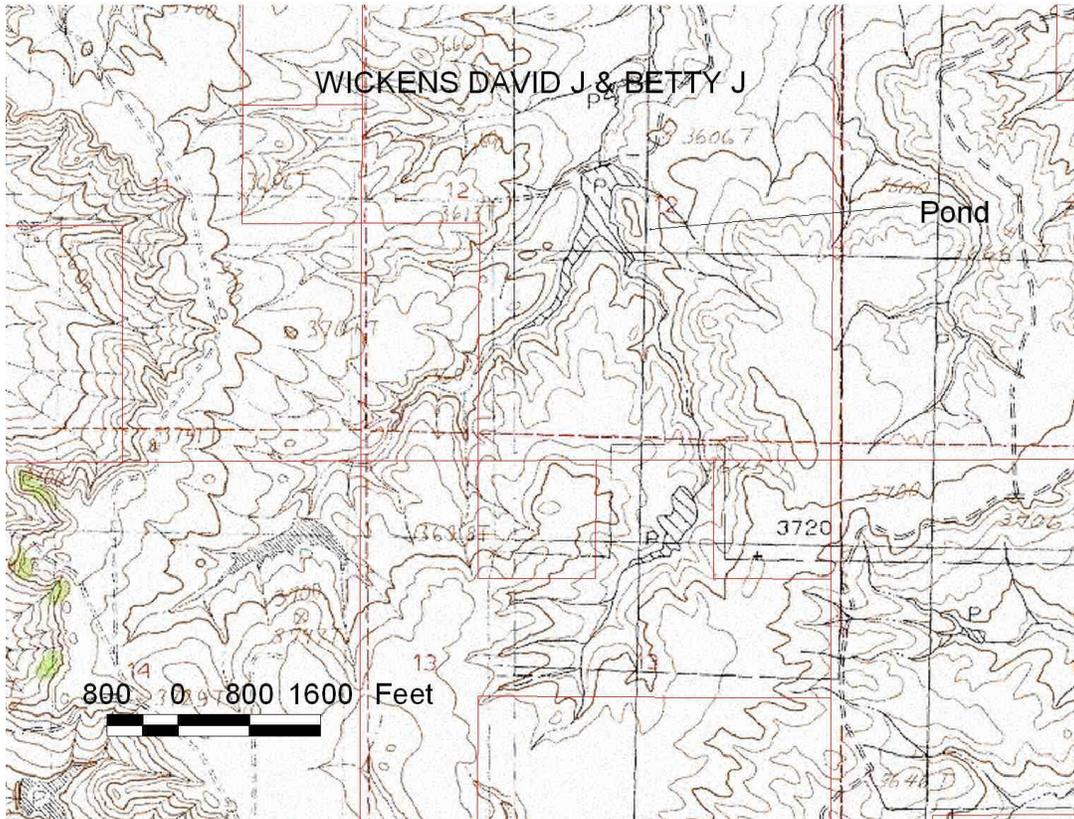
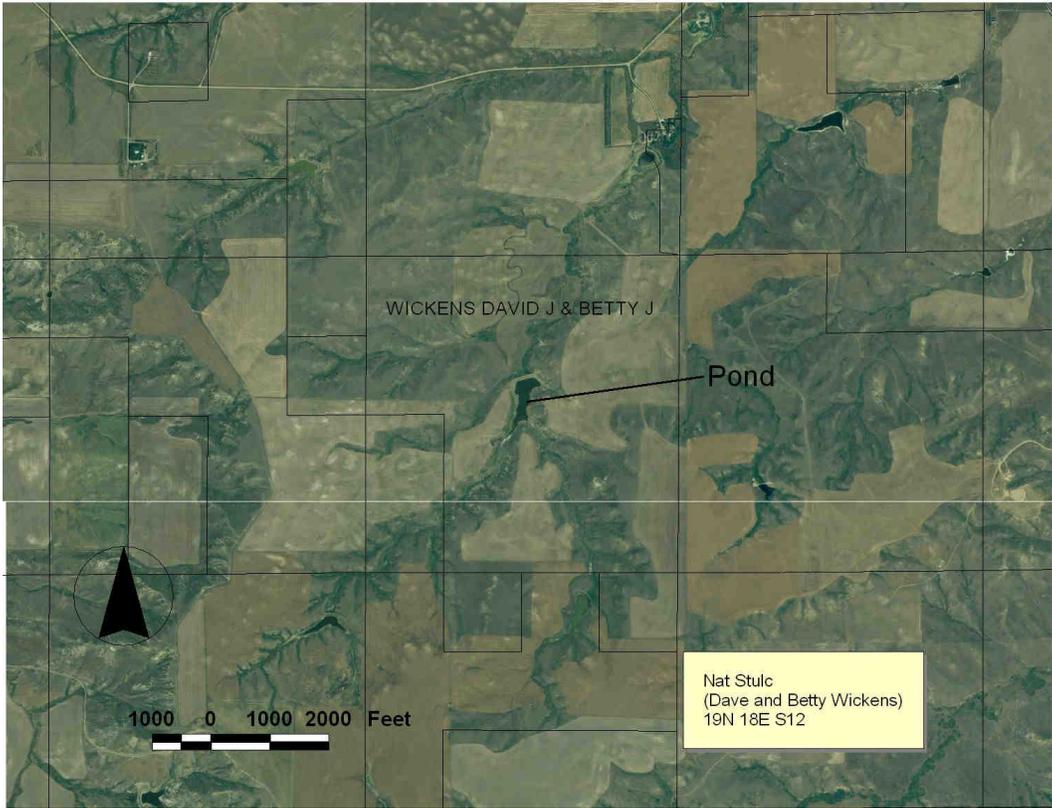


Figure 1. Aerial view and topographic map of Dave and Betty Wickens pond.



Figure 2. Outflow of Dave and Betty Wickens pond.

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title: Wickens-Stulc Private Pond

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.**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

7/9/2009

Date