

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Denise M. Labelle  
410 Kelsey Court  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit in the past?** Yes (13012-3-0606-16).

**Location:** Pond is located approximately 0.5 miles upstream of the confluence of Moose Creek (near Divide) and the Big Hole River.

**County:** Deer Lodge      **Township:** 1S      **Range:** 9W      **Section:** 32

**Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:** Moose Creek.

**Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction:** Rainbow Trout >8 inches long.

**Is this species native to the drainage? If not, was it introduced legally (i.e. by a fish management agency)?** No. Rainbow Trout were legally introduced into the Big Hole River by FWP.

**List species of special concern present in the drainage:** Arctic Grayling are present in the Big Hole River but rare in the vicinity of the above named pond. Westslope Cutthroat are native to the Big Hole River and Moose Creek. They are rare in the Big Hole River in the vicinity of the pond and extirpated from Moose Creek. Non-native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout are present in the headwaters of Moose Creek, but were introduced.

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes X No \_\_\_ **Explain:** There is no inlet to the pond; it is fed by a groundwater spring located below the static level of the pond. The outlet of the pond consists of a 12 inch CMP that flows directly to Moose Creek. Prior to pond inspection the pipe was not screened and there was easy exchange of fish between the pond and Moose Creek. Discharge from the pond at the time of inspection was approximately between 20 and 50 gal/min. A 3/8 inch metal screen was installed on the pipe following the inspection and photos sent in to verify the screen installation.

**Potential for impacts on genetic structure of wild fish populations?**

None \_\_\_ Minor X Major \_\_\_

**Comments required for minor or major impacts:** Due to the direct connection between the pond and Moose Creek, and the proximity of the pond to the Big Hole River, the likelihood of stocked Rainbow Trout escaping from the pond to the creek and river is greater than ponds with no outlet or outlets that do not drain directly to an adjacent stream. However, if the screen is maintained and consistently cleaned and the size of fish stocked is greater than 8 inches, the

potential for fish escapement and mixing with the wild rainbow trout in the Moose Creek and the Big Hole River is greatly reduced.

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

**Comments required for minor or major impacts:** See comment above.

**Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?**  
None\_\_ Minor X Major\_\_

**Comments required for minor or major impacts:** This is an artificial pond, which has been stocked in the past. Although not observed during the pond inspection, it is likely that amphibians inhabit the pond or use it for breeding and rearing. The pond was artificially created and has been stocked in the past, there is no reason to believe that there will be any additional impacts to aquatic amphibians. Aquatic insects and other animals will likely be preyed upon by the stocked fish but impacts should be similar to those for amphibians.

**Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location?**  
None X Minor\_\_ Major\_\_

**Comments required for minor or major impacts:** No spawning habitat in pond or inlet or outlet.

**If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? How?**  
Yes. Use of an approved piscicide or cease stocking and waiting for fish to age-out.

**Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?** Not likely.

**Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).**  
No action. Leave pond barren of fish.

**Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.** None, other than maintenance of screen on outflow of pond.

**List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:**  
None.

**List all agencies and individuals outside of FWP who have been notified of this proposed introduction:** None.

**Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? Yes\_\_ No X** If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. Pond meets all criteria for a private pond license with no or minimal potential effects on the fishery of Moose Creek or the Big Hole River.

**Literature Cited:** N/A

**EA prepared by:** Jim Olsen

**Comments will be accepted until:** N/A

**Comments should be sent to:** N/A

**Email Address:** N/A

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