ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Jack and Selene Dunn
7960 Beaver Creek Road
Moore, MT 59464

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? yes
Water originates from developed springs/runoff upstream of the pond. Drainage area is less than 1 square mile upstream of the dam. The springs flow into Beaver Creek.

Does the pond have water rights? This pond has a ground water certificate for fisheries dated September 9, 2009.

Location of pond:

County: Fergus
Legal description: T13N,R17E NE1 46.92523; 109.50766

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located in unnamed tributary of Beaver Creek, approximately 16 miles upstream of the mouth of Cottonwood Creek (Judith drainage).

Fish species proposed for introduction: Westslope cutthroat, brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?
Beaver Creek has an abundant brook trout population; westslope cutthroat are native.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: WCT are found in the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek 16 miles downstream and then 25 miles upstream.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes_X_ No___ **Explain:**
Pond has a flowing pipe as the outlet structure. Owner plans to screen and screens are recommended. Fish will likely escape from this pond into Beaver Creek.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: __ None _X Minor __ Major
Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. Brook trout are abundant in Beaver Creek in the location of the pond. The brook trout that would escape from this pond should have little impact on the non-native brook trout population. If westslope cutthroat escape from the pond, it is unlikely they would swim 41 miles to the indigenous WCT population. In the unlikely event they did reproduce the impacts would be far less than with the introduction of rainbow trout.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or

predation? __ None _X_ Minor __ Major
Comments: 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 _X_ Minor __ Major
Comments: Trout will consume some invertebrates in pond.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: __ None _X_ Minor __ Major
Comments: Inlet stream is a spring that is piped into the pond. Trout reproduction is unlikely.

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, inflow diverted 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:** 10/26/2009

DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue

■ **Private Pond License**

☐ **Commercial Pond License**

☐ **One Time Permission to Plant Letter**

☐ **Denial**

APPROVED SPECIES: Brook Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: Screens shall be placed on overflow culvert.

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

12/18/2009

George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

Date