

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

Name and address of applicant: Crazy M Ranch Limited Partnership
C/O Anne Mackay
P.O. Box 26
Martinsdale, MT 59053

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Either one time plant or private pond approval recommended. Water originates from developed springs/runoff upstream of the pond. Drainage area is approximately 1 square mile upstream of the dam.

Does the pond have water rights? This pond has an irrigation right dated August 15, 1950, for up to 336 acre-ft.

Location of pond:

County: Meagher

Legal description: T6N, R11E SW 8 46.28933; 110.38218

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located on an unnamed tributary of Loco Creek (Musselshell drainage), approximately 2 miles upstream of Cottonwood Creek

Fish species proposed for introduction: Cutthroat, rainbow trout, brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? In Cottonwood Creek. This reservoir was stocked with brook trout by Montana Fish and Game in 1953 (Sondero Reservoir).

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None known. Cutthroat trout are in Forest Lake but are hybrid WCT and YCT. Loco Creek is not considered part of the native range of either species.

RISKS:

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

Water flows into the pond from two springs. Base flow is low, probably <1/3 CFS total for approximately 0.5 miles. Outflow is via screened irrigation outlet or overland, in an area that would not be practical to screen. Trout can easily escape from this reservoir.

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

Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. All proposed species are not native to the South Fork Musselshell. Brook trout are abundant in Loco Creek. Brook trout, rainbow trout and cutthroat are common downstream in Cottonwood Creek. Trout that would escape from this pond should have little negative impact on the genetics non-native trout population.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? None 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 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 a spring. Trout may be able to reproduce in the inlet.

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, but the reservoir can be drawn down substantially to reduce amount of chemical and need for detoxification.

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: 11/05/2009



Outflow
Lower
right



West
inflow



East
Inflow

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

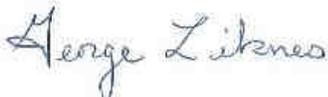
- Private Pond License
- Commercial Pond License
- One Time Permission to Plant Letter
- Denial

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Westslope Cutthroat 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. Game fish are present in the tributary spring, so the pond does not meet statutory requirements for a private pond license. Repeated issuance of a one time permission to plant letter would be acceptable.



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

12/21/2009

Date