

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

Name and address of applicant: George T Hopkins Family Trust
C/O Walt Hopkins, Trustee
1168 US Highway 89
Sun River, MT 59483

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes. This Pond has been previously licensed since 1960 with Pond #4-0193. Private pond approval recommended. Water originates from irrigation seepage, springs and 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 a statement of claim water right # 41K 200374-00 for a Fish & Wildlife use and a priority date of August 31, 1956. No volume was identified since consumption has not been quantified.

Location of pond:

County: Cascade

Legal description: T21N, R1W, S19&20

Lat/Long.: N 47.55893, W111.77177

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located on an unnamed tributary of Mill Coulee Creek (Sun River drainage), approximately 4 miles upstream of Sun River.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None known. Cutthroat trout are in the Sun River above Gibson Dam, but are hybrid westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout.

RISKS:

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

Water flows into the pond from a series of springs. Base flow is low, probably 0.5-1.0 CFS total for approximately 0.25 miles. Outflow is via an unscreened 24" culvert or overland. 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. The proposed species is not native to the Sun River. Rainbow trout are present downstream in Mill Coulee Creek and Sun River. Trout that would escape from this pond should have little negative impact on the genetics of the non-native trout populations.

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.

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: Paul Hamlin

DATE: 1/25/2010



Photo of Pond Outlet.

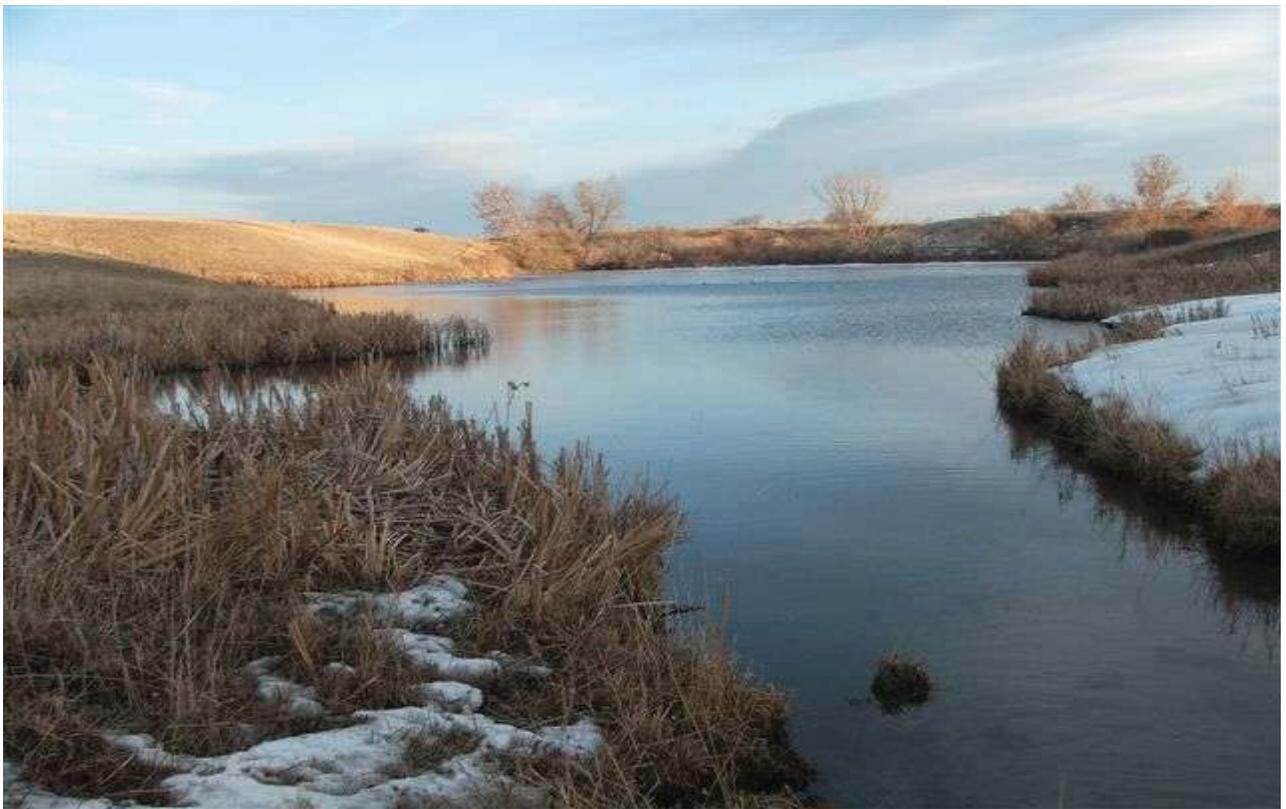


Photo of Pond

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: None

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

2/10/2010

Date