



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

DECISION RECORD INTRODUCTION OF NEW FISH SPECIES

Water Name: Slivka Reservoir #2

County: Fergus County

Legal Description: T21N R18E S20

Latitude/Longitude: 47.5709, 109.44926

Fish Species Proposed for Introduction:

Largemouth Bass

Description of Public Notification/Review Process:

The Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice will be posted on the FWP website. Lester and Patricia Slivka, FWP staff, and downstream neighbors (Boyce) were involved, contacted or briefed regarding the project. FWP staff believes this introduction poses little biological risk and would not generate controversial issues, hence no public comment period is proposed.

Summary of Public Comments:

Although no formal public comment period is proposed, comments will be accepted at any time in the Lewistown or Great Falls FWP fisheries section offices.

Recommendation:

Stock largemouth bass as described as the fish proposed for introduction in the EA. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this decision notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

George Libnes

7/2/2010

Regional Fisheries Manager

Date

Environmental Review of Fish Introduction - DRAFT

Description of water body and action:

Name: Slivka Reservoir #2 (Sig Larson Coulee) County: Fergus
Legal Description: T21N R18E S20; 47.5709; 109.44926

FWP plans to stock largemouth bass in this privately owned pond. Owner has agreed to allow reasonable public access. The pond is about 3 surface acres and 15 acre-feet. Maximum depth is about 16 feet at full pool. Pond is located about 6 miles northwest of Winifred, Montana.

Name of the drainage where the pond is located:

Pond is located in the headwaters of Dog Creek in Sig Larson Coulee. Dog Creek flows into the Missouri River (Figure 1).

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Largemouth Bass

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes in the Missouri Drainage.

Species of Special Concern in the drainage:

No Species of Special Concern are known from Sig Larson Coulee or Dog Creek, which are ephemeral or intermittent. The Missouri River contains several species of special concern including pallid sturgeon, sauger, sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub and blue sucker.

Risks:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** Pond is located on-stream. There is potential for fish to swim up-stream or be swept downstream during high flow event. The spill-way is a low spot in the dam.

Potential for impacts on the genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: During high water stocked fish could go over the spill-way and down to Dog Creek. A pond located about one mile downstream of the proposed pond could potentially be colonized by fish that are stocked in the Slivka #2 pond and wash downstream during high flow events. The privately owned downstream pond does not have a fish pond permit, so there should not be any game fish in the pond. The FWP database indicates the downstream pond was stocked with trout in the 1950's. Dog Creek is intermittent and Sig Larsen Coulee ephemeral; it is unlikely stocked largemouth bass could reproduce in Dog Creek and if they did there would be little impact on the genetics of these non-native fish.

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

None Minor Major

The pond contains a dense minnow population. Stocked largemouth bass will eat the small fish in the pond.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction: ___None
 X Minor ___Major

It is unlikely that there will be additional impacts.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: ___None
 X Minor ___Major

It is possible that largemouth bass will reproduce in this pond. Pond should over-winter fish except during drought.

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

Yes the pond is small enough to chemically treat and it could probably be pumped down sufficiently for winter kill.

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).

No action. There would not be a new opportunity for public fishing in Fergus County.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Fish stocking will be a beneficial action.

List all agencies and individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction.

Area anglers
Lester and Patricia Slivka
Downstream neighbors with pond

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction.

Downstream neighbors (Boyce),
Lester and Patricia Slivka, FWP.

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 actions. No. Action expected to be minor.

EA prepared by: Anne Tews, Fisheries Biologist

Date: June 17, 2010

Email address: antews@mt.gov

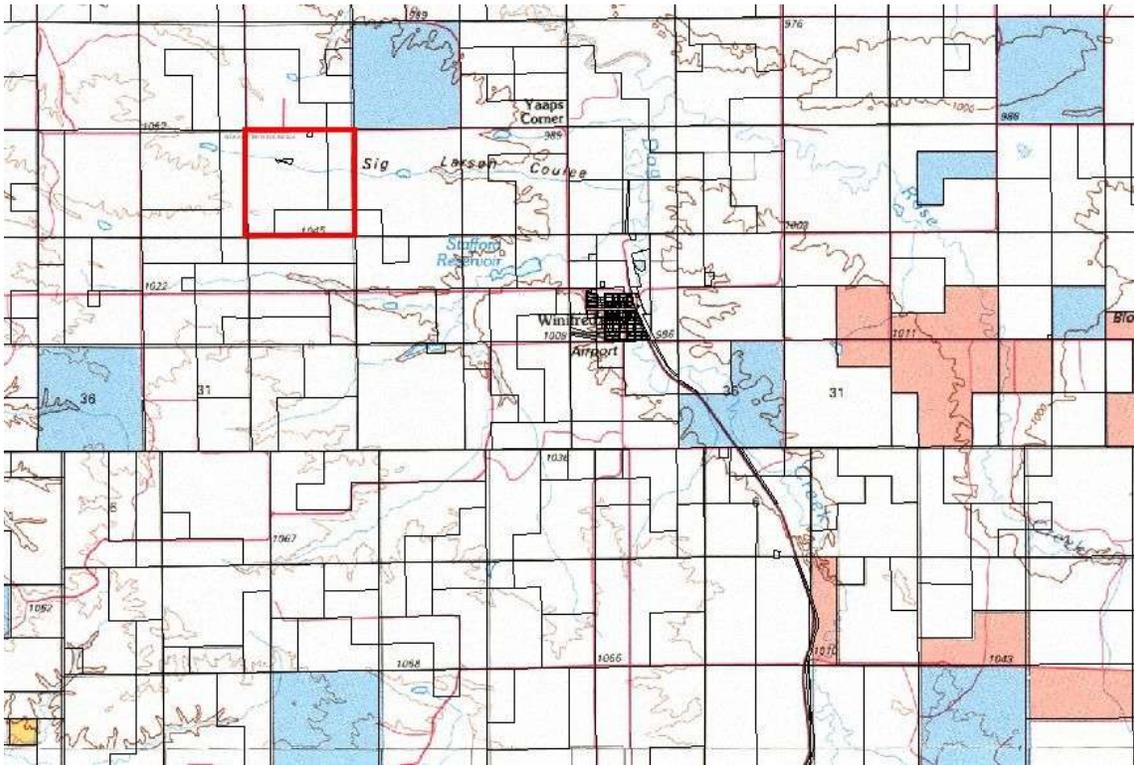


Figure 1. Location of Slivka 2 pond. Red box indicates location of pond about 4 miles NW of Winifred. T21N R18E S20. 47.5709; 109.44926

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	ADD Plant Record for:	Slivka Reservoir #2
Prepared By:	George Liknes	
Date:	7/2/2010	
Explanation:	New Pond-Use plant scheduled for Slivka Reservoir	
Water:	168290	Slivka Reservoir #2
Region:	4	
County:	Fergus	
TRS:	21N18E20	
	47.5709, 109.44926	
Species:	017	Largemouth Bass
Strain:	-	(Undesignated)
Hatchery:	14	Miles City Fish Hatchery
Fish Size:	1-2	inches
Nbr of Fish:	1,000	
Plant Type:	3	Establish New Population
Plant Instructions:	Use fish from Slivka Res.	
Air Plant:	No	
Chg 5 Yr Plan:	No	
EA Required:	Yes	Attach EA to email message, or Put it in the Mail.
Reg Fish Mgr:	George Liknes	
Hat Bureau Chf:		
Mgmt Bureau Chf:		
Division Admin:		
	NOTE: To Email, Select 'File', 'Send To' 'Mail Recipient (as Attachment)' from the Menu Bar	