

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Glacier Ranch Holdings, LLC  
(Formerly Launching Eagle, LLC)  
740 Dakota Ave  
Whitefish, MT 59937

**Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes.**

**Does the pond have water rights?** This pond has a provisional permit # 41M 30044752 for a fishery use with a priority date of January 6, 2009 held by Glacier Holdings, LLC. This water right includes a storage volume of 62.60 acre-ft for the instream reservoir on Olas Creek. A statement of claim, #41M 175865 00 currently held by Launching Eagle LLC for a stock use that includes a reservoir record for a capacity of 48 acre-ft that includes an issue remark that the that the storage capacity may be questionable. Glacier Holdings is the owner of record of the parcel of land where the pond is located.

**Location of pond:**

**County:** Glacier

**Legal description:** T30NR13WS12 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

**Latitude/Longitude:** N 48.36818, W 113.24373

**Reservoir Record Legal:** T30NR13WS12 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

**Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:** Pond (reservoir) is located on Olas Creek, as small, intermittent tributary of the South Fork Two Medicine River.

**Fish species proposed for introduction:** Westslope cutthroat trout

**Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes.**

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:** Native, genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout are present in the South Fork Two Medicine River.

**RISKS:**

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

Water enters the pond from intermittent Olas Creek during spring runoff and precipitation events. Pond outflow is via a vertical standpipe with surface and bottom outlet structures. Both outlet structures are screened adequately to minimize risk of fish escapement under normal water conditions. However, a major precipitation event that results in water being evacuated over the emergency spillway on the dam would likely lead to significant fish escapement. These fish could reach the South Fork Two Medicine River.

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

Comments: Genetically pure populations of native westslope cutthroat trout exist in the

South Fork Two Medicine River drainage both upstream and downstream of the mouth of Olas Creek. Stocked westslope cutthroat trout that escape from this pond could potentially spawn with these wild populations and compromise their genetic integrity. This risk can be mitigated by only stocking known pure-strain westslope cutthroat trout from a state-approved private hatchery.

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

Comments: No other fish exist in this pond. Stocked fish that escape from the pond into the South Fork Two Medicine River may directly compete with existing wild fish in the drainage. However, because of the relatively small size of the pond it is unlikely sufficient numbers of stocked fish would flush into the Two Medicine drainage to significantly affect wild fish populations.

**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 does not have adequate water volume nor suitable habitat to promote natural reproduction.

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

Yes. This pond could be chemically treated or species removed through attrition.

**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:**

David Moser, Fisheries Biologist, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**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:** Dave Yerk

**DATE:** 07/07/2010





**DECISION RECORD  
FISH POND LICENSE**

**DECISION: Issue**

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

**EA Title: Glacier Ranch Holdings, LLC Private Pond License**

**APPROVED SPECIES: Westslope Cutthroat trout**

**LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:**

**DECISION REASONING:**

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



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George Liknes  
Regional Fisheries Manager

7/14/2010

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Date