

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

Name and address of applicant: Frank Stahl
Fords Creek Colony
Grass Range, MT 59032

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes. The pond appears to have been previously licensed for rainbow trout and brook trout in 1978 but was recorded as the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 22 instead of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21. It also appears the pond was stocked as Bell Pond by the state in the mid 1970's with rainbow trout.

Does the pond have water rights? This pond is the place of use for stock water with a statement of claim dated June 15, 1963 (40B 11670-00). The reservoir which the reservoir record is for also apparently is the place of use for this right. The reservoir is approximately 14 acres and 130 acre-ft.

Location of pond:

County: Fergus
Legal description: T16N, R22E, S21SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Latitude/Longitude: approx 47.13109, 108.92874

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is on a small drainage that starts about 1 mile upstream. This drainage feeds into Fords Creek about 1 mile downstream. Aerial photo indicates drainage outlet drainage is not defined.

Fish species proposed for introduction: rainbow trout, brook trout
Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes – pond was previously licensed for these species.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: The headwaters of Fords Creek contain pure westslope cutthroat trout in Collar Gulch.

RISKS:

This pond was previously licensed and stocked with trout. Impacts would be similar to those seen in the past.

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

The dam is on a coulee but most of the water enters via a ditch from a different reservoir. Outlet is a screened pipe. During high flow events it is possible fish would escape the pond.

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

Comments: Since this is an off-stream reservoir, adverse genetic impacts are unlikely. However,

pure WCT are in Collar Gulch approximately 18 miles upstream of the reservoir overflow. The run-off period is the only time that Collar Gulch flows into Fords Creek. Fords Creek is not a trout stream. It is unlikely that rainbow or brook trout would colonize Collar Gulch Creek. Wild brook trout are found in the adjacent drainage (Chicago) and would be more likely to colonize Collar Gulch than fish stocked in this pond. A nearby private pond (Carl Pekkala) is licensed for rainbow trout and brook trout and may be more likely to cause problems than this pond.

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: Reproduction unlikely. Pond source is an irrigation pipe.

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

Yes It should be possible to drain and/or allow pond to dry out by no longer diverting water.

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 or require sterile rainbow trout.

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:

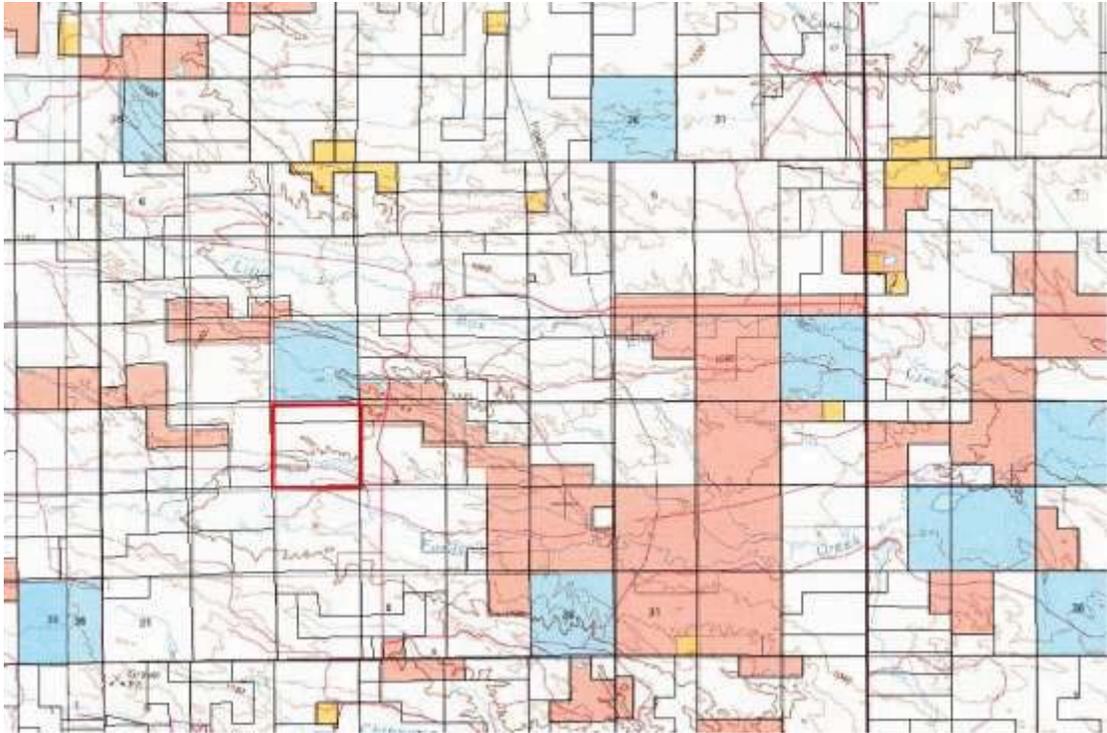
None

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: 5/28/10



Pond location (red outline shows section).

DECISION RECORD

FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue

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

EA Title: Fords Creek Colony Inc Private Pond EA

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow 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.**



7/29/2010

George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

Date