

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

Name and address of applicant: Three U Cattle Company
951 Whitlash Road Box 97
Whitlash, MT 59545
% Robert W. Thompson

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

Does the pond have water rights? Yes. This pond has a statement of claim water right # 41N 153653-00 for a stock water purposes at the rate of 30 gallons per day per animal unit and a priority date of February 24, 1908. Animal units shall be based on reasonable carrying capacity and historical use of the area serviced by this water source.

Location of pond:

County: Liberty

Legal description: T36N, R4E, S19 Lat/Long – 48.86848, -111.25869

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Reservoir is located on an unnamed tributary of Chicago Lake(glacial till gravel bed).

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout, Brook trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None in unnamed coulee.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** A dam is built on a small drainage of glacial till land. Outflow is via an overland spillway which drains into Chicago Lake. Trout could escape during overflow from this reservoir. Chicago Lake is a shallow glacial till basin that is dry in most years and dries up in the summer months when it does receive water.

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

Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. The proposed species are not native to the Milk River. Trout that would escape the reservoir should have little negative impact on the genetics of non-native trout populations.

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

Comments: No other fish exist in the reservoir.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None Minor Major

Comments: Trout will consume some invertebrates in the reservoir.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: None

Minor Major

Comments: Inlet drainage and reservoir lacks suitable habitat for spawning.

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

Yes. This reservoir could be chemically treated or the 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 restriction

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: 4/5/2011

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title: Three U Cattle Company Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow trout and brook trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/4/2011

Date