

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

Name and address of applicant: Tom McCracken Ranches, Inc
2715 Park Garden LN
Great Falls, MT 59404

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? No

Does the pond have water rights? Yes, this pond has a statement of claim water right #41P-35885-00 for a stock water use and a priority date of April 9, 1909. This water right includes a maximum flow rate of 8.5 CFS with a maximum volume of 178.00 AC-FT.

Location of pond:

County: Pondera

Legal description: T29N, R1W, S20, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Latitude/Longitude: 48.26284°,-111.76483°

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located on an unnamed coulee approximately 3 miles upstream of the Dry Fork of the Marias River and 10 miles upstream of the Marias River.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Brook Trout and Largemouth Bass.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: : None in the unnamed dry coulee, Dry Fork or the Marias River.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** Water enters the pond from runoff of melting snow or major rain events in the drainage. Outflow is via a 48 inch culvert on the west end of the dam and a 24 inch culvert on the east end of dam. Fish species could escape during overflow 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 are not native to the Missouri River. Rainbow and Brown Trout, are present in the Marias River drainage. Trout and largemouth bass that would escape from this pond should have little negative impact on the genetics of non-native trout and smallmouth bass populations and no impact on other species present.

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.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Trout, and largemouth bass would consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Minor Major

Comments: No inlet stream or available spawning habitat exists for trout. Largemouth bass may spawn successfully in this reservoir.

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

Yes, this pond could 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. D. Hamlin

DATE: February 23,2012



Outflow
Lower
right

Figure 1. Tom McCracken Ranches Inc Private Pond.



Figure 2. Tom McCracken Ranches Inc Private Pond.



Figure 3 Tom McCracken Ranches Inc Private Pond.

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA #/Title: Tom McCracken Ranches Inc. Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow trout, brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout, largemouth bass

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

3/9/2012
Date