

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Robert E. Durocher  
400 Gordon Road  
Vaughn, MT 59487

**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 #41K- 30064443 for a Fishery water use and a priority date of November 14, 2012. This water right includes a maximum groundwater volume right of 7.88 AC-FT.

**Location of pond:**

**County:** Cascade

**Legal description:** T21N,R1E,S26,N½,SW¼,SW¼ N 47.54068, W 111.57976

**Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:** Pond is located on the Sun River valley bottom.

**Fish species proposed for introduction:** Largemouth bass, Rainbow trout, Brown trout and Brook trout.

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

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:** None in the Sun River. Arctic grayling are present in headwaters streams of the Missouri River. Blue sucker, sauger, pallid sturgeon, paddlefish, sicklefin chub and sturgeon chub have been sampled in the Missouri River downstream of the falls near Great Falls, MT.

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes \_\_\_ No X **Explain:** Water enters the pond from ground water. The water level of the Sun River will influence the pond water level.

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

Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. The proposed species is not native to the Sun River drainage. Largemouth bass, rainbow, brook or brown trout that would escape from this pond should have little negative impact on the genetics of non-native trout populations. Other ponds in the vicinity stocked by MFWP also contain largemouth bass, rainbow and brook trout and are also at risk to be captured by the Sun River during a flood.

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

Comments: Some minor impacts from competition and predation would be expected and potentially beneficial.

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

None  Minor  Major

Comments: Largemouth bass and the trout species trout will consume some invertebrates and smaller fish present in the 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 the trout species. Largemouth bass would likely reproduce in this pond.

**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 21, 2013



**Robert Durocher Private Pond Photos**

**DECISION RECORD  
FISH POND LICENSE**

**DECISION: Issue**

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

**APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, westslope cutthroat trout and largemouth bass**

**LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:**

**DECISION REASONING:**

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



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George Liknes  
Regional Fisheries Manager

6/7/2013  
Date