

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

Name and address of applicant Weller Ranch
Ralph Weller
Big Timber, MT 59011

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

Location:

County Sweet Grass Township 1S Range 15E Section 4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located Upper Deer Ck

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction Rainbow trout,
Yellowstone cutthroat trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes

Species of special concern present in the drainage Yellowstone
cutthroat trout

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations? None___ Minor x Major___

Comments: If the rainbow trout were carried from the Milligan Creek Drainage into Upper Deer Creek, they could hybridize with the existing cutthroat trout population.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? None x Minor___ Major___

Comments:

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None___ Minor x Major___

Comments: Pond invertebrates become prey.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location? None x Minor___ Major___

Comments:

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

Yes

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).

Deny permit or require different fish species.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Screens on inlet and outlet.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

N/A

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:

Ron Carlson, Warden

Dennis Hagenston, Warden Captain

Dick Ellis, Regional Supervisor

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? No If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

No significant impacts.

EA prepared by: J. Darling

Comments will be accepted until June 28, 1997

Comments should be sent to: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Attn: Fisheries Manager

2300 Lake Elmo Drive

Billings, MT 59105