

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant Susan Jones
P.O. Box 698
Corvallis, MT 59828

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

Location:

County Ravalli Township 7N Range 20W Section 29 NW1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located Bitterroot River

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction
Rainbow Trout/brown trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? YES

Species of special concern present in the drainage YES

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations? None___ Minor_x Major

Comments:

Rainbow and brown trout are present in this reach of the Bitterroot River

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? None___ Minor_x Major

Comments:

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

Comments:

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location? None___ Minor__x__ Major

Comments:

In a pond system, neither species will likely reproduce. If they escape to the river, some reproduction could occur. Wild fish of both species are already reproducing in the river.

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

Yes. Reproduction is unlikely and they could be removed by chemical means

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

Possibly, there is a considerable number of fishponds in the Bitterroot drainage. While this pond will have little impact, the cumulative effect of all ponds is unknown.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

The proposal to have this private fish pond will require the stocking of fish. The species of fish was limited to rainbow trout since they are naturally reproducing in the immediate drainage. This area of Bitterroot River supports a wild population of rainbow trout. No stocking of the pond defeats the purpose of this private fish pond.

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

Water for this pond is supplied by springs. The outlet and inlet are screened.

Current laws regarding the transfer of live fish from one water body to another govern the legality of movement of fish planted in this pond to other waters. This movement of fish to other waters would be enforceable under this regulation.

No mitigation is necessary under this proposal since the actions do not result in losses to public resources such as species of special concern or endemic fish species.

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

The proposed action occurs on private lands with no known impacts and no significant impacts to resources, people or properties off of the lands or water where the actions are proposed.

EA prepared by: Chris Clancy - Fish Biologist

Comments will be accepted until March 27, 2000

Comments should be sent to: Chris Clancy
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
1801 N. First St.
Hamilton, MT. 59840
E-mail: cclancy/r1_bitterroot@fs.fed.us