

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

Name and address of applicant Morris Place Ranch, Inc.  
Douglas Grotz  
P.O. Box 1924  
Billings, MT 59103-1924

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

County Sweet Grass Township 1N Range 13E Section 14

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located Little Timber  
Creek

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 None

**RISKS:**

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish  
populations? None x Minor \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

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. This pond was previously permitted under a one-time stocking letter because it resides on a stream. The new definition of an allowable pond includes "and instream pond that does not exceed 500 acres with a tributary spring or stream that does not support game fish or fish species of special concern; and not determined by the department to pose an unacceptable risk to game fish or fish species of special concern in adjacent waters." This pond meets these criteria.

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:

George Anderson, Warden

Dennis Hagenston, Warden Captain

Harvey Nyberg, 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 March 17, 2000

Comments should be sent to: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Attn: Fisheries Manager  
2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings, MT 59105