

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

Name and address of applicant: Sage Creek Hutterite Colony
HC 83, Box 25
Chester, MT 59522

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Liberty
Legal description: T36N R6E Sec 6, NW 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located about 25 miles north of Chester, MT adjacent to Sage Creek, an intermittent stream that drains to the Milk River near Havre.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, 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 Minor Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected, trout will not survive in Sage Creek.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: These species are already present in drainage.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None Minor Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Comments: Trout unlikely to spawn successfully due to intermittent inlet stream.

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). 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:

Notification via State of Montana electronic bulletin board.

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. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Steve Leathe

Date: May 2, 2000

Comments will be accepted until: May 18, 2000

Comments should be sent to: MDFW&P, 4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405