

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

Name and address of applicant John Moreland
P.O. Box 1500
Hamilton, MT 59840

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

Location:

County Ravalli Township 7N Range 21W Section 4 se, se, sw1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located No name—sits right above BRID canal

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

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes

Species of special concern present in the drainage yes, in the upper reaches of the drainage

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations? None___ Minor__X__ Major___
Comments:

Rainbow trout are already present in ditch and surrounding part of Bitterroot River drainage, and are present due to earlier stocking efforts.

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:

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

Probably not.

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

There are numerous such ponds in the Bitterroot Valley, and the cumulative effects are unknown.

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

The proposal to renew this private fish pond license includes the stocking of fish. The application is for "rainbow trout".

Alternatives would include stocking different species.

Three (3) alternative trout species are:

1. Brook trout - not presently allowed by MFWP policy.
2. Brown trout - also exist in Bitterroot River.
3. Westslope cutthroat trout - The westslope cutthroat that are commercially available do not originate from the Bitterroot and have a different genetic makeup than bitterroot fish.

2. No action. The BRID ditch and the nearby Bitterroot River already have good populations of Rainbow trout. There is no reason to believe that the stocking of rainbows in this pond would have any adverse impact on the river populations, so a no action alternative would serve no purpose.

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

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.

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. This issue can be handled at the EA level.

EA prepared by Larry Javorsky—acting Fisheries Biologist 07/06/00

Comments will be accepted until August 06, 2000

Comments should be sent to: Larry Javorsky
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