

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

Description of water body:

Name: Newlan Creek Reservoir
Water Body Code: 17-9330
County: Meagher
Legal description: T10N, R6E, S11

Name of the drainage where the reservoir is located:

This reservoir is located on Newlan Creek, which is a tributary of the Smith River.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Brown trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes, downstream from the reservoir.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

No species of special concern are present in the Newlan Creek drainage. Rainbow trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout are stocked annually in this reservoir by FW&P.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: None Minor Major

Comments: None expected.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Predation on existing populations of fish in the reservoir will occur. The intent of the stocking change is to control the sucker population through predation. We believe the abundant population of suckers compete with rainbow and cutthroat trout for food, resulting in poor growth and survival of trout.

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

Comments: Some aquatic invertebrates and amphibians may be consumed, but no population level impact is expected. Rainbow trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout are already present in the reservoir.

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

Comments: Some brown trout may reproduce in the creek that feeds the reservoir.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Yes, it would be feasible but difficult and expensive to remove the species after it had been stocked.

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.

Mitigation is not applicable because this is intended to be a beneficial action.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction: None known.

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: Travis Horton & Steve Leathe

Date: 23 June 2003

Comments will be accepted until: 18 July 2003

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