

MEPA/NEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. **Type of Proposed State Action**
Rehabilitating Ponds Using Rotenone
2. **Agency Authority for the Proposed Action - MAC** 87-3-206, A87-1-201, MCA et seq and 87-3-206, MCA
3. **Name of Project** Rehabilitation of Hendrickson Ponds
4. **Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)**
MDFWP, Region four, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405
5. **If Applicable:**

Estimated Commencement Date 9/29/03
Estimated Completion Date 10/03/03
6. **Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)**
The site is approximately 6 miles south west of Cascade, MT in Cascade County, T19N R1W S19
7. **Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

(a) Developed: residential..... <u>0</u> acres industrial..... <u>0</u> acres	(d) Floodplain <u>0</u> acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation..... 8.4 acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland..... <u>0</u> acres dry cropland..... <u>0</u> acres forestry..... <u>0</u> acres rangeland..... <u>0</u> acres other..... <u>0</u> acre
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas..... <u>0</u> acres	

8. **Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.**

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.**

We propose to treat these two ponds with rotenone at a concentration of 4 ppm to remove white suckers, common carp, and black bullheads. The rotenone will be sprayed onto the surface of the ponds using a gas powered pump out of a boat. Some rotenone may be pumped under the surface of the water (using a weighted hose) to reach deeper areas of the ponds. After the rotenone has been applied, a boat with a propeller will be driven around the surface of the ponds to facilitate mixing throughout the water column. By removing these rough fish species and restocking with yellow perch and largemouth bass, a productive fishery will be available to the public through an access agreement with the Hendricksons.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality	308 permit for rotenone	pending
Montana Department of Agriculture	Applicator Lic. #3-24-15887-15	current

(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
MDFWP	undetermined

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
None	

11. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
➤ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
➤ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
No Impacts are expected.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
➤ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X		X	2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦ For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)		X				
f. Other		X				

2b. Dead fish may cause some objectionable odors, but to mitigate FWP personnel will collect and remove dead fish.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊛]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊛]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊛]	None	Minor [⊛]	Potentially Significant		
➤ a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X			3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				3f
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				3af
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)		X				
m. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)		X				
n. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3a. Rotenone will be distributed throughout the water column and is lethal to all gill-breathing organisms. Rotenone is a naturally occurring organic compound that interferes with oxygen transfer at the cellular level. Fish and aquatic invertebrates will be killed. Birds, mammals reptiles, and other species lacking gills are not harmed by the chemical at these concentrations. Rotenone is highly biodegradable and detoxifies rapidly over time and with dilution. These ponds are supplied entirely from ground water and neither has an outlet; Thus, no surface water will be discharged from the ponds.

Rotenone has only a minor potential impact on the water quality for several reasons. The hazard associated with drinking water containing rotenone is very small because of the low concentration of rotenone (4 ppm) used in the treatment and the rapid breakdown and dilution of rotenone. The time for natural degradation (neutralization) of rotenone is controlled primarily by temperature. Rotenone acts and degrades faster in warmer water (Horton 1991). In California, studies have shown that rotenone completely degrades within 1-8 weeks within the temperature range of 50-68F (10-20C) (CDFG 1994; Siepmann and Finlayson 1999). The estimated half-life of rotenone in California waters was 7.8-15 days at the aforementioned temperatures (Finlayson et al. 2000). Other studies have shown half-life values of 13.9 hours to 10.3 days for water temperatures of 75F and 41F (24C and 5C), respectively (Gilderhus et al. 1986, 1988). Marking and Bills (1976) found that toxicity decreased more rapidly at 63F

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(17C) than at 54F (12C) (the half-lives were 13 and 22 days, respectively).

3f. Changes in groundwater quality: The risk that rotenone will enter and be mobile in groundwater is minimal. Rotenone's ability to move through soil is low to slight (Finlayson et al. 2000). Rotenone moves less than 1 inch in most types of soils, except for sandy soils where the movement is slightly more than 3 inches. Rotenone is strongly bound to organic matter in soil, so it is unlikely that rotenone would enter the groundwater (Dawson et al. 1991). Rotenone can be found in lake sediments at similar concentrations as in water; its breakdown lags behind that of water by 1-2 weeks (Finlayson et al. 2000). Rotenone in stream sediments is uncommon (CDFG 1994). However, even if groundwater contamination could occur, there would be a low potential for detrimental effects on human health, since the surface water concentrations to be used in this project have already been shown to have no toxic effect on humans or other animals. Furthermore, any rotenone that enters groundwater will continue to be diluted by water already present in the aquifer.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?		X				
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

No Impacts are expected.

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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

➤ 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊛]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊛]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊛]	None	Minor [⊛]	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X		Yes	5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of non-game species?			X		Yes	5c
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)		X				
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)		X				
j. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5b&c. All remaining fish, zooplankton, aquatic insects and gill breathing amphibians will be killed by the treatment. The zooplankton, aquatic insects, and amphibians will quickly re-establish naturally after the chemical has left the system. In addition, the temporary release of predation on the zooplankton and aquatic insects will benefit their reestablishment. Common carp, white suckers, and black bullheads will be eliminated which will increase growth rates of future yellow perch and largemouth bass plantings.

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HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		X				
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
 No Impacts are expected.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
 No Impacts are expected.

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- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X		Yes	8a
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8a. Rotenone degrades quickly and is registered for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. At a treatment rate of 4 ppm Noxfish brand formulation, the water will contain 200 ppb(ug/l) rotenone. This is about 1,500 times below the safe level for short term human consumption (300 mg/l) according to Gleason et al (1969). Therefore there is no risk associated with someone accidentally drinking from the ponds.

The safe level for life-long exposure to water containing rotenone for a child is 40 ug/l (derived from EPA IRIS database). The water in the Hendrickson Ponds will have a concentration greater than this for less than 20 days (assuming a half-life of 10 days), so there would be no lifetime risk. Fish will be re-stocked in the spring of 2004 or later--long after rotenone has degraded. Fish will therefore not bioaccumulate rotenone, and humans consuming these fish will similarly not be exposed to any rotenone. No open flames will be allowed around the chemical when it is being applied.

Gleason, M, R. Gosselin, H. Hodge and P. Smith. 1969. Clinical toxicology of commercial products. The William and Wilkens Company. Baltimore, Maryland.

- ⊗ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊗]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊗]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊗]	None	Minor [⊗]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:		X				9f

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

No impacts are expected.

9f. This project will improve the quality of the fishery. The improved fishery will increase public interest in the fishery, and an increase in angling use could result. The Hendrickson will allow reasonable public access to the fishery as they have in the past.

- ⊗ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
➤ e. Define projected revenue sources			X			10e
➤ f. Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other: _____		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10e. Project will require approximately \$200 worth of rotenone and 6 man-days of labor. All of the rotenone has already been purchased and is left over from other projects, thus, no new money will be spent for the restoration of these ponds.

- ⊙ Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ◆ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ◆◆ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

➤ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊛]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊛]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊛]	None	Minor [⊛]	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X	X		X	11b
➤c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c
d. ♦ For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)		X				
e. Other:		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11b. Dead and decaying fish could affect the aesthetic characters of the area. Mitigating for aesthetics will include removing dead fish from the site and disposing of them properly.

11c. This project will improve the fishery in the ponds.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT [⊛]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊛]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊛]	None	Minor [⊛]	Potentially Significant		
➤a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)		X				
e. Other:		X				

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➤ Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
 No Impacts are expected.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT [⊙]				Can Impact Be Mitigated [⊙]	Comment Index
	Unknown [⊙]	None	Minor [⊙]	Potentially Significant		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦ For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)		X				
g. ♦♦ For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.		X				

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):
 No Impacts are expected.

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Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

- A. No action
- B. Rehabilitate ponds to eliminate potential nuisance fish before they are able to enter public waters, and to create better fisheries in the ponds.
- C. Biological Control: Introduce predator fishes to eliminate common carp, black bullhead, and white sucker population. This would take too long and involves unnecessary risks. In addition, predatory control is difficult in the case of white suckers and common carp, and next to impossible for black bullheads due to their predatory defense mechanisms (e.g., dorsal and pectoral spines).

Alternative B is the most acceptable alternative based on the current state of the fisheries and recovery potential. The no action alternative would result in the possibility that black bullheads, white suckers, and common carp may be moved to public waters and expand their range. Biological control takes too long, risks dispersal of these species through illegal introductions, and may not be effective.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Post signs around ponds warning people not to eat fish or drink water.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

With low impacts to the environment and/or the public the EA is the appropriate level of analysis.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

Public involvement will include notice to State Bulletin Board and distribution of the Draft EA to those involved or interested for a 30 day comment period.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

30 day comment period.

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

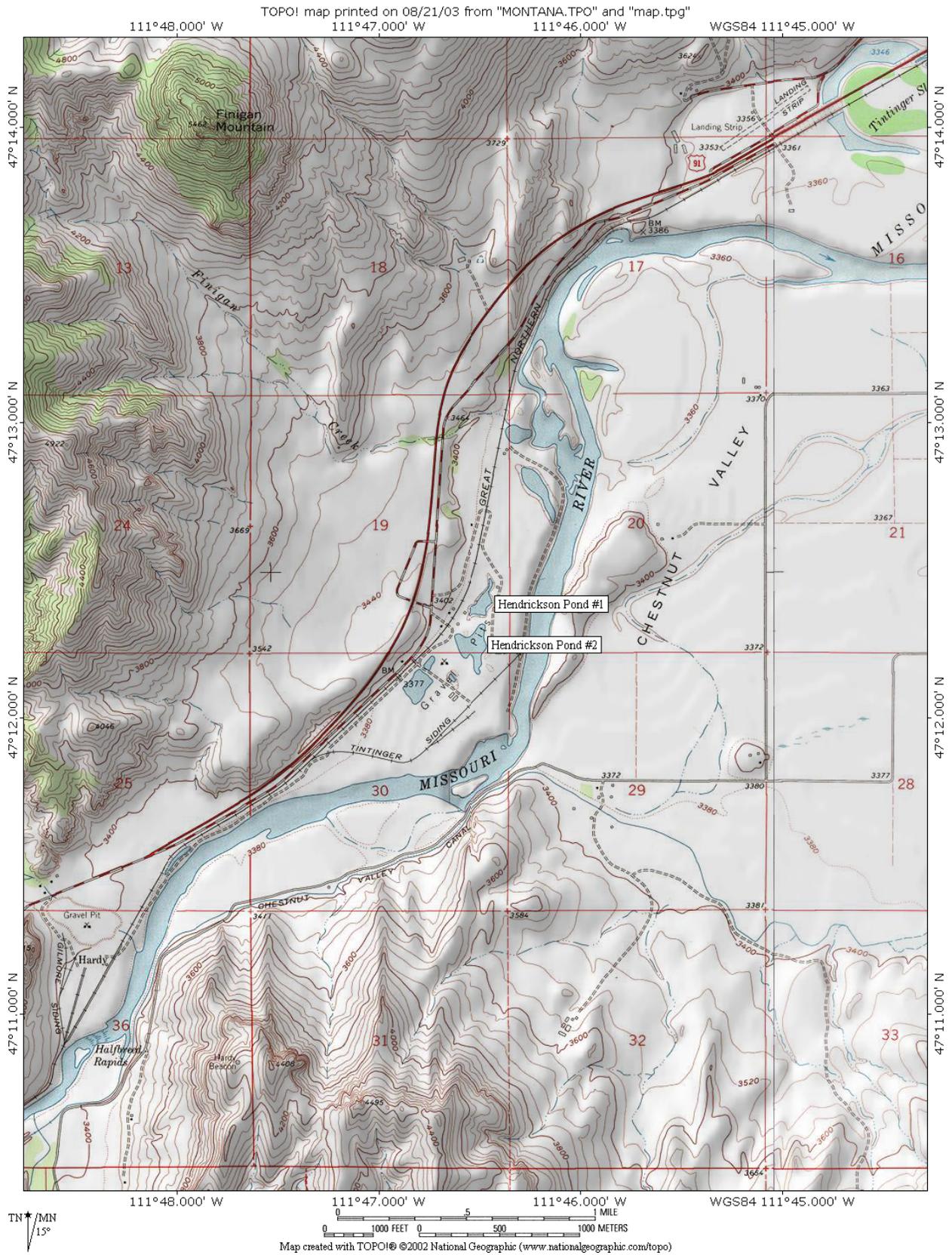
Travis Horton— Fisheries Biologist
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The owners of the Hendrickson Ponds have allowed public access to their ponds in the past, and in return for rehabilitation of their ponds they will guarantee reasonable public access to their ponds for a period of 10 years. Removing these species of fish from their ponds will not only improve the potential for a productive fishery in their ponds, but it will also help prevent the movement of these species to other bodies of water in the area. Two state-owned ponds are located within one half of a mile from the Hendrickson ponds, and currently these ponds do not have these three species of fish.

References

Available upon request



Topographical map showing the location of the two Hendrickson Ponds, near Cascade, MT.