

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

Description of water body:

Name: Hendrickson Ponds #1 and 2
Water Body Code: 179080/179081
County: Cascade
Legal description: 17N01W19

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Missouri River upstream of the Marias River

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Yellow perch

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yellow perch have been common throughout the Missouri River drainage for many decades. These ponds were chemically treated in fall 2003 to remove overpopulations of carp, white suckers, black bullheads, pumpkinseeds and yellow perch. The ponds will be restocked with yellow perch and largemouth bass to create a more desirable fishery.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

No species of special concern are present in the drainage.

RISKS:

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

Comments: None expected. The Hendrickson ponds are not connected to any other bodies of water through surface flows.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: No fish are currently present in the ponds

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..

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

Comments: The intent of the stocking is to create a self-sustaining population of yellow perch, as was in the ponds prior to chemical treatment to remove the fish.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Yes, it would be feasible to perform chemical eradication of this species as was done in the fall of 2003.

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 a beneficial action..

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

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.

EA prepared by: Travis Horton

Date: 24 February 2004

Comments will be accepted until: 26 March 2004

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