

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

Name and address of applicant: John Coston Jr.
HC 32, Box 4742
Miles City, MT 59301

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Custer **Legal description:** T5N,R45E, Sec26, NWNESE1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located in the Hay creek drainage, which flows into Moon Creek, which flows into the Yellowstone River.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Rainbow trout are present in other ponds in the region but not specifically in this drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None as currently known.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. In the unlikely event the stocked fish escape downstream, the rainbow trout would not survive long and would have very little chance of spawning as there are no viable stocks of trout in the adjoining drainages.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Rainbow trout could prey on any existing minnow species in the pond.

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 at inlet springs.

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 minor.

EA prepared by: Vic Riggs _____ **DATE:** March 1, 2004

Comments will be accepted until: March 15, 2004

Comments should be sent to: Vic Riggs
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301