

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

Name and address of applicant: Ira Perkins & Sons
P. O. Box 809
Bynum, MT 59419

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Teton
Legal description: T26N R06W Sec16 W2NWSW

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located west of the town of Bynum in the Blackleaf Creek drainage.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes. Pond has fishery rights with a 2002 priority date.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, in the lower Blackleaf Creek drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Westslope cutthroat trout are found in the upper Blackleaf Cr. drainage in Cow Creek.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. Cow Creek's westslope cutthroat population is isolated by an extensive series of beaver dam complexes.

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

___ None Minor ___ Major

Comments: Escapement of stocked fish will not negatively affect the Blackleaf Creek fishery. Fish densities are low and rainbow trout are already present in the drainage.

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: It is unlikely trout will successfully spawn in the small inlet stream from the spring source.

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 can be identified in the permitting process, and the applicant should be required to screen the outlet structure to minimize potential for fish escapement.

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. Impacts are expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Dave Yerk

Date: February 25, 2004