

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

Name and address of applicant: Dearborn Ranch LLC
6365 Hwy 287
Wolf Creek, MT 59648

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Lewis and Clark
Legal description: T17N R4W Sec 35, NW1/4 of SW1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is located in a depression (no defined drainage) on terrace about 1/2 mile from Dearborn River about 10 miles NE of Wolf Creek, MT.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes, groundwater (well) rights.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes – in Dearborn river drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. No fish in pond now and little likelihood of fish escaping as pond would drain into pasture 1/2 mile below pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: These species are already present in 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: Trout unlikely to spawn successfully due to lack of inlet stream.

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: 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 expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Steve Leathe

Date: July 7, 2004