

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

Name and address of applicant: Nilson Enterprises Inc
1505 11th St. S.W.
Great Falls, MT 59404

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond:

County: Cascade
Legal description: T19N, R7E, S9

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Big Willow Creek

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

Yes, The pond has stock water right that was filed for in 1982.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow, brook and brown trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes, all are common in Belt Creek drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Westslope cutthroat trout are found in a few isolated areas above barrier waterfalls in the Belt Creek drainage.

RISKS:

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

Comments: If these rainbow trout escaped and migrated upstream in Belt Creek Drainage they could hybridize with westslope cutthroat trout. Brook and brown trout could compete with cutthroat. However, the chances of them successfully reaching areas with cutthroat trout are minimal, and rainbow, brook and brown trout are already very common in the Belt Creek system.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: No other fish exist in the pond.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None Minor Major

Comments: Some aquatic invertebrates may be consumed.

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

Comments:

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: Travis Horton

Date: 5/18/04