

Mays

11  
EA-32-06

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Jack Downs (Downs Inc)  
Box D  
Lindsay, MT 59339

**Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended?** Yes

**Location of pond:**

**County:** Dawson

**Legal description:** T16N R52 E Sec 2 , NW1/4

**Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:**

Pond is located in the lower Yellowstone Drainage (Wolf Coulee, Timber Fork, Seven Mile Creek, YSR)

**Fish species proposed for introduction:**

This is a pond that has been permitted for both rainbow trout and largemouth bass in previous years. The owner would like to add yellow perch and black crappie to the pond license.

**Is this species legally present in the drainage?**

Both species are presently found in the drainage

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:**

In the tributary streams that this pond would feed into in a high flow event there may at times be sturgeon chubs present. In the lower Yellowstone River there are other species of special concern that are found, blue suckers, sicklefin chub, paddlefish, and pallid sturgeon.

The fish proposed for stocking in this pond are currently found in the lower Yellowstone and do not pose a threat to the above listed species of special concern.

**RISKS:**

**Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:**

None  Minor  Major

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

**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: Both yellow perch and black crappie will successfully spawn in the pond once stocked. If these species were to be flushed into Wolf Coulee, Timber Fork, and then Seven Mile, they would not survive long due to the lacustrine nature of the fish.

**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:** April 25, 2006 **DATE:**

**Comments will be accepted until:** May 9, 2006

**Comments should be sent to:**

Brad Schmitz  
PO Box 1630  
Miles City, MT 59301

Email: [Brschmitz@mt.gov](mailto:Brschmitz@mt.gov)

EA Name: DownsPondEA.doc