

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Brown Ranch  
Clarence Brown  
HC 30 Box 8781  
Miles City, MT  
59301

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

**Location of pond:**

**County:** Custer      **Legal description:** T1 N R54E Sec 18 , SE1/4

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

Pond is located in Bridge Creek sub drainage of the Powder River which flows into the Yellowstone River.

**Fish species proposed for introduction:**

Largemouth bass are proposed for introduction into the private pond.

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

Largemouth are found in ponds in this drainage.

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

There are no species of concern in Bridge Creek. The lower Yellowstone drainage has species of special concern, paddlefish, blue sucker, sturgeon chub, sicklefin chub and sauger.

**RISKS:**

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

None    Minor    Major

**Comments:** No significant impacts are expected. The pond is located in a dry basin and is filled by precipitation capture. In the unlikely event that largemouth bass were to escape to the Yellowstone River the habitats in this system are unsuitable for long-term sustenance of the species.

**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. They are not able to survive in any appreciable number in the lower Yellowstone drainage and would not create much risk with this fishery.

**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: Largemouth bass will have the ability to spawn and recruit to the fish population in this pond. Limited risk to the Yellowstone River fishery is expected due to the lacustrine nature of bass.

**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:** Brad Schmitz **DATE:** May 8, 2006

**Comments will be accepted until:** May 22, 2006

**Comments should be sent to:** Brad Schmitz

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EA Name: BrownRanchPondEA.doc