

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

Name and address of applicant: Bennie Ish
P.O. Box 200
Chester, MT 59522

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Toole
Legal description: T36N R03E Sec13 SWNWNW(1/4)

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Ish's Reservoir is located approximately two miles southwest of Whitlash, MT, on Trail Creek, an intermittent drainage. From the reservoir, Trail Creek flows northerly for approximately eight miles before entering Breed Creek. Breed Creek flows northerly approximately 1.5 miles into Alberta. Breed Creek ultimately runs into the Milk River approximately 20 miles north of the Montana / Alberta border.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes. The pond has a surface water right for fish and wildlife use with a December 31, 1941 priority date.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout and brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, brook trout are found in upper Breed Creek. It is unknown if rainbow trout are present in Breed Creek.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

There are no known Species of Special Concern present in the Trail Creek and Breed Creek drainages.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

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

___ None X Minor ___ Major

Comments: Currently, there are no fish in Ish's Reservoir. Escapement of stocked fish into Breed Creek could potentially occur in a major run-off event. This may increase competition and/or predation pressure on existing species in Breed Creek, although it is unlikely these impacts would be significant.

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

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Comments: Introduced brook trout may successfully spawn in the reservoir if areas of upwelling are present. It is

unlikely rainbow trout could successfully spawn in Trail Creek upstream of the reservoir because of intermittent flows and absence of adequate habitat.

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.

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: June 23, 2006