

EA# 50-06

Date: July 24, 2006

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Adam David Arnold  
3499 Weaver Rd  
Belgrade, MT 59714

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit in the past? Yes

Location: County Gallatin Township 1N Range 4E Section 21

Name of drainage where the pond would be located: West Gallatin River

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow Trout

Is this species of fish legally present in the drainage? Not native, was legally introduced

### RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes. Screened inlet and outlet should secure pond from states waters.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?

None \_\_\_ Minor X Major \_\_\_

Comments: Screen maintenance should mitigate for this potential impact.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish population due to competition and/or predation? None \_\_\_ Minor X Major \_\_\_

Comments: see above

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None \_\_\_ Minor X Major \_\_\_

Comments: see above

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location?

None X Minor \_\_\_ Major \_\_\_

Comments:

**If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?**  
Yes, via draining pond, or via age retired mortality in the absence of stocking.

**Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?** Yes, private fish ponds do pose risks to wild fisheries.

**Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).** No action however this pond contains fathead minnows, which although likely introduced to this site by state waters, is an unauthorized species. An alternative would be not to issue a private pond license to this individual until the unauthorized species is removed.

**Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.**  
none

**List any other agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:**  
none

**Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required?**  
No. An introduction of this scope does not warrant an EIS.

**EA prepared by:** Tim Weiss  
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**Comments will be accepted until** N/A