

EA# 57-06

Date: August 23, 2006

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Jay Coulter
PO Box 3068
Bozeman, MT 59715

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit in the past? No

Location: County Gallatin Township 2S Range 5E Section 21

Name of drainage where the pond would be located: Aajker Creek, East Gallatin River Drainage

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

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

List species of special concern present in the drainage: Arctic Grayling have been reintroduced to this drainage.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes. Outlet is via agridrain structure, which drains pond to underground boulder field.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?

None Minor Major

Comments:

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

Comments:

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

None Minor Major

Comments:

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

None ___ Minor X Major ___

Comments:

Artificial recirculating stream and stream which connects the two ponds will provide for marginal, but unlikely, reproduction potential.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

Yes, via draining pond or age related mortality in the absence of stocking (if spawning is unproductive).

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

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