

EA# 58-06

Date: 8/23/06

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Valley West Homeowners Association
and Bozeman Lakes
25A Clifden Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718

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

Location: County Gallatin Township 2S Range 5E Section 10

Name of drainage where the pond would be located: Baxter 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? Was native to drainage, not present in East Gallatin Drainage now.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes. Inlet is screened headgate from Baxter Creek; outlet is agridrain structure, which empties to Baxter Creek.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?

None Minor Major

Comments: Escapement of pond inhabitants could result in interbreeding with Rainbow Trout in East Gallatin Drainage.

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 Major

Comments:

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

Yes via pond drainage or age related 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

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