

EA# 96-06
Date: 11/29/06

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

Name and address of applicant: North Fork LLC.
Barry Klein
1281 E. Main
Stamford, CT 06902

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

Location:

County: Park **Township:** 5S **Range:** 9E **Section:** 33

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Mill Creek

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction: Yellowstone cutthroat trout

Is this species native to the drainage? If not, was it introduced legally (i.e. by a fish management agency)? Yes, it is native to the drainage.

List species of special concern present in the drainage: Yellowstone cutthroat trout

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes ___ No X **Explain:** Groundwater well is used for water source and outlet is through a screened Agri-drain.

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of wild fish populations?

None ___ Minor X Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts: If fish escape from the pond they would have potential to interbreed with wild fish.

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

None ___ Minor X Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts: If fish escape from the pond they would have potential to compete with wild fish.

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

None ___ Minor X Major ___

Comments required for minor or major impacts:

Impacts would be limited to aquatic life present in the pond.

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

None__ Minor__X Major__

Comments required for minor or major impacts: Small inlet stream is present, may provide limited spawning.

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

How? Yes. The pond could be drained and nets or chemical removal could take place. Draining and allowing winterkill may be an option as well.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? Yes. Private ponds constitute a cumulative impact to wild fisheries and aquatic systems.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

No action. The landowner would not be granted a permit to stock the pond.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Pond must be screened and screens must be functional at all times. Only Yellowstone cutthroat trout from an approved source are to be stocked.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction: N/A

List all agencies and individuals outside of FWP who have been notified of this proposed introduction: N/A

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? Yes__ No X If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. The limited impacts of this action are not significant enough to warrant an EIS.

Literature Cited:

EA prepared by: Scott Opitz for Bruce Rich

Comments will be accepted until:

Comments should be sent to: Bruce Rich
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59718

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