

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

Name and address of applicant: Steve Kelly
PO Box 1044
Fort Benton, MT 59442

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes for rainbow trout.

Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond? Yes, there is a June 1, 1946 priority date for a water right claim for surface water that includes a reservoir record (41P 109646-00) for 12 acre feet.

Location of pond: County: Choteau
Legal description: T27N R5E Sec 14, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Located on North Fork Dugout Coulee, which is an intermittent tributary to Dugout Coulee which drains to the Marias River approximately 15 miles downstream from Tiber Dam.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout.

Are these species legally present in the drainage? Yes, rainbow trout are legally present in the Marias River drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: There are no know species of special concern.

RISKS:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? None Minor Major

Explain: The inlets and outlets of the pond are in a seasonal, ephemeral drainage. Screens are not judged to be necessary based on a July 3 1993 inspection by Wendy Kamm.

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected. Trout are unlikely to survive in the drainage due to intermittent flow, high water temperature and high turbidity.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Highly unlikely. Stocked fish would consume some minnows if present in the pond.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: The stocked trout will consume some invertebrates in the pond.

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

Comments: There is intermittent flow in the inlet drainage. It is unlikely that trout would reproduce.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? YES. The pond is small and could be treated to remove a fish population.

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.

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. Extremely minor impacts expected.

EA prepared by: George Liknes, Regional Fisheries Manager DATE: 5/21/2007

Comments will be accepted until: No formal comment period was established because this action was deemed not to be controversial. Comments will be accepted at any time.

Comments should be sent to: George Liknes, MFWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls MT 59405

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

- Private Pond License**
- Commercial Pond License**
- One Time Permission to Plant Letter**
- Denial**

EA# Steve Kelly Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**
- Other (specify)**

George Liknes

George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/21/2007

Date