



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

ONE-TIME STOCKING LETTER # _____

P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-3186
FAX: 406-444-4952
May 25, 2007

Fischer Cattle Company
Mr. Peter Fischer
236 F St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Peter:

You are hereby authorized to plant Rainbow Trout in the pond on your property located at T22NR08WS22SW¼. This authorization is good for one plant during 2007. This One-Time Stocking Letter is not equivalent to a Private Pond License. Fish authorized to be stocked by this letter become the property of the state of Montana once they have been stocked in the specified water. This does not mean you must provide public access for fishing, but you or any other anglers fishing your pond will be required to abide by the state limits, seasons, and licensing requirements for your fishing district. Furthermore, you may not sell fish, eggs, or fry from your pond under the terms of this One-Time Stocking Letter.

In purchasing fish for your private pond, please be very careful with your source of fish and make sure that the private hatchery from which you obtain fish is certified free of all major fish diseases. At the present time, only a few out-of-state sources of trout or salmonid species can be approved for shipping into Montana. Warmwater fish such as largemouth bass may be imported from out-of-state sources, after an importation permit is approved by our Fish Health Coordinator. Attached is a list of approved in-state fish sources; never transport fish to your pond from any source except legally licensed private fish hatcheries.

As you are probably aware, whirling disease (a protozoan parasitic infection) has been recently discovered in some of our major wild trout waters in Montana. Since this disease can have serious impacts on the wild trout populations and is very contagious, special care must be taken to insure that trout stocked in your pond are free of this parasite. One of the potential sources of whirling disease infections is through the introduction of infected fish.

If you wish to plant additional fish in the future, please contact the fisheries manager in your region. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining the health and integrity of Montana's fisheries. Good luck in your venture.

Sincerely,

M. Jeff Hagener
Director

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION
ONE-TIME STOCKING PERMIT**

Name and address of applicant: Peter Fischer
236 F Street
Washington, DC 20002

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended?

No. Issuance of private fish pond license is not recommended because the pond has been determined to be a natural pothole lake. Statute does not permit licensing of natural ponds (87-4-603).

Location of pond:

County: Teton
Legal description: T22N R8W Sec 22, SW 1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Pond is a natural pothole approximately 1 mile north of the Sun River and 10 miles east of Gibson Dam.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

Arctic grayling recently stocked above Gibson Reservoir and also exist in Sunny Slope Canal downstream from Pishkun Reservoir.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: These species are already present in drainage.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction? None Minor Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Comments: Trout unlikely to spawn successfully due to lack of inlet stream.

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

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. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: George Liknes

Date: May 25, 2007

Comments will be accepted until: No comment period was established because of the minor potential impacts. Comments will be accepted at any time.

Comments should be sent to: MDFW&P, Attn: George Liknes, 4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405 or to gliknes@mt.gov

POND STOCKING CRITERIA

The species requested for stocking: Rainbow trout, brown trout, westslope cutthroat trout.

The following criteria will be used to determine if the species requested for stocking is appropriate.

1. Identify the species potentially impacted by the species requested for stocking:
2. Is the species requested for stocking absent in the waterbody nearest to and in the same immediate drainage as the receiving pond?
 Yes No
3. Is a potentially impacted species present in the waterbody nearest to and in the same immediate drainage as the species requested for stocking?
 Yes No
4. If the species requested for stocking was stocked in the proposed pond and escaped or was illegally transported to the nearest waterbody, would it:

a) be likely to colonize waters that do not currently have the species requested for stocking?

Yes No

b) increase competition, hybridization, and/or predation of the potentially impacted species?

Yes No

5. Other considerations regarding the permitting of the species requested for stocking:

Obtain trout from an approved in-state source.

6. Alternative or additional allowable species for stocking:
All species allowable for stocking are listed.

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

Private Pond License

Commercial Pond License

One Time Permission to Plant Letter

Denial

EA# Fischer Cattle Company 1-time Fish Stocking

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

Obtain trout from an approved in-state source

DECISION REASONING:

Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.

Other (specify)

Stocking of rainbow trout in this natural pothole lake represent a very low risk to other aquatic resources in the area.



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

5/25/2007

Date