

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

Name and address of applicant: Richard H. Neill
880 18th Road NE
Dutton, MT 59433

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended? Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Teton
Legal description: T24N R02W Sec01 NE1/4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Neill's Reservoir is located approximately four miles south of Collins, MT, on an unnamed dry coulee. From the reservoir, this dry coulee meanders northerly for approximately five miles before reaching the Teton River.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe) Yes. The pond has a stockwater right with a December 31, 1931 priority date.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes, rainbow trout are found in the Teton River drainage upstream of the Collins area towards the town of Choteau, MT.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

There are no known Species of Special Concern present in the Teton drainage in the vicinity of Collins, MT.

RISKS:

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

Comments: No significant impacts are expected.

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

___ None X Minor ___ Major

Comments: Currently, there are no fish in Neills's Reservoir. This reservoir was dry until 2006 when surface water from rainfall resulted in adequate reservoir volume to consider stocking fish. Escapement of stocked fish into the unnamed coulee could potentially occur in a major run-off event. There is potential for stocked rainbow trout to reach the Teton River, however it is unlikely they would persist in this reach of the river because of high summer water temperatures. Escaped rainbow trout may migrate to upstream reaches of the Teton towards Choteau, but no significant impacts are expected.

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

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Comments: There is little potential for rainbow trout to spawn in this location because of the absence of flowing water and suitable habitat.

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 can be identified in the permitting process.

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 are expected to be very minor.

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

EA prepared by: Dave Yerk

Date: June 13, 2007

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Title Ricahrd Neill 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

6/29/2007
Date