

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Mossey Land and Livestock, Inc.  
Box 337  
Denton, MT 59430

**Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended?** Yes for brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout.

**Does the landowner have legal water rights to the pond?** Yes. There is a 1953 statement of claim for domestic for livestock.

**Location of pond:** County: Fergus  
Legal description: T19N R15E Sec 23

**Name of the drainage where the pond is located:** Pond is located adjacent to Campbell Coulee, which enters Wolf Creek (tributary to Judith) about 1.5 miles downstream.

**Fish species proposed for introduction:**  
Rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout.

**Are these species legally present in the drainage?**  
These species are legally in the Judith drainage. Campbell Coulee is seasonally dry. This pond was previously licensed and stocked with rainbow trout.

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:**  
Campbell Coulee was dry when sampled by the prairie fish survey in 2006. No species of are known from Wolf Creek but it is likely Wolf Creek contains northern redbelly dace hybrids. Northern redbelly dace have been sampled by MFWP in this stream.

**RISKS:**

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes  No  **Explain:** The only outlet is the spill way on the reservoir. There is not a piped outlet. Screens cannot be placed on this pond. This spring-fed pond appears to be on a very tiny drainage (<1 square mile) and it is unlikely that it spills often. If it does spill, stocked fish would likely reach Campbell coulee which is less than 0.5 miles away. Campbell Coulee and Wolf Creek are not trout water so risks should be minor.

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

**Comments:** No significant impacts are expected. This pond was previously licensed and stocked with rainbow trout. Unlikely to have impacts on non-native rainbow, brook trout and brown trout already present in the drainages. It is highly unlikely the stocked fish would interact with the WCT populations in the headwaters of the Judith drainage. They would have to swim about 35 miles downstream and then

about 100 miles upstream to reach the closest WCT populations.

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

None  Minor  Major

Comments: Stocked fish will eat some minnows if present in pond. If they escape from the pond it is unlikely they could live long in Campbell Coulee or Wolf Creek; these streams do not contain trout water in this vicinity.

**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: Unlikely trout would reproduce.

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

The pond is very small. Should be able to drain and/or chemically treat.

**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 minor.

**EA prepared by:** Anne Tews, Fisheries Biologist **DATE:** November 5, 2007



Figures showing Mossey Pond, Mossey Pond with Campbell Coulee in background and inlet to pond.

**DECISION RECORD  
FISH POND LICENSE**

**DECISION: Issue**

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

**EA# Mossey Land and Livestock Inc. Private Pond**

**APPROVED SPECIES:** Rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout.

**LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:**

**DECISION REASONING:**

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



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George Liknes  
Regional Fisheries Manager

11/8/2007

Date