

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION
(2 Ponds)**

Name and address of applicant: River Y Ranch, LLC
PO Box 3116
Bozeman, MT 59772

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? YES

Location of pond:

County: Meagher

Legal description: Pond #1 (Upstream Pond): T9N,R9E,S12,SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
Pond #2 (Christensen Res.): T9N,R9E,S12,NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

In the headwaters of Sourdough Creek, which flows into the North Fork of the Musselshell River approximately two miles downstream from Bair Reservoir.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes, distributed throughout the Musselshell River drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None.

RISKS:

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

Comments: This trout species is already present or have access to the North Fork of the Musselshell River. Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation? ___ None Minor ___ Major

Comments: See above.

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

None Minor Major

Comments: Trout will consume some invertebrates in pond.

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

Minor Major

Comments: Inlet stream is largely intermittent.

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

YES. We will request screening on the outlet of the downstream pond (Christensen Reservoir) to reduce the potential for fish escaping to Sourdough Creek and downstream waters.

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

DATE: 7/10/2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# River Y Ranch, LLC Private Ponds (2)

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout.

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: Screen outlet on Christensen Reservoir.

DECISION REASONING:

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



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

7/10/2008

Date