

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

Name and address of applicant: Darlene Butcher Trust
2109 Joyland Road
Lewistown, MT 59457

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? **NO.** Recommend one-time stocking.

Does the pond have water rights? Yes. 1985 irrigation right 41S 30005904 for Gateway Simmental LLC (Company name for this ranch). Legal is incorrect on water right. Explanation attached.

Location of pond:

County: Fergus

Legal description: T15N,R18E,S7,NW, NW
Latitude 47.08339, Longitude -109.49981

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

This is an on-stream pond on Wolverine Creek. Wolverine Creek drains into Big Spring Creek (Judith).

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes, distributed throughout the Judith River drainage and in Wolverine Creek

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None from Wolverine Creek

RISKS:

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

Comments: These trout species are already present or have access to Wolverine Creek. 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. May eat minnows or other fish in pond

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 perennial. Reproduction may be possible.

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

YES. But would be challenging. Pond can be pulled down to less than 50% capacity. Would likely require chemical treatment. Rainbow and brook trout are likely present in Wolverine Creek above the dam.

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. Minor impacts expected.

EA prepared by: Anne Tews

DATE: 7/29/2008

**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

EA# Darlene Butcher Trust Private Pond

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**
- Other (specify) Pond does not meet criteria for private pond permit but impacts should be minimal.**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

9/12/2008

Date