

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Draft Environmental Review of Fish Introduction

Description of water body and action:

Name: **Kolar Reservoir # 1**
County: Judith Basin
Legal Description: T17N R10E S 5
Water Code: 16-6340

Kolar Reservoir # 1 is located on private land approximately one mile north of Geysers. Public access to this reservoir is gained through an agreement between the landowner and Montana FWP that involves reasonable public access in exchange for FWP stocking it with fish. Montana FWP plans to stock it with brook trout to improve diverse angling opportunity and angling quality. The reservoir is 12 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 17 feet. This reservoir has been stocked since 1947 with rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon, largemouth bass, and walleye. It also harbors white sucker, fathead minnow and brassy minnow. FWP is proposing to stock brook trout in order to maximize angling quality in this fishery.

Name of the drainage where the pond is located:

The reservoir is located on McCarthy Creek, which is a tributary to Arrow Creek.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Brook trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Brook trout occur in some of the tributaries to Arrow Creek, including a nearby tributary (Davis Creek), and are ubiquitous in Arrow Creek below the confluence with Cottonwood Creek, approximately 18 stream miles downstream.

Species of Special Concern in the drainage:

There are no species of special concern in the immediate vicinity. Westslope cutthroat trout occur in Cottonwood Creek, approximately 18 stream miles downstream, which are protected by a barrier. There are numerous brook trout in the area.

Risks:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes No **Explain:** The reservoir is located in the headwaters of McCarthy Creek. The outlet stream flows into another reservoir downstream that has bass and rainbow trout. The species proposed for stocking already exists in Arrow Creek and poses little risk.

Potential for impacts on the genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None X Minor Major

Stocked fish would have no negative impacts on the genetics of other species in the reservoir or Arrow Creek. The westslope cutthroat trout in Cottonwood Creek are isolated above a barrier.

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

None Minor Major

The stocked fish would likely eat small fish in the reservoir. It is unlikely there would be any impacts at the population level.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction: None

Minor Major

It is unlikely that there will be additional impacts that would be significant to other forms of aquatic life. The brook would consume some invertebrates in the reservoir.

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

Minor Major

Brook trout may reproduce. Rainbow trout are stocked in the reservoir now and show little success with natural reproduction. Historic records show suckers successfully reproduce.

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

Brook trout could be controlled by stocking or managed managing by stocking walleye which have been stocked in the past to manage suckers.

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).

No action. The proposed action is intended to maximize the angling potential of Kolar Reservoir #1. No taking this action would maintain status quo and the existing level of angling quality/opportunity.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Fish stocking is intended to have beneficial results which would likely mean more public use. FWP would coordinate with the landowner to address any negative impacts from increased public use. If negative impacts were realized, stocking could be discontinued and mitigation measures considered for implementation.

List all agencies and individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction.

Kolar Brothers farm.

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction.

Kolar Brother farm was consulted and agreed to allow the proposed action.

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 actions. No. Action expected to be minor.

EA prepared by: Grant Grisak, Fisheries Biologist

Date: March 17, 2011.

Comments accepted until: Comments will be accepted at any time regarding the planting program for Kolar Reservoir#1. The proposed action is not anticipated to be potentially controversial and consequently would need no public comment period. If no comments are received by March 31, 2011, we proposed to issue a decision notice.

Comments should be sent to: Grant Grisak, MFWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, Mt. 59405.

Email address: ggrisak@mt.gov



Figure 1. Map of Geyser area showing Kolar Reservoir #1.