

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

**Name and address of applicant:** Tom O'Neil  
943 Williams Creek Rd  
Raynesford, MT 59469

**Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit?** No

**Does the pond have water rights?** Yes. This pond has a statement of claim water right #41Q 30051676 for a fishery and stock water use with a priority date of August 24, 2011. The water right includes 1.13 AC-FT for fishery purpose and 0.18 AC-FT for stock purpose for a total maximum volume of 1.31 AC-FT. The water right shows the location of the reservoir record to be T18N,R8E,S34,SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , which appears to be in error.

**Location of pond:**

**County:** Judith Basin

**Legal description:** T18N,R8E,S34,NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Lat/Long: N47.277028°, W-110.693747°

**Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:** The pond is located in the Williams Creek drainage which is a tributary to Big Otter Creek.

**Fish species proposed for introduction:** Rainbow trout

**Is this species legally present in the drainage?** Yes

**Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:** None known in Williams Creek or Big Otter creek.

RISKS:

**Inlets to or outlets from the pond?** Yes  No  **Explain:**

Water enters the pond from a spring just above the pond. Some water enters the pond from rain and snow melt. Outflow is via 12 inch culvert located in the northeast end of dam structure. Trout could escape if overflow from the pond exceeded the 12 inch culvert capacity.

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

Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered very unlikely. The proposed species are not native to Williams Creek or Big Otter Creek. Rainbow trout are present in the Big Otter Creek drainage. Rainbow trout that would escape from this pond should have little negative impact on the genetics of non-native trout populations.

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

Comments: No other fish exist in this 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 the pond.

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

Minor  Major

Comments: No inlet stream or available spawning habitat exists.

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

Yes. This pond could be chemically treated or the species removed through attrition.

**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:** Paul D. Hamlin

**DATE:** 3/28/2012



**Figure 1 & 2. Tom O'Neil Private Pond.**

# DECISION RECORD FISH POND LICENSE

## DECISION: Issue

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

APPROVED SPECIES: **Rainbow trout**

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: None

## DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.



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George Liknes  
Regional Fisheries Manager

4/13/2012

Date