

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

Name and address of applicant: Mark Hansen
1098 HWY 408
Fairfield, MT 59436

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? Yes.

Does the pond have water rights? This reservoir has a ground water certificate # 41K 30050612 for fishery use and priority date of March 21, 2011. This water right includes a volume of 8.32 acre-feet with a year-round (January 1 to December 31) period of use.

Location of pond:

County: Teton

Legal description: T21N, R4W, S19, SESENE; N 47.561510, W -112.157297

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: The pond is located on a short unnamed ephemeral coulee that drains into Elbow Coulee. From the mouth of this ephemeral coulee, Elbow Coulee runs approximately five miles in a southeasterly direction before entering School Section Coulee. From this point, School Section coulee extends approximately two miles in a southeasterly direction before entering the Sun River.

Fish species proposed for introduction: Rainbow trout and brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage? All species are locally present within the Sun River drainage.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: None known.

RISKS:

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

Water enters this impoundment via spring seepage from head of coulee immediately above west edge of pond. The overflow outlet to the pond is a screened 18-inch metal culvert. The screening material is one-inch metal mesh, which will limit loss of adult fish but not juveniles. Juvenile fish flushed from the pond may ultimately reach the Sun River during an exceptional precipitation event.

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

Comments: Adverse genetic impacts are considered unlikely. The proposed species are not native to the Sun River drainage. Trout that might escape from this pond would 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: May eat minnows or other fish if present 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 or possibly amphibians in the pond.

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

Comments: No inlet stream or suitable spawning habitat is available for rainbow trout. Brook trout may spawn in areas of groundwater upwelling within the pond, if available.

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

Yes. This pond could be chemically treated or 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: Dave Yerk

DATE: 04/23/2012



**DECISION RECORD
FISH POND LICENSE**

DECISION: Issue

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

APPROVED SPECIES: Rainbow and Brook Trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS:

DECISION REASONING:

- Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.**



George Liknes
Regional Fisheries Manager

01/11/2013
Date