



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

Description of water body:

Name: VR 009 Reservoir

County: Valley

Legal description: T31N, R39E, S13

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The reservoir is located on an unnamed ephemeral stream within the Lower Milk drainage.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Yellow Perch

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage and associated risks:

Sauger, Paddlefish, Pallid Sturgeon, and Blue Sucker are known species of special concern present in the drainage. Presence of these species are limited to the mainstem Missouri and Milk Rivers. There are no associated risks to species of special concern, as VR 009 is not connected to either mainstem river and Yellow Perch are present elsewhere within the drainage.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

☒ None ☐ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: Hatchery Rainbow Trout are the only species present in VR 009, therefore there will be no genetic impacts to fish populations present in VR 009 Reservoir.

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

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: The proposed species may compete with Rainbow Trout for similar food sources (e.g. Zooplankton, *Gammarid* spp., Fathead Minnows) during similar life stages.

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

_____ None ☒ Minor _____ Major

Comments: Aquatic invertebrates would be consumed if present, but no population level impact is expected.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location:

_____ None _____ Minor ☒ Major

Comments: Yellow Perch were previously self-sustaining in VR 009 prior to a winterkill in 2022.

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

Yes, the proposed species could be removed via dewatering, netting, or chemical treatment.

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).

Alternative 1 – No Action: The No Action alternative would result in not stocking the proposed species and not providing additional recreational angling opportunity in Northeast Montana.

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

The reservoir and proposed species would be managed according to the general Eastern Fishing District regulations.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

The proposed waterbody is on Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) property.

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 EIS required. Action is expected to be minor.

Describe the level of public involvement and, given the complexity of the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate?

This proposed action is not expected to be controversial therefore this EA will be posted on the FWP website. Yellow Perch are available at the Miles City State Fish Hatchery and will be stocked in July 2022. This EA will not be posted for a public comment period.

EA prepared by: Jared Krebs
Glasgow Fisheries Biologist
1 Airport Rd
Glasgow, MT 59230

Email: jared.krebs@mt.gov

Date: June 27, 2022