

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

Name and address of applicant: Mackay Ranch LLC LP (David Mackay, General Partner)
16001 SE Rivershore Drive
Vancouver, WA. 98683

Is approval for a private pond permit application recommended? Yes

Location of pond: 46.19853 -104.81595

County: Fallon

Legal description: 5N 55E S10 NW NE SW

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located: Pond is located on a small unnamed tributary to Mile Creek, a tributary of O'Fallon Creek, which is a tributary of the Yellowstone River.

Fish species proposed for introduction: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and bluegill.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Yes

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage: No species of special concern have been documented in the unnamed tributary or Mile Creek. Sauger have been documented in O'Fallon Creek which is approximately 6.6 creek miles downstream from the pond. Escaped fish will have minimal chance to survive the limited water supply between the pond and O'Fallon Creek. Furthermore, fish surviving downstream is low due to the first mile of the drainage is flat, wide and well vegetated with no discernable creek channel. If escaped fish do reach O'Fallon Creek impacts to the existing fishery and species of special concern are minimal because the proposed species already exist within the drainage.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

☒ None ☐ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: If fish escape downstream the ephemeral nature of the unnamed tributary and Mile Creek will reduce fish survival, thus poses little impact to downstream fish species.

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

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: In the rare event fish escape downstream the numbers that would survive would have little impact to other fish populations in O'Fallon Creek or Yellowstone River.

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

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: Fish will consume some invertebrates in the pond.

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

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: Rainbow trout are physically unable to spawn in small ponds that lack cold running water. Largemouth bass and bluegill can be successful at natural reproduction and surviving in ponds that have a maximum depth of 11 feet or more.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? No

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 (no action alternative)

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any. Restrictions on what species can be stocked in ponds. Fish must be purchased from a private hatchery that has been tested and approved by the State of Montana to be free of disease or other pathogens.

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, perceived impacts are minor and the action to issue a private pond license is non-controversial.

Decision Notice: Considering there are no environmental impacts associated with stocking this private pond and no comments are expected if the EA was posted for public comment, this EA is considered the decision notice and a private pond license will be issued to proceed with fish stocking as outlined in the application.

EA prepared by: Kenneth M Backes **DATE:** 07/12/2022

DECISION RECORD – FISH POND LICENSE

DECISION: Issue/Reissue

- ☒ Private Pond License
- ☐ Commercial Pond License
- ☐ One-Time-Permission-to-Plant letter
- ☐ Denial

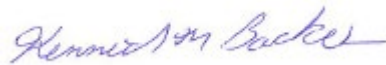
EA #/Title: Mackay Ranch LLC LP (David Mackay -General Partner) (if applicable)
Private Pond License EA

APPROVED SPECIES: Largemouth bass, bluegill, rainbow trout

LICENSE RESTRICTIONS: none

DECISION REASONING:

- ☒ Pond meets all other requirements for Private Pond License.
- ☐ Other (specify)



Regional Fisheries Manager

7/12/2022

Date