



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

### Description of water body:

**Name:** Big Reservoir

**County:** Valley

**Legal description:** T30N, R41E, S30

### Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The reservoir is located on an unnamed ephemeral stream within the Porcupine Creek drainage.

### Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow Trout

### Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Rainbow Trout are not considered native to the drainage but have been legally introduced to the drainage.

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

Northern Redbelly Dace are a known species of special concern present in the drainage. Presence of this species is limited to Porcupine Creek and associated tributaries. There are no associated risks to species of special concern, as Rainbow Trout are present elsewhere within the drainage.

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### RISKS:

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

☒ None ☐ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: No salmonids are present in this waterbody therefore there will be no genetic impacts to fish populations present in Big 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 Yellow Perch and Black Crappie 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: We do not anticipate Rainbow Trout to reproduce in this location.

**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 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property.

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

BLM – Glasgow Field Office

**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. Rainbow trout are available at the Fort Peck State Fish Hatchery and will be stocked in May 2021. This EA will not be posted for a public comment period.

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