



MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION

Description of water body:

Name: Raymond Dam

County: Sheridan

Legal description: T36N, R55E, S18

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

The reservoir is located on Mccoy Creek within the Big Muddy drainage.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Bluegill

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Bluegill are not considered native to the drainage but have historically been legally introduced to the drainage.

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

Northern Redbelly Dace and Pearl Dace are known species of special concern present in the drainage. Associated risks to species of special concern are considered minimal. The proposed species has historically been present throughout the drainage and introduction would not result in cumulative impacts.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None Minor Major

Comments: Centrarchid species are not present downstream therefore no impact to genetic structure is expected.

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.) 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: Bluegill are expected 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 waterbody is located on land owned by Sheridan County.

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

Sheridan County offices

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. Bluegill are available at the Miles City State Fish Hatchery and will be stocked in August 2021. 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: July 28th, 2021