



**Missouri River Riparian Fencing
Willo Ranch**

Status Report for Northwestern Energy
FERC Project 2188

Project #2019-6

Prepared by:

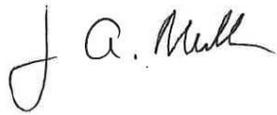
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At the December 2018 Missouri River Technical Advisory Committee (MoTAC) meeting, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP) was awarded \$18,584 from Northwestern Energy to construct a riparian fence to restrict livestock from the bank and protect approximately 5,280 feet of bank along the Missouri River. The landowner agreed to construct the four-strand riparian fence using wildlife friendly techniques that met specified spacing dimensions of the wires. The four-strand riparian fence was constructed in spring 2019 along the top of bank often providing generous setbacks (see photos) from the Missouri River. Infrastructure was installed for three water gaps that would be used only in dry years when water that is typically available in the slough has dried up. Water gap locations were selected based on the topography and are located in natural depressions along the bank. The water gaps will allow for livestock to continue to water during dry years, but concentrate livestock impacts to discrete areas and encourage them to water and then leave the riparian area.

Figure 1 depicts the location of the project and the approximate location of the fence. Photos 1 through 6 depict the project area before and after completion of the work.

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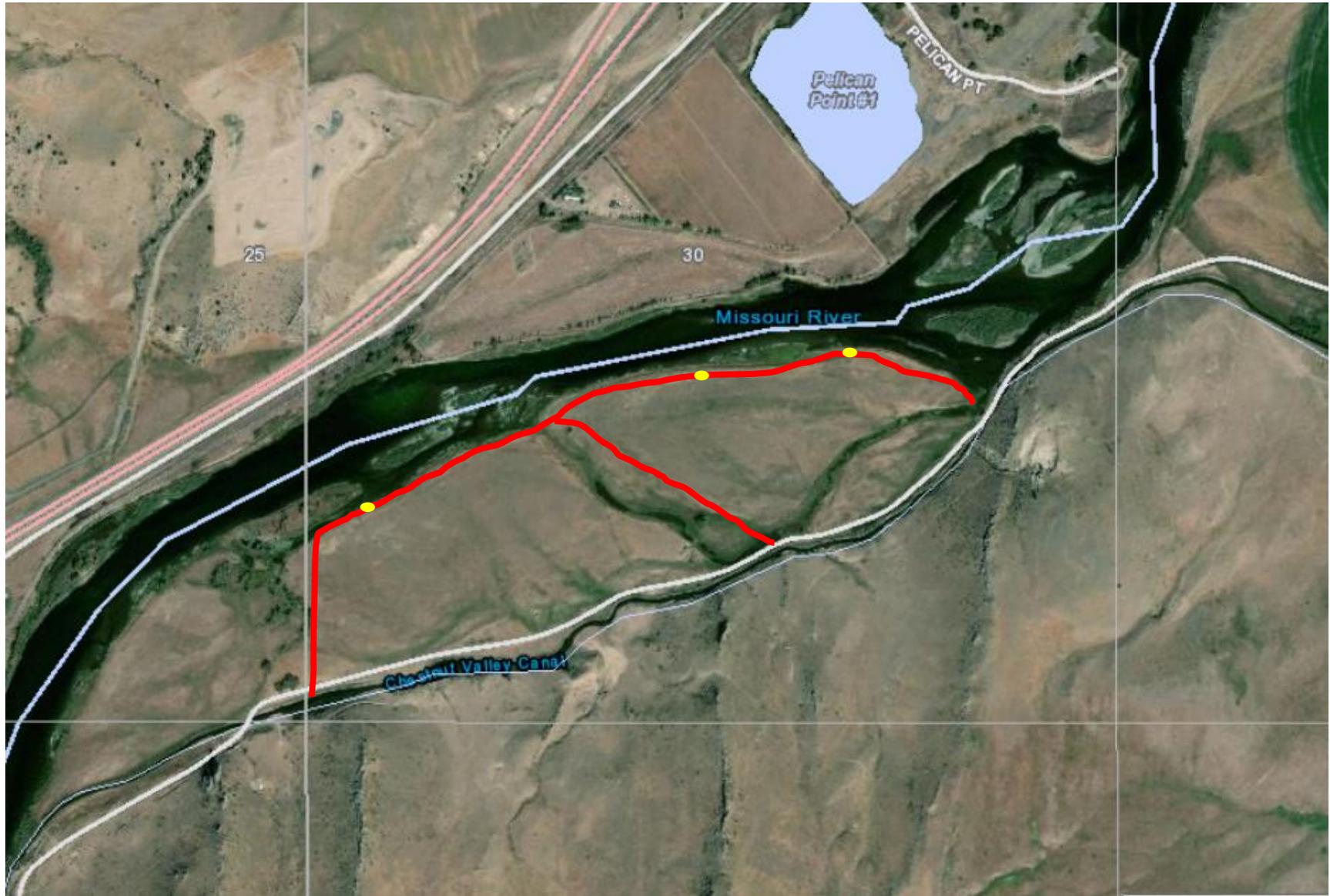


Figure 1. Map of 131 acre pasture on Willo Ranch with proposed riparian fence and cross fence alignment. Yellow ovals depict the approximate locations of the water gaps.



Photo 1. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. Before fencing. December 2018.



Photo 2. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. After fencing. May 2019.



Photo 3. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. Before fencing. December 2018.



Photo 4. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. After fencing. May 2019.



Photo 5. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. Before fencing. December 2018.



Photo 6. Missouri River – Willo Ranch. After fencing. May 2019.