

2020 Cost-Share Proposal Form for NorthWestern Energy (NWE) Project 2188 TAC Funds

Project 2188 (Madison-Missouri River) License Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement (PM&E) projects are required to offset impacts to river resources from the continued operation of one or more of NWE's nine hydro developments (Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony Dams). PM&E projects need to be prioritized toward in-river or on-the-ground measures that directly benefit fisheries and/or wildlife populations and their habitats:

Priority 1: 2188 License projects which meet License Article requirements and PM&E for fisheries or wildlife populations or their habitats within the main stem Madison River (Hebgen Reservoir to Three Forks) or Missouri River (Hauser Reservoir to Fort Peck Reservoir)

Priority 2: 2188 License projects which meet License Article requirements and PM&E for fisheries or wildlife populations or their habitats in primary tributaries or on adjacent lands and, in doing so, provide PM&E for Madison River (Hebgen Reservoir to Three Forks) or Missouri River (Hauser Reservoir to Fort Peck Reservoir) resources.

Priority 3: 2188 License PM&E projects which meet License Article requirements by providing scientific or other tangible PM&E benefits to Madison-Missouri River fisheries or wildlife populations or their habitats. These projects must be located in the greater Missouri River drainage upstream from Fort Peck Reservoir, but not necessarily located on the main stem Madison River or Missouri River or their adjacent lands or primary tributaries.

All TAC project proposals must include the following information:

Project Title: South Fork Madison River floodplain reactivation and habitat improvement

Date: 11/9/20

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s):

This proposal project would partially fund habitat restoration in the South Fork Madison River. The proposal meets Article 409 of NorthWestern Energy's FERC 2188 License.

ARTICLE 409

- (3) Fish habitat enhancement both in main stem and tributary streams, including enhancement for all life stages of fishes.
- (5) improving or replacing stream culverts.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected:

Priority 2. The project would improve fisheries habitat in the South Fork Madison River.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Jason Brey and Allison Stringer, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Hebgen Lake District

Location of Proposed Project: South Fork Madison River where Forest Service Road 987 crosses the floodplain.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; 44.6574 **Lon:** -111.1506

Total Project Cost: \$400,000 (Estimate)

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: \$60,000 + \$600 (1% overhead) = \$60,600

I. Introduction; brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.

The bridge on Forest Service road 987 is undersized and has a long, contiguous causeway (~850') that bisects the wide floodplain of the South Fork Madison River (Figure 1). Currently, the bridge and causeway restrict the channel of the South Fork Madison River and limit its ability to access its floodplain. The Custer Gallatin National Forest (CGNF) proposes to replace the existing bridge (30' wide) with a wider bridge (46-50' wide) to eliminate the channel constriction and install up to 6 overflow hydraulic culverts along the road causeway to allow the South Fork Madison River to reactivate its floodplain. The CGNF also plans to rebuild the road surface through the entire site, reducing sedimentation (red and yellow polygons in Figure 1).

The South Fork Madison River is a critical spawning tributary to Hebgen Lake. These improvements would reduce water velocity, allowing more deposition of gravels and decreasing scour resulting in better habitat for resident trout and spawning trout

from the lake. Reconnecting the South Fork Madison with its entire flood plain would increase its ability to maintain quality fisheries habitat and continue to support strong fisheries in both Hebgen Lake and the River itself.

Figure 1. Proposed location of South Fork Madison River floodplain reactivation and habitat improvement project. The blue polygon shows the estimated causeway impact area, the red polygon shows the area of road with sedimentation impacts to be rebuilt, the yellow polygon shows the proposed improved parking area, and the dark blue line shows the length of the causeway across the floodplain of the South Fork Madison River.



II. Objectives; explicit statement(s) of what is intended to be accomplished.

To improve fisheries habitat and channel resilience of the South Fork Madison River by reactivating its floodplain, upgrading a channel constricting bridge, and reducing sedimentation from nearby motorized vehicle use.

III. Methods; description of how Project objectives will be accomplished.

Finalized project design is being drafted currently. The CGNF will put the project out to bid after design is complete, and have the selected contractor implement the project designs when the funding for the entire project is secured, but no later than fall of 2022.

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end.

The entire project will be completed by fall 2022.

V. Personnel; who will do the work? Identify Project leader or principal investigator.

Jason Brey is the project leader. Work will be completed by a contractor under the guidance of a U.S. Forest Service contracting officer.

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor	\$0
Travel and Living	\$0
Materials	Six 48" hydraulic culverts (\$10,000 each) = \$60,000
Other Direct Expenses	\$0
Direct Overhead	1% overhead= \$600

All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions

The remaining \$340,000 will be contributed by the CGNF through personnel time, Great American Outdoors Act funding, And Regional office funding.

VII. Deliverables; describe work product (reports, habitat restoration, etc.) which will result from this Project. How will "success" for this project be monitored or demonstrated?

The work product will be floodplain reactivation and habitat improvement resulting from completed bridge replacement, culvert install, and road rebuilding.

VIII. Cultural Resources. Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NWE as a condition of any TAC grant. TAC funds may not be used for any land-disturbing activity, or the modification, renovation, or removal of any buildings or structures until the CRM consultation process has been completed. Agency applicants must submit a copy of the proposed project to a designated Cultural Resource Specialist for their agency. Private parties or non-governmental organizations are encouraged to submit a copy of their proposed project to a CRM consultant they may have employed. Private parties and non-governmental organizations may also contact the NWE representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed, will be held by the TAC, without any action, until the information has been submitted.

Summarize here how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management:

All ground disturbing activities will be assessed by our forest archaeologist to ensure compliance with all laws and the CRM requirement of NWE.

IX. Water Rights. For projects that involve development, restoration or enhancement of wetlands, please describe how the project will comply with the Montana DNRC's "Guidance for Landowners and Practitioners Engaged in Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities", issued by the Water Resources Division on 9 March 2016.

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines:

NA

All TAC Project proposals should be 7 pages or less and emailed (as a WORD file) to each of:

- Andrew.Welch@Northwestern.com
- Jon.Hanson@Northwestern.com
- Grant.Grisak@Northwestern.com

Further questions about TAC proposals or Project 2188 license requirements or related issues may be addressed to: Andy Welch, Leader Hydro License Compliance, NorthWestern Energy, 1315 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601; 406-444-8115 (office); 406-565-7549 (cell); Andrew.Welch@northwestern.com.