

## **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: 2021 Custer Gallatin NF's seasonal technician funding

Date: 11/9/2020

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

This project would partially fund two Custer Gallatin National Forest Fish Technicians to assist NWE, MFWP, and USFS biologists with multiple projects including monitoring and surveys during the 2021 field season. General duties that address the following articles include: population & habitat monitoring for species of special concern (population estimates, presence/absence surveys, nonnative removals, collection of genetic material, temperature monitoring, riparian & stream channel monitoring, etc.); assisting with stream and lake enhancement projects; and, fish barrier site identification, reconnaissance, and maintenance.

#### ARTICLE 408

7) Monitor fish species of special concern (i.e., Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout).

#### ARTICLE 409

3) Fish habitat enhancement both in main stem and tributary streams, including enhancement for all life stages of fishes.

6) Inclusion or exclusion of fish barriers.

#### ARTICLE 412

4) Protect and aid the recovery of threatened and endangered fish species and other aquatic species of special concern, including Arctic grayling, in Madison Reservoir and the lower Madison River.

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

Priority 2: The USFS technicians would assist with projects which meet License Article requirements and PM&E for fisheries populations and their habitats in primary tributaries and provide PM&E for Madison River resources, as directed by USFS, MFWP and NWE fisheries personnel.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Allison Stringer, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman and Hebgen Lake Ranger District's

Location of Proposed Project: Upper Madison River and tributaries

Total Project Cost:

GS-6 Technician TAC \$160.14 x 20 days	\$ 3,203
GS-5 Technician TAC \$143.82 x 20 days	\$ 2,876
GS-6 Technician In-Kind Contribution \$160.14 x 40 days	\$ 6,406
GS-5 Technician In-Kind Contribution \$143.82 x 40 days	\$ 5,753

Overhead (1.0%)

Total = \$ 61  
**\$18,299**

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:  
\$3,203 + \$2,876 + \$61 (1% overhead) = \$6,140

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

This funding request is for cost sharing USFS Fisheries Technician salaries. The USFS Region 1 Fisheries Program has undergone considerable reductions. Limited resources are available to local FS biologists to obtain the seasonal work force required to assist NWE and MFWP in implementing the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water Quality Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Plan in the Madison River drainage as part of FERC licensing requirements for Project 2188.

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

The FS technicians would aid State, Federal, and NWE biologist during the summer field season with the following:

- Tepee Creek westslope trout restoration project reconnaissance
- Instream flow reservations
- Riparian vegetation and stream channel monitoring
- WCT population monitoring
- Thermograph deployment and retrieval
- WCT genetics collection
- Amphibian surveys and monitoring
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inventory and monitoring in the Madison River drainage – high risk waters.
- Assist MFWP and NWE staff with their annual program of work on Madison River, Hebgen and Ennis Reservoir as needed.

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

Forest Service seasonal technicians would work cooperatively with NWE and MFWP crews throughout the summer field season to accomplish the fisheries objectives outlined above within the Madison River drainage.

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

May 2021 – October 2021

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

One GS-6 and one GS-5 Fisheries Technician. Project lead is Allison Stringer, CGNF West Zone Fisheries Biologist

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor = **\$6,076**  
Travel and Living  
Materials  
Other Direct Expenses  
Direct Overhead = **\$61**  
All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions

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 success of this project will be demonstrated by reporting the field work days spent and annual accomplishments related to Articles 408, 409 and 412 in the Madison River drainage, reservoirs, and tributaries.

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:

N/A

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 9March2016.

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

N/A

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

- [Andrew.Welch@Northwestern.com](mailto:Andrew.Welch@Northwestern.com)
- [Jon.Hanson@Northwestern.com](mailto:Jon.Hanson@Northwestern.com)
- [Grant.Grisak@Northwestern.com](mailto: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](mailto:Andrew.Welch@northwestern.com).