

2021 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 Continuation of WF Madison River Stream Restoration Project Funding Request

Date: 10/14/2020

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

This project would address Project 2188 License Articles 409 and 412 by enhancing stream habitat to help ensure long-term persistence of westslope cutthroat trout in the headwaters of the WF Madison River. Stream habitat enhancement would be accomplished with bioengineering techniques. Project objectives include creating additional over-wintering habitat, stabilizing eroding streambanks, reducing width/depth ratios, willow planting, and improving spawning habitat quality.

ARTICLE 409

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

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:

The WF Madison River Habitat Restoration project would be a Priority 2 project: PM&E for fisheries populations and their habitats in a primary tributary to the Madison River. The focus of this project is to improve stream habitat for sensitive fish species in a primary tributary to the Madison River.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Patrick Luckenbill, USFS Fisheries Tech, B-D NF Madison District and Jennifer Mickelson, USFS Watershed Program Manager, B-D NF,

Location of Proposed Project:

Narrative: Upper West Fork Madison River

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat;44.805628

Lon:-111.908606

Total Project Cost:

Excavator mobilization and 3 day operation (*TAC Request*) = \$2,700
(4hrs mob @ \$100/hr + 20hr @ \$115/hr (RE Miller Quote 2017))

Site misc. supplies (*TAC Request*)

(coconut fiber matting, stakes, safety gear, chain, misc. supplies) = \$1,200

B-D Fisheries, Range and USFS Fire personnel (*USFS*) = \$6,665

(7 employees x 3 days x \$215 average/employee/day + travel expenses + overhead)

USFS NEPA, CE Decision (USFS) - already completed =\$0,000
DM West Fork Madison River Stream Restoration Project, signed 7/8/2019)

Total = \$10,565

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:
\$3,900.00

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

This funding request is for cost-sharing work that will continue and expand on the work started in 2019, the West Fork Madison River Habitat Restoration project. In 2019, the USFS, Madison Ranger District, along with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP), identified a headwater reach of the West Fork Madison River as having high restoration potential. This headwater system harbors a stable, but isolated, conservation population of Westslope cutthroat. This area was in the Eureka Fire (2013) and was historically altered by livestock grazing. Consequently, streambanks are eroding, pool habitat is lacking throughout, and high fine sediment is prominent. In 2019, bioengineering techniques were utilized to create numerous pool habitats with onsite large wood and root wads. Eroded streambanks were sloped back to 45 degrees and coconut fabric was staked over exposed streambanks to control erosion and accelerate vegetation establishment. Onsite rock was used to decrease stream width and increase depth in over-widened areas. Onsite willows were harvested and planted along the toe of restored banks and sensitive areas where large wood was keyed into streambanks. This proposal would expand on the work already completed to increase the length of streambank that is restored.

Stream habitat condition would be improved to ensure long-term persistence of Westslope cutthroat trout within their native range. The requested funding would be in support of internal dollars being spent by the Madison Ranger District for this project and would enable the purchase and rental of critical equipment needed.

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

The objectives for this restoration project are the following:

- Enhance stream habitat conditions
- Create and/or improve over-wintering habitat (LWD placement)
- Reshape and stabilize streambanks in eroded areas
- Revegetate disturbed streambanks
- Willow planting
- Reducing width/depth ratios (in channel rock placement)
- Improve spawning habitat

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

Habitat restoration would be accomplished with excavator and manual labor. The excavator and operator would be contracted for 3 days to one week. Forest Service biologists would direct excavator operations and supervise laborers (fisheries technicians and other USFS staff). All work would be accomplished in compliance with 124 Stream Protection Act.

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

July 2021 – September 2021

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

Contracted Excavator and Operator
USFS Fisheries Biologist (project lead)
Two Fisheries Technicians (GS/5 and GS/7)
USFS Range Staff
Five USFS Fire Staff

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor	=	\$4,865
Travel and Living	=	\$1,800
Materials	=	\$1,200
Other Direct Expenses	=	\$2,388
<u>Direct Overhead (2%)</u>	=	<u>\$312</u>
Total	=	\$10,565

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, including before and after photos, will be documented in the 2021 annual report to NWE.

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:

This project requires a FS categorically excluded (CE) NEPA decision, which was written and signed in 2018. Appropriate resource staff, including Cultural Resources/Archeologists, provided field surveys, summary report, and mitigation features. Forest archeologists consulted with SHPO regarding all FS proposed actions, as required.

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:
Not Applicable

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.