

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT  
FY2025 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: Fort Benton Canoe Camp Expansion – Phase 1

Reservoir or River Segment: Carter Ferry FAS to Ft. Benton County(ies) Chouteau

Site Name (or project location): Chouteau County Fairgrounds

Applicant Name: Lori Holleman

Position and Agency: Manager, Fort Benton Canoe Campground

Telephone: 406-622-5505

Email: chocofair@itstriangle.com

Project Sponsor Name: Lori Holleman

Position and Agency: Manager, Fort Benton Canoe Campground

Telephone: 406-622-5505

Email: chocofair@itstriangle.com

**Project Cost Breakdown and Financial Request:**

Complete the financial section below by providing total project cost (to the nearest dollar), contributions by applicant and cooperators, request for NorthWestern Energy match of agency funds (see detailed instruction), and River Fund Grant request. Document in-kind contributions by public agencies for determination of NorthWestern Energy match request. A description of funding sources and in-kind contributions should be included in the Project Description.

Total project cost:	<u>\$79,400</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$1,600</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$21,400</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of
	<u>\$</u>	Total Project
		Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$23,000</u>	<u>29%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$5,750</u>	<u>7%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$50,650</u>	<u>64%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>2025-2026</u>	

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1. Has this project been previously submitted for funding consideration by the River Fund Board, either as a separate project or part of another project?     Yes     No

*If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.*

2. **Project Description:** Provide a description of the proposed project. Be sure to include specific project elements that are planned, and any associated cost detail.

▶ Chouteau County plans to expand the Canoe Campground to county-owned property directly to the east of the existing campground to meet the demand for larger campers and motorcoaches. The existing Canoe Camp only provides 2 spaces with 50-amp service and adequate space for larger motorcoaches. The expansion will provide accommodation for 14 additional RV units with 50-amp service, water hookups, and appropriate space for large motorcoaches. Chouteau County is in the process of removing tractor tires in a former dump area on the site at a cost of \$1,400.00 per load for a total of \$8,400.00. Once the tire removal is complete, Phase 1 of the project, for which this application is submitted, will include installation of power lines; installation of water hydrants and lines; fence relocation; installation of a new vault restroom; preparation for RV sites; and upgrading and graveling the existing road. Phase 2 of the project will finish the expansion by planting trees and shrubs along the north perimeter of the expansion and in the RV sites; pouring cement slabs in the sites; providing picnic tables and campfire rings; a gate and a paybox. Estimated costs for Phase 1 total \$79,400. Last year’s River Fund Project said it would provide more 50-amp service in the existing campground. We did upgrade two campsites, however, we found that the existing sites are not long enough for most of the motorcoaches. We elected not to expand those sites as it would mean removing healthy, mature trees, plus many of the larger RV’s weren’t able to back into the spaces. We found that expansion is required, with entry for them to the east side of the proposed area.

3. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or during the construction season.

▶ This project will be phased over the next couple of years. Phase 1 will entail the tire removal (currently underway); fence relocation; installation of water lines; installation of electric; installation of a vault restroom; and upgrading and graveling the existing road.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern Energy as a condition of awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds. Grant and matching 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 NorthWestern Energy representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed will be held without any action until the information has been submitted.

Summarize how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management.

▶ The location of the expansion is currently an unused area of the county fairgrounds, so has been previously disturbed. Therefore, it is unlikely that any cultural concerns exist. Cultural clearance

will be sought through NorthWestern Energy's CRM contractor to ensure compliance and by outside survey or inventory, if necessary.

5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Put answers in the cell after ►.

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

- Yes, the project does occur at a 2188 license site.

5.2 Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site. Describe if the project will meet operation and maintenance needs. Higher points awarded to projects that are higher priority and are not a recurring expense. Lower points awarded to projects that are low priority and/or have been previously funded. It is unlikely that the timeframe of River Fund would address emergency operation and maintenance needs but could support non-emergency operation and maintenance needs.

- This project is not directly related to the operation and maintenance of the existing site, but aims to expand the site to provide expanded opportunities to host large motorcoaches with full hookups.

5.3 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations. Identify project partners other than NorthWestern Energy or River Fund, if any, and describe their participation. Document all funding sources and all in-kind support and services to a project, because all are sources of partnerships and in-kind contributions from public agencies qualify for calculation of NorthWestern Energy matching funds. If there are no project partners, explain why.

- Chouteau County is supporting the project by completing the large-scale site clean-up through removal of the dumped tractor tires. Chouteau County will provide the equipment and manpower for site preparation and upgrading the existing road. Chouteau County Fair will be relocating the existing fence. We will be contacting the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Nursery to purchase trees and shrubs to provide a windbreak and delineation of camp sites for Phase 2. We are in contact with the Cooperative Extension Agency for ideas of fast growing and low maintenance trees and shrubs.

5.4 Project provides a benefit to public recreation in the Project Area and addresses specific issues and goals of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan (CRP). Identify how the project provides a benefit to public recreation and describe how the project specifically addresses issues and goals in Chapter 2-1 of the CRP.

- The existing campground is open to the public for river recreation and is the only public overnight facility available on the north shoreline of the Missouri River between Great Falls and Fort Benton. Expanding the campground with water hydrants and lines, installation of a vault restroom, and upgrading the electrical hookups supports MMCRP goals of providing public safety through adequate water source, power supply, and sanitation requirements. Recreational use of the Missouri-Madison River Project Area is increasing in popularity. Our goals are to provide safe and well-managed recreation sites and dispersed use areas that provide enjoyable user experiences across a spectrum of opportunities and seasons; continue to improve and expand recreation opportunities that offer universal accessibility; and to maintain or proactively increase public safety for recreationists in the Project Area.

5.5 Project responds to a clearly identified need. Describe and document the need for this project and how the project would address that need. Cite specific sources, as possible, to establish need and support the project. Discuss consequences if the funding request is unsuccessful. For a new construction or acquisition project, identify how post-project, long-term costs (such as site maintenance and management) will be provided.

- ▶ We have had to turn away larger campers and motorcoaches nearly every day as we cannot accommodate their sizes and needs in the Canoe Campground. They are unable to maneuver in the existing campground. There is only 2 sites that are pull-through. The expansion will have the larger campers enter and exit through the east side and most of the sites will be pull-through. When this project is developed, Chouteau County recognizes and accepts that on-going management and maintenance of the expansion will be the responsibility of Chouteau County. Please see attached letter from the Board of County Commissioners.

5.6 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected. Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project, demonstrate that the project has been well vetted, and include cost estimates.

- ▶ Phase 1 of this project includes tire removal, fence relocation/removal, installation of power, installation of water, installation of vaulted restroom, and up-grading and graveling the existing road. The project has been presented to the Chouteau County Commissioners for their information and approval. Please refer to their letter of support.

Tire removal – currently underway by Chouteau County. The estimated cost for completion is \$8,400. (In-kind)

Fence relocation/removal by Chouteau County. Estimated cost for completion is \$3,000. (In-kind)

Power installation by Prestige Electrical Services is \$27,000.

Water installation, vault site preparation, and gravel is \$8,000.

Installation of vaulted restroom by Missoula Concrete is \$23,000

Road work to be done by Chouteau County. Estimate is \$5,000 (in-kind)

Various Chouteau County Equipment \$5,000 (in-kind)

Total Project Cost: \$79,400

Value of In-Kind contribution: \$21,400

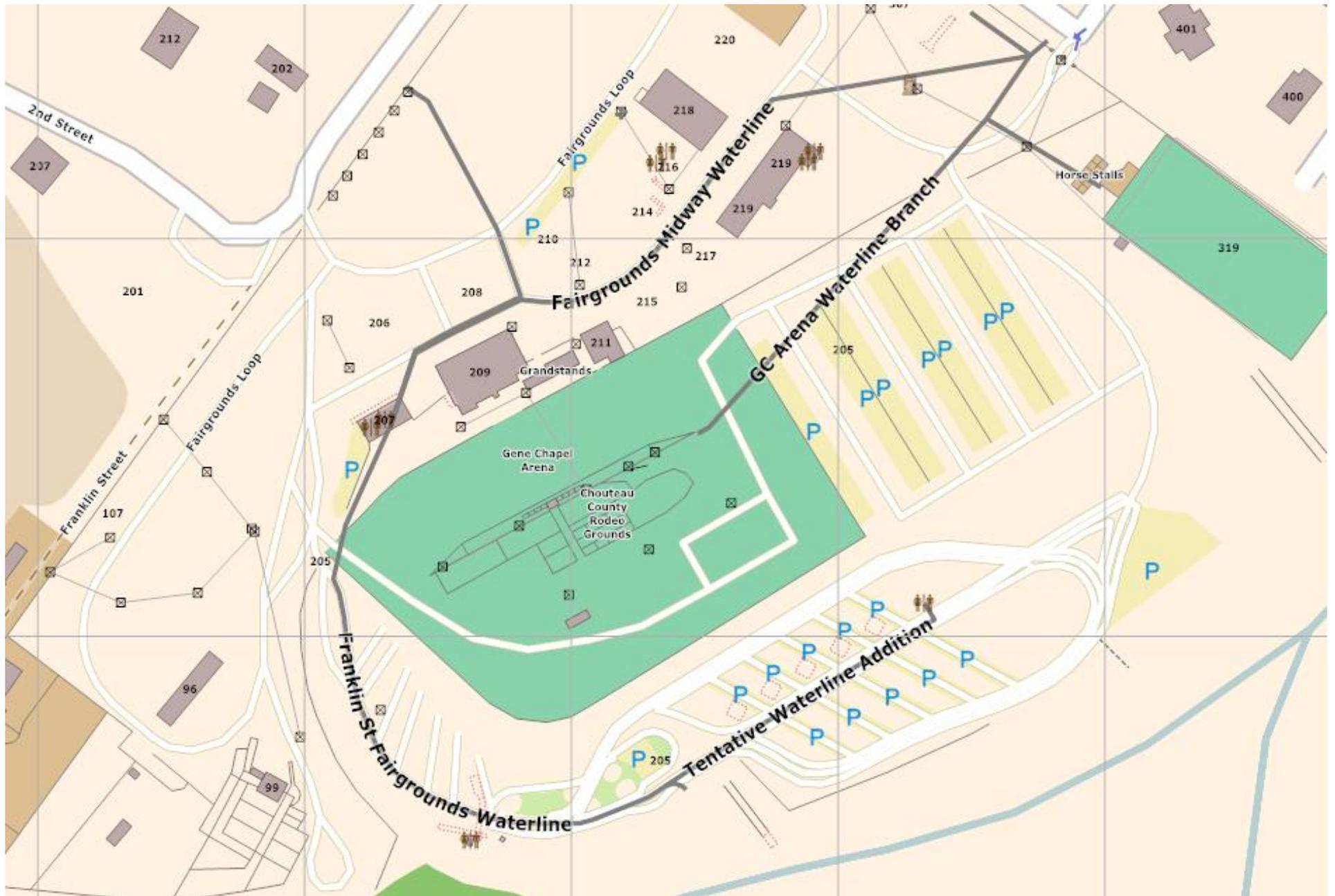
Remaining Funding Need: \$58,000

5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency plans, including Project 2188 License plans and land use and land management plans in place in the Corridor. Management plans should provide justification for the project.

- ▶ The recreational development project will provide expanded public access for recreation on the Missouri River. Our project aims to continue to balance environmental stewardship that ensures sustainable use of river resources. We will be able to closely monitor the campground and provide camping sites and accessibility for river recreation.

6. Map(s) on next page.





# ESTIMATE

Prestige Electrical Services LLC  
PO Box 928, Fort Benton, 59442

ignacio.prestige@outlook.com  
+1 (406) 621-0464

## Bill to

Chouteau County Fair  
PO BOX 259  
Fort Benton MT 59442

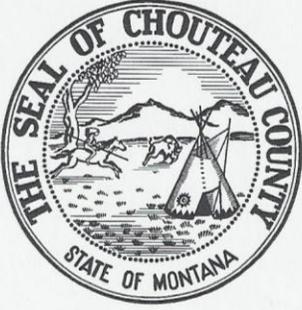
## Estimate details

Estimate no.: 1016  
Estimate date: 08/30/2024

#	Product or service	Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
1.	Description of work	14 new RV sites. New 400A service. Excavation by other Will need NW Energy to bring power to new service.	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.	Materials	Total materials and labor.	1	\$27,200.00	\$27,200.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,200.00</b>

Accepted date

Accepted by



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Chouteau County, Montana**

P. O. Box 459  
FORT BENTON, MONTANA 59442  
TELEPHONE: 406-622-3631  
FAX: 406-622-3012

**COMMISSIONERS**

Robert J. Pasha, Chairman  
Clay Riehl  
Rick Darlington

**CLERK**

Lana K. Claassen  
**REGULAR MEETINGS:**  
Every Monday and the first and  
third Tuesday of the month  
following the first Monday.

September 3, 2024

TO: Lori Holleman, Chouteau County Fair Manager

RE: Letter of Support of Development of Fairground Property

Dear Ms. Holleman:

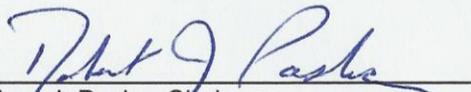
The Chouteau County Commissioners are in support of a recreation development project that will expand camping opportunities, especially for large RVs and motorcoaches at the Canoe Campground in Fort Benton.

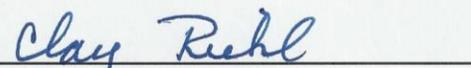
1. Chouteau County owns the property in question and the Commissioners are in support of the development of said Fairgrounds Property to expand the Canoe Campground.
2. Understanding that a large-scale site clean-up will be required as a component of the development project, the Commissioners also support the site clean-up as permitted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.
3. Once developed, the Commissioners recognize and accept that on-going management and maintenance of the expansion will be the responsibility of Chouteau County.

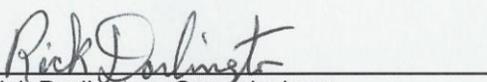
We encourage a request for funding from the Missouri-Madison River Fund and Northwestern Energy matching funds for this important development project.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Chouteau County Commissioners

  
Robert J. Pasha, Chairman

  
Clay Riehl, Commissioner

  
Rick Darlington, Commissioner