

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

Project Name: Lakeside RV Dump Station repairs

Reservoir or River Segment: Hauser County(ies) Lewis & Clark

Site Name (or project location): Lakeside Store, Helena, MT

Applicant Name: Sandy Gast

Position and Agency: Owner, Lakeside Store

Telephone: 46-459-4129

Email: sunflowerllc@outlook.com

Project Sponsor Name: Andy Welch

Position and Agency: Manager Hydro License and Compliance, NorthWestern Energy

Telephone: 46-444-8115

Email: Andrew.welch@northwestern.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>\$2,000</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
NorthWestern Energy in-kind assistance	<u>\$ 555</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$ 555</u>	<u>28%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$1,445</u>	<u>72%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>Spring 2025</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 X 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.

This project will fund necessary repairs to the RV dump station at the Lakeside Store adjacent to Hauser Lake, near Devil’s Elbow Campground.

An RV dump station was installed at the Lakeside Store in 2003 with funds allocated to development of Devil’s Elbow Campground as one of the recreation improvement projects stemming from relicensing of the Missouri-Madison Hydroelectric Project. The dump station is intended to serve the public utilizing nearby recreation areas, especially Devil’s Elbow Campground. The dump station has been operated by owners of the store since 2003 and a renewed agreement in 2024 guarantees continued operation for the remaining life of the Missouri-Madison License (set to expire September 1, 2040). The facility was located at the private operation rather than the public campground to ensure constant supervision of the facility and its use, and to allow for it to be open and available beyond the season that the public campground may be open. The cooperative management agreement has worked well, though some repairs to the 20+-year-old facility are now warranted.

The holding tank of the RV dump station contains floats that trigger an alarm when activated due to high capacity in the tank. Operators then are aware that the tank needs pumped. The floats in the tank have stopped working and need to be replaced, as do the stand pipes that hold the floats. This project will fund those needed repairs.

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

Multiple phases are not feasible for this small repair project. The holding tank will need to be empty to facilitate repairs to the floats and replacement of the stands. It is most efficient and reasonable for all repairs to be made once the technician is in the tank.

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 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.

This project includes replacement of existing components and no new ground disturbance so cultural resource management is not a factor.

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 RV dump station at the Lakeside Store is a 2188-licensed facility for the Hauser HED.

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.

Yes, this project is directly related to operation and maintenance of the existing facility. The floats in the holding tank trigger an alarm when the tank reaches capacity. The current floats have failed, which risks an over-fill of the tank and potential sewage spill. Replacing the floats will prevent a spill from happening.

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.

There are no project partners other than NorthWestern Energy's in-kind support for this project. Collaboration to repair components of a septic system for public use doesn't garner much buy-in from special interest groups.

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 RV dump station at the Lakeside Store is the only dump station in an area that supports a lot of RV camping so the public benefit is great. Having the facility condition repaired is important for efficient operation and continued availability for the public.

The goal of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan that most directly aligns with this project is "to promote responsible user behavior that protects natural, cultural, and social resources." Providing an easily accessible RV dump station in a location near RV camping areas protects the landscape and prevents transmission of disease by reducing the probability of irresponsible sewage dumping.

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.

The floats in the holding tank trigger an alarm when the tank becomes full, which prompts operators to immediately have the tank pumped. Without properly functioning alarms, the chance of overfilling the tank is high, which could result in a sewage spill. Operators charge a nominal fee for use of the dump station, which supports pumping of the holding tank every 10-14 days during the peak summer use season. The float repair costs are over and above the maintenance funding available.

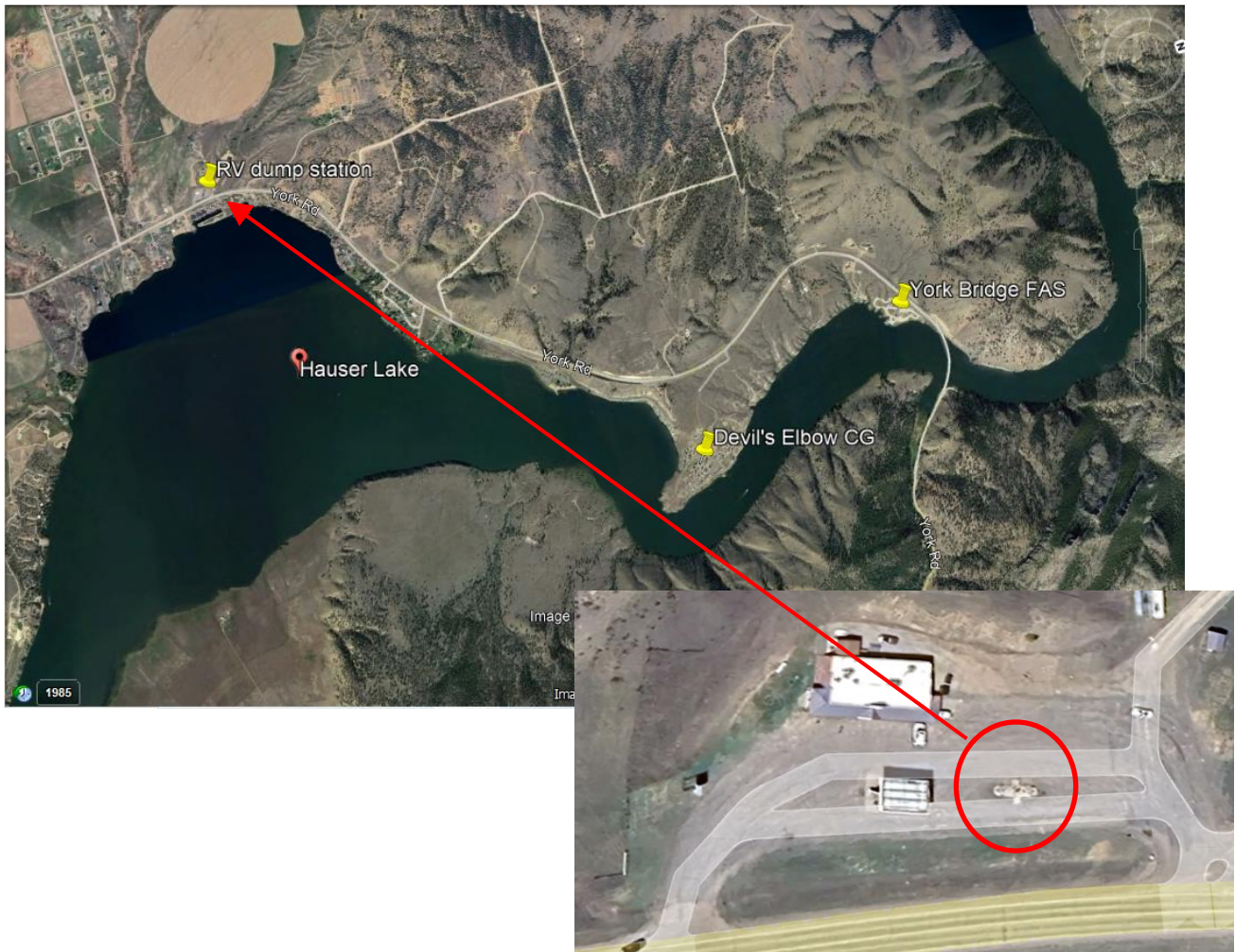
5.6 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected. Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project, demonstrate that the project has been well vetted,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

The repair work will be performed by Rocky Mountain Septic, the entity that pumps the holding tank every 10-14 days during the summer peak use season. Kris Bakke with Rocky Mountain Septic is very familiar with the system and how to perform the repairs. The tank floats are standard in the plumbing industry.

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.

Properly containing raw sewage in the holding tank protects contamination of surrounding resources. Continued availability of a properly operating RV dump station aligns with NorthWestern Energy's license to operate Project #2188 facilities and supports use of area campgrounds.

6. Site location map(s).



Rocky Mountain Septic Services

Kris Bakke
 5747 KT Lane
 Helena, MT 59602

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
9/4/2024	241

Name / Address
Pinnacle Research

			Project
Description	Qty	Rate	Total
2 float trees for alarm floats	2	75.00	150.00
Replace any one float	2	175.00	350.00
re wire the float to the panel	3	65.00	195.00
confined space equipment if needed to reach the wiring	1	500.00	500.00
		Total	\$1,195.00

Contingency \$250.00

Total Project Cost: \$1,445.00