

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT
FY2023 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: Missouri Beaver Creek Forest Service System Trail 254 Restoration

Reservoir or River Segment: Hauser-Holter County(ies) Lewis and Clark

Site Name (or project location): **Beaver Creek Access Site** is start of Missouri Beaver Creek Forest Service System Trail 254 which ends near **Hauser Dam Access Site**

Applicant Name: Mandy Alvino

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Project Sponsor Name: Rory Glueckert

Position and Agency: Recreation Program Manager, Helena–Lewis and Clark National Forest

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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>\$15,000</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$3,000</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$1,500</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>30%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$4,500</u>	<u>30%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$6,000</u>	<u>40%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>June – July 2023</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.

- ▶ Restoration work on the Missouri Beaver Creek Forest Service System Trail 254 (Trail 254). The 1.8-mile trail parallels the Missouri River as it runs between the Beaver Creek Access Site and Hauser Dam Access Site. This trail receives annual light maintenance; however, it needs tread stabilization and erosion control features due to increasing use by the public and deferment of heavier maintenance tasks.

The Forest Service has completed an on-site trail survey for the entire 1.886 miles, identified the linear feet of tread stabilization (900 feet), the number and location of the drainage and erosion control features to be repaired or replaced (20 structures, 300 feet), and sign locations (2). The work would be completed by paying for two weeks of Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) crew time; it is the most cost-effective alternative, it provides an excellent opportunity to grow a young workforce skilled in all facets of outdoor recreation/trails skills, and the knowledge needed is well within the MCC skill set. The work would be completed using hand tools, mostly wood material (with some rock material) for drainage and erosion control features, and wood posts for the signs to be installed.

Associated cost detail:

	Forest Service	NWE Match	River Fund	Total
MCC crew cost (\$6,000/wk)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000
Forest Service personnel (in-kind)	\$ 1,500			\$ 1,500
Materials and signs		\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500
Totals	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 15,000

3. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or construction season.
- ▶ The project could be completed in two summer seasons, one MCC hitch per season. The expenditures would need to be roughly \$8000 year one and \$7000 year two. The Forest Service preferred alternative is to complete the project in one summer season.
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 project is rehabilitation of existing tread using hand tools and does not include any areas of new ground disturbance. If unidentified archeological sites or human remains are discovered during implementation, work would cease in that area and the Forest Archeologist would be notified and the USFS Northern Region protocols for unanticipated discoveries and human remains would be followed during all phases and undertakings associated with this project.

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?

- ▶ The Missouri Beaver Creek Forest Service System Trail 254 begins and ends at two recreation sites, Beaver Creek Access Site and Hauser Dam Access Site (Missouri-Madison CRP 2016, page A1-7).

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.

- ▶ Rehabilitation of Trail 254 is a high priority in the Missouri River Corridor trail system on the Helena Ranger District. The district has been able to tackle higher priority projects and now this trail work is ripe for action. This rehabilitation project consists of tasks classified as heavy deferred maintenance (repair/replacement of drainage and erosion control features, and tread stabilization) and there is no recurring expense. The Forest Service performs annual, routine clearing and maintenance tasks and will continue to do so once the heavy deferred maintenance is completed.

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 additional funding partners on this project, however rehabilitation of this trail is a key piece of a larger collaborative effort in the Missouri River Corridor to enhance recreation opportunities and restore/conserves the natural, cultural, and social resources in the area. Criteria 5.5 speaks to these other resources.

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.

- ▶ Rehabilitating Trail 254 provides benefit to public recreation by providing a high quality and safe opportunity to use a trail between two recreation sites. Historically, the use at the Beaver Creek Access Site has been primarily at the site itself in the form of fishing. The desires of recreationists have changed in recent years, and during non-peak fishing months more people are seeking an opportunity for a hike taking off from the Beaver Creek Access Site. As described in the project description and below in criteria 5.5, the Forest Service has invested money and infrastructure to enhance the condition and capacity of the Beaver Creek Access Site and nearby natural resources (fisheries and watershed condition) to meet current and desired use. These efforts, and this trail rehabilitation project are specifically designed to help implement the CRP vision of maintaining a wide spectrum of quality year-round recreational opportunities...consistent with established plans...and with protection of existing natural resources.

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 Beaver Creek Access Site is located at the west end of Forest Service Road 138, adjacent to Beaver Creek where it joins the Missouri River. The site includes a hardened, gravel parking area for up to 17 passenger vehicles, shoreline access foot paths, a single vault toilet, interpretive signage, and a bulletin board. Forest Service trail 254 begins at this site and parallels the Missouri River between Beaver Creek and Hauser Dam. Along this route, birds such as osprey, bald eagles, great blue herons, American white pelicans and the double-crested cormorant are frequently spotted.

This site and trail 254 are attractive for day-use and weekend visitors from nearby communities, short term campers and large groups. There are opportunities to experience natural resources, but the presence of other visitors is expected. Day-use parking accommodates the high use months. Development of and improvements to this site are completed within five years. The ecological integrity of Beaver Creek is maintained while providing recreational opportunities for the public. This site serves as a conservation education clearinghouse for anglers and campers to learn about the natural resources, the river ecosystem and dam safety.

While the Trail 254 restoration project is not formally a ‘phase’ of the larger Missouri River Corridor work, it is an extension of two other projects in the area, described below.

The Beaver Creek Access Site is part of a Forest Service capital improvement project, designed to manage this site for high, concentrated use during spring and fall, and moderately high use during the summer. To this end, contracts have been awarded in 2022 and construction will commence the summer of 2023 to:

- Install American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant double vault toilet, in addition to the existing single vault toilet; improve footpaths and replace existing foot bridge; develop visitor information panels addressing sensitive habitats, boat safety, food storage and pack it in/pack it out; maintain access for wading anglers while mitigating bank erosion and social trail development.
- Implement all phases of the Beaver Creek Restoration Project. The Beaver Creek Restoration Project is a separate project being implemented by the Forest Service, in partnership with Northwestern Energy and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The project is restoring 1.2 miles of lower Beaver Creek. Phase one was completed in 2021 and phase two construction is slated for the fall of 2022.

The segment of the Missouri River accessed by the Beaver Creek Access Site has been designated as a Class I, Blue Ribbon sport fishery. The river provides important spawning habitat to brown trout, rainbow trout, kokanee, and mountain whitefish. Beaver Creek is the principal spawning stream for Holter that supports substantial runs of rainbow trout.

Use of the site and trail is heaviest in the early part of the peak recreation season (from mid-April through early July) when the rainbow trout are spawning and, in the fall, when the brown trout are spawning; most users expect to encounter many people on any day of the week. Use of the site during the rest of July and August and during the winter months has typically been low, but we have recorded increased use and interest in Trail 254 during all months of the year.

If this funding request is not successful, the Forest Service will pursue other grant opportunities as they become 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.

- ▶ This is a trail rehabilitation project and does not require an on the ground design. The Forest Service has completed an on-site trail survey for the entire 1.886 miles, identified the linear feet of tread stabilization (900 feet), the number and location of the drainage and erosion control features to be repaired or replaced (20 structures, 300 feet), and sign locations (2). This data was used to generate a government cost estimate and comparison of alternatives to complete the work (in house, contract, MCC time). Using two hitches of an MCC crew is the preferred alternative; it is the most cost effective and provides an excellent opportunity to grow a young workforce skilled in all facets of outdoor recreation/trails skills. An MCC crew comes with two crew leaders, four crew members, vehicles and tools. The Forest Service has the skills in house but does not have the right sized crew and therefore the time to complete. Completing the project via a publicly sourced contract is estimated at \$21,000, a 40 percent increase of the \$15,000 needed to complete the project using MCC time. Section 6 of this application includes photos from the trail survey and examples of Forest Service design specifications for the drainage and erosion control features.

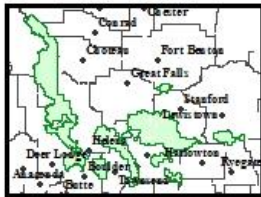
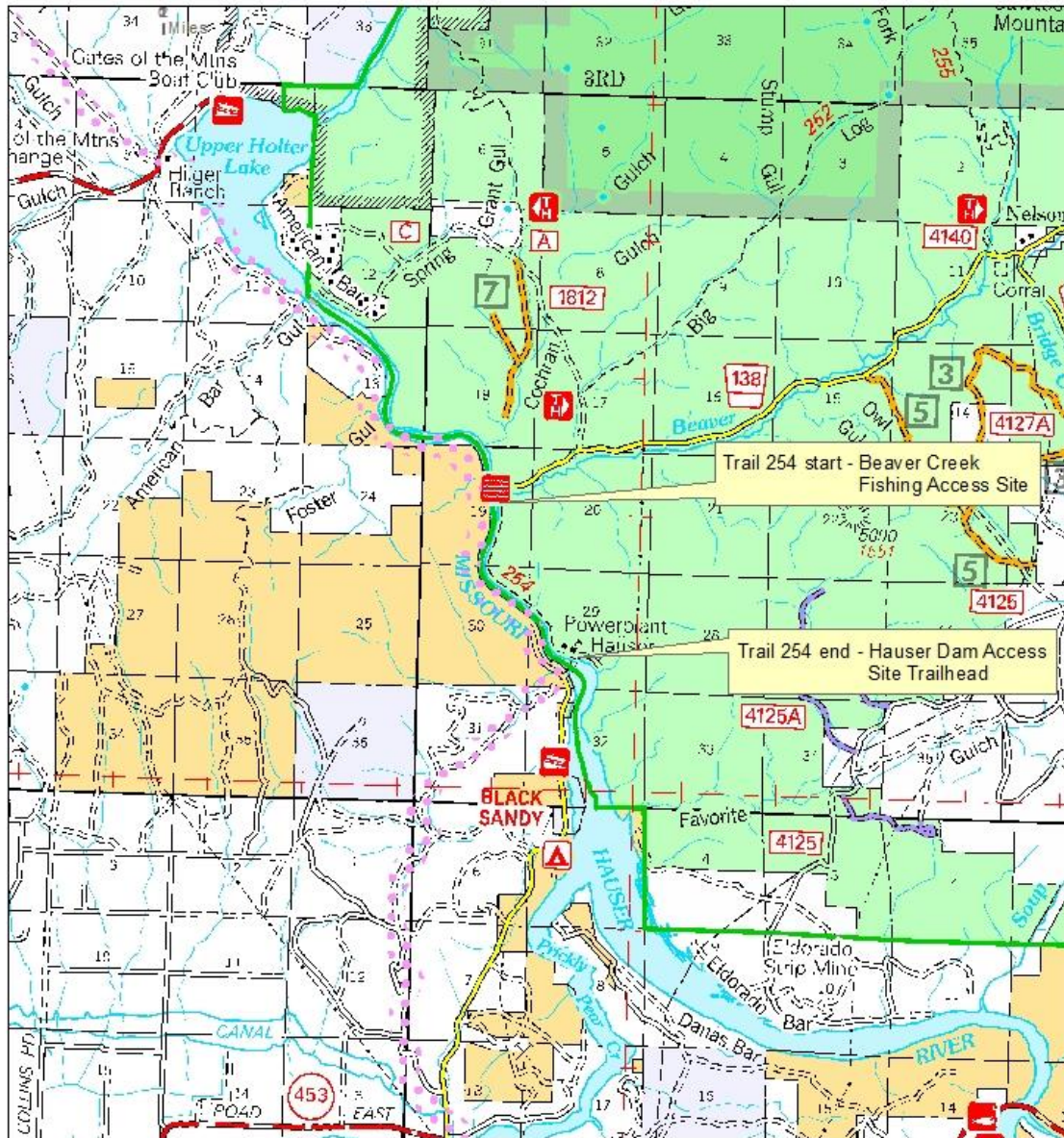
5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency 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.

- ▶ Criteria 5.5 also demonstrates how this project supports and protects other resources. The relevant excerpts from the Helena – Lewis and Clark land management plan and Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan are included after the maps and photos section, labeled as “5.7 continued”.

6. Insert map(s) showing the location of the proposed project, drawings and design work related to the project, and a reasonable number of photos (as available) here.

See next page for a map and photos.

Missouri Beaver Creek Forest Service System Trail 254 Restoration



Trail 254 start and end points, total mileage 1.886
 Total rehabilitation:
 300 feet of tread stabilization
 15 drainage feature installed
 5 erosion control feature repairs
 2 signs



The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.
 By: malvino - 9/14/2022 - T:\FS\NFS\Helena\LewisClark\Projects\GIS\workspace\malvino\beaver\trail 254.mxd\trail 254

Drainage repair section of 254



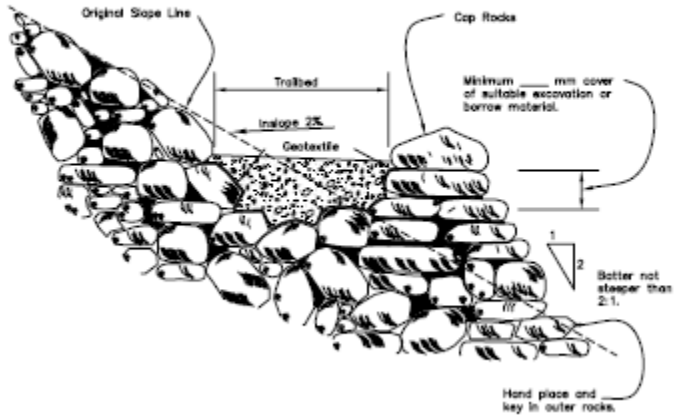
Erosion control repair section of 254



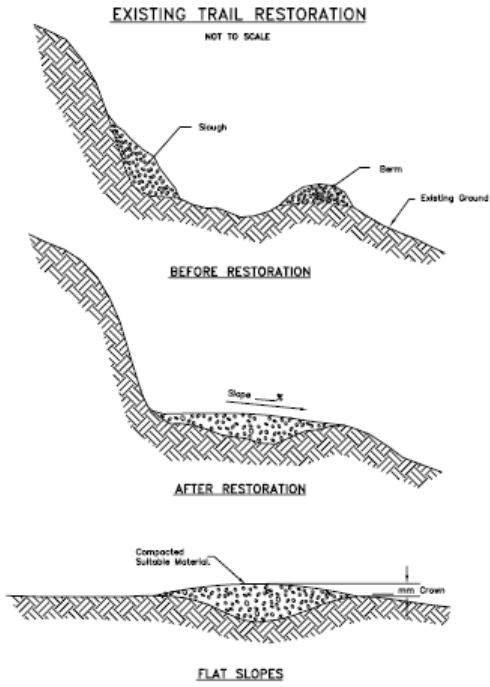
Erosion control repair section of 254

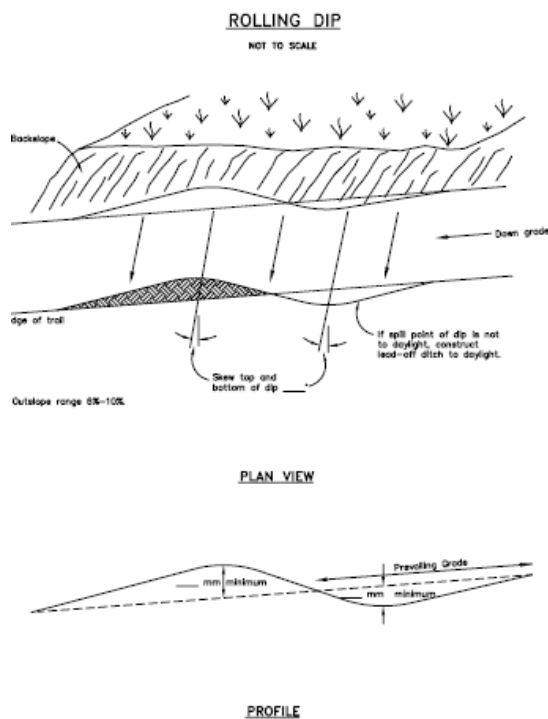


FS design example for erosion control



FS design example for erosion/drainage repair





5.7 continued: Excerpts from the land management plan and CRMP

2021 Land Management Plan for the Helena – Lewis and Clark National Forest
Plan Components – Missouri River Corridor (MISCOR)

The Missouri River is a nationally recognized river famous for its fishing, outstanding scenery, and the history present along it. The Missouri River Corridor has much historic and cultural significance. Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark passed through this corridor on route to the Pacific Ocean and back in 1805-06. Captain Lewis used the term “Gates of the Mountains” to describe these scenic and unique cliffs in the area. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, a nationally designated trail, is in the bottom of the corridor. Additionally, the historic Mann Gulch Fire Historic Landscape is located within the Missouri River Corridor area. This historic landscape is recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and memorializes the loss of smokejumper fire fighters during the 1949 Mann Gulch fire. Recreation use of the Missouri River Corridor is year-round but particularly high during the summer months when water recreation is the most active throughout the corridor. A commercial tour boat operation offers boat trips up the river and there are many developed and dispersed recreation sites along the banks of the river. This area also provides access to the western portions of the Gates of the Mountain Wilderness. In addition, there are concentrations of cliff nesting raptors in this corridor.

Desired Conditions (BB-MISCOR-DC)

- 01** The developed recreation settings and opportunities along the Missouri River Corridor are ecologically sustainable and recreational user conflicts are minimal.
- 02** The Missouri River Corridor canyon appears largely natural.
- 03** The Missouri River Corridor maintains its historic and cultural features. Interpretation is available and enhances visitor experiences of the area.
- 04** Travelers within the Missouri River Corridor have opportunities to learn about the 1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Mann Gulch Fire, and to experience and appreciate the unique natural environment of the area. Trailside interpretation and related visitor information services enhance visitor appreciation of the outdoors, the natural resources, scenery, and cultural and historic values within the corridor.

05 Developed recreation sites accommodate increased recreational use in the corridor while protecting the unique and important natural resources and historic and cultural features within the area.

06 Dispersed recreation opportunities along the river corridor allow for exploration and discovery with minimal environmental impacts and user conflicts.

Goals (BB-MISCOR-GO)

01 The operation, maintenance, and delivery of recreation along the Missouri River corridor is supported by strong partnerships and volunteer programs.

Guidelines (BB-MISCOR-GDL)

01 To protect and enhance the scenic quality of the area, management activities in the Missouri River Corridor should be consistent with the scenic integrity objective of high to very high.

Suitability (BB-MISCOR-SUIT)

01 The Missouri River Corridor is unsuitable for timber production. However, harvest may be used for other multiple use values such as providing for public safety and enhancing the recreational or aesthetic values of the corridor.

Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Management Plan

Condition and Capacity of Recreation Sites and Use Areas:

Intensive use of recreation facilities in the Corridor, especially during peak periods, can impact user experiences. Poor condition of both developed and dispersed recreation sites and use areas can negatively impact experiences in the Project Area. Increasing use of existing recreation sites and dispersed use areas creates management issues, including staffing, maintenance, and funding issues. For public land managers, that can exacerbate recreation site issues. When demand increases, there are associated questions about the long-term capacity and funding of existing sites and if and how new sites should be added.

Goal:

To provide safe and well-managed recreation sites and dispersed use areas that provide enjoyable user experiences across a spectrum of opportunities and seasons.

Inter-relationship between recreation Uses and Other Resources:

There are a number of factors and resources that directly or indirectly affect the quality of the recreation experience. Conversely, recreation use can also have a direct or indirect effect on other resources. Although the primary focus of the CRP is recreation, inter-related issues cannot be ignored. Issues that fall outside of the primary recreation focus, but which are related include the following:

- Water quality
- Air quality
- Cultural resources
- Fisheries
- Stability of riparian and shoreline vegetation
- Economic development related to tourism and recreation

Goal:

To encourage communication between technical committees on shared resource concerns and to cooperate with other committees and groups on partnership opportunities that advance shared goals.