

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND  
FY2025 GRANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Please use the application form to submit a recreation project request for funding to the Missouri-Madison River Fund Board. Applications must be submitted in Microsoft Word (or comparable) format (not PDF) by **3 pm on Wednesday, September 18, 2024**, to:

Kim McMahon  
Pinnacle Research  
Email: [kim.pinnacle.research@gmail.com](mailto:kim.pinnacle.research@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 406-546-2447

AND

Andy Welch  
NorthWestern Energy  
Email: [andrew.welch@northwestern.com](mailto:andrew.welch@northwestern.com)  
Telephone: 406-444-8115

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the Regional Working Groups each fall. The River Fund Board will only review applications that have been forwarded by the Regional Working Groups and Corridor Ranking Committee. The River Fund Board will make decisions on project awards at their annual meeting in December of each year.

All projects are required to have a Project Sponsor to be considered for funding by the River Fund. Project sponsors serve as active members of Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups and include representatives of the U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; local government; Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Chouteau, Lewis and Clark, or Cascade Counties; NorthWestern Energy and the Bureau of Reclamation. A list of current Regional Working Group members can be requested from Kim McMahon (contact info above).

Project Sponsors will consult with applicants on projects, and sponsorship denotes that the proposed project meets the basic criteria for consideration (below). A project that does not meet the basic criteria or does not have a project sponsor will not be scored by the Regional Working Group. It is the project sponsor's responsibility to ensure the basic criteria are met.

Basic Project Criteria:

1. The project is consistent with the FERC Project 2188 License.
2. The project occurs in the Missouri-Madison Project Area (within one mile of the nine reservoirs operated by NorthWestern Energy and the river reaches between these reservoirs and below Morony Dam to Fort Benton, excluding the Bureau of Reclamation's Canyon Ferry Project and the State of Montana's Toston Project).
3. The project must be consistent with or support management plans in the Project Area, including but not limited to:
  - a. Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan.
  - b. Management plans developed by the Forest Service, BLM, and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.
  - c. Land use plans and growth management policies for counties and communities in the Corridor.

Applicants are advised to carefully consider the scoring criteria and guidelines (provided separately) when preparing their project proposals. Applications will be scored and ranked by Regional Working Group members and the Corridor Ranking Committee based on responses to these items, and recommendations to the River Fund Board for project funding will be based on this ranking. The Board, however, reserves the right to fund projects as they determine appropriate.

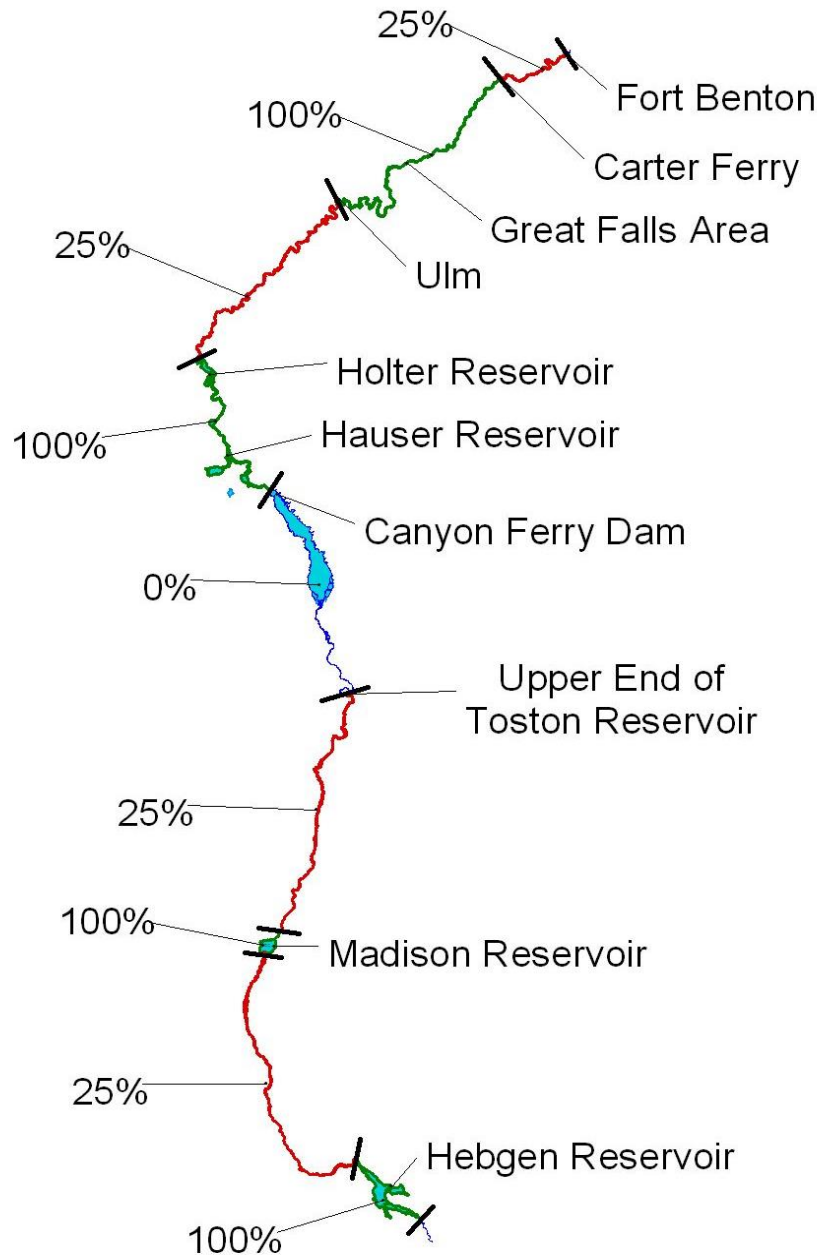
Actions required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for 2188 License compliance related to recreation receive highest priority for funding by the River Fund and are not subject to project scoring. Any such mandatory compliance items, if presented, would be a result of FERC public use inspections or FERC orders, and may reduce the amount of funding available for other projects.

Projects that receive funding from the River Fund Grant Program may be eligible for matching funds from NorthWestern Energy based on the location of the project and the public agency contributions to the project. The following section provides information related to matching funds. No separate application form is required for the NorthWestern Energy match request.

## NORTHWESTERN ENERGY MATCHING FUNDS

Per provisions of the MOU for the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan, NorthWestern Energy will provide matching funds for recreation projects approved for funding by the River Fund Board. The amount of the match varies by the location of the project and the amount of public agency contributions<sup>1</sup> to the project, as noted below and on the following map. The total amount of matching funds for all projects is limited to \$200,000 plus an inflation adjustment per year.

### Missouri-Madison Reservoirs and River Segments with Matching Fund Contributions by NorthWestern Energy



#### 100% Match\* Reservoirs and River Reaches:

1 Reservoir  
 n Reservoir  
 Reservoir  
 Reservoir  
 Falls Area Reservoirs (Black Eagle, w, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony) each from Ulm to Rainbow Dam each below Morony Dam to Carter FAS

#### Match\* River Reaches:

Hebgen Dam to Madison Reservoir  
 Madison Dam to Toston Reservoir  
 Holter Dam to Ulm  
 Carter Ferry FAS to Fort Benton

This is a percentage of expenditures and support from public agencies<sup>1</sup> on approved projects and applies to projects approved and recommended for funding in the CRP planning process and approved for funding by the River Fund Board.

#### Examples:

USFS proposes a project on Hebgen with USFS funding and in-kind contributions total \$2,400, and FWP is also contributing \$600 to the project, then agency contributions total \$3,000. The USFS can request a NorthWestern Energy match of \$500 for this project.

USFS proposes a project on the Madison with FWP funding and in-kind contributions of \$2,000, but a non-profit group is also contributing \$800 to the project. Agency contributions total \$2,800 and the group requests a NorthWestern Energy match of \$500 for this project.

<sup>1</sup> Agency contributions refer to agencies identified in the MOU (USFS, BLM, FWP and BOR) and directly involved in the project. Public monies and support from other sources, such as the Recreational Trails Program, Transportation Initiatives, or in-kind labor from project supporters, while available for use on projects, will not be matched by NorthWestern Energy funds. Only sponsoring and supporting agency funds and contributions will be matched by NorthWestern Energy.

## MISSOURI-MADISON LICENSE #2188 RECREATION SITES

### Hebgen-Madison Region:

- Fisherman's Point
- Lonesomehurst Boat Launch (only)
- Rainbow Point Boat Launch (only)
- Hebgen Area RV Dump Station
- Hebgen Dam Day Use Site
- Lyon's Bridge Fishing Access Site
- Clute's Landing
- Meadow Lake Fishing Access Site
- Kobayashi Beach
- Upper Bear Trap Canyon/Trail Creek Recreation Area
- Fall Creek Access Site
- Warm Springs Creek Access Site

### Hauser-Holter Region:

- Devil's Elbow Campground
- Clark's Bay Day Use Area
- Hauser Area RV Dump Station
- Causeway Fishing Pier
- White Sandy Beach
- Hauser Dam Access Site
- Coulter Campground
- Meriwether Picnic Area
- Beartooth Landing Campground
- Departure Point Recreation Site
- Log Gulch Campground
- Holter Lake Campground
- Holter Dam Campground and Portage
- Holter Area RV Dump Station

### Great Falls Region:

- North Park Access Site
- Cottonwood Grove Fishing Access Site
- Portage sign at Oddfellows Park
- Black Eagle Memorial Island
- Rainbow Reservoir Boat Launch
- River's Edge Trail (initial alignment)
- Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
- Rainbow Overlook
- Lewis & Clark Overlook
- Crooked Falls Overlook
- North Shore Conservation Easement
- Rainbow-Morony Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail (initial alignment)
- Cochrane Dam Crossing
- Sulphur Spring Trailhead
- Ryan Island Day Use Area
- Carter Ferry Fishing Access Site
- Widow Coulee Fishing Access Site
- Fort Benton Canoe Camp
- Fort Benton Motorboat Launch