



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: Sheep Creek Drainage Bridge Repair and Construction

Date: 10/12/2021

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

Article 416 directive to protect and enhance trout spawning in a tributary to the Missouri River downstream of Holter Dam.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected:

This is a priority 1 project because it deals with protecting and enhancing trout habitat in the NF Sheep Creek which is a tributary to the Missouri River.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Montana FWP & NorthWestern Energy

Location of Proposed Project:

Narrative; The project is located in the upper half of NF Sheep Creek drainage, approximately 10 miles SW of Cascade.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; 47.139684 Long: -111.724121

Total Project Cost:

Phase 1 - \$128,881

Phase 2 - \$51,309

TOTAL - \$180,190

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:

Phase 1 - \$112,859

Phase 2 - \$45,309

TOTAL - \$148,668

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

On July 23, 2021 a lightning strike ignited the Harris Mountain fire in the North Fork of Sheep Creek. Through September 20 the fire burned 31,600 acres which covered nearly all of the NF Sheep Creek drainage. The fire burned along the creek in many places and damaged 8 bridges and destroyed a number of buildings (Figure 1). Burned timber in the drainage occurs on lands owned by DNRC, BLM and two private landowners. One landowner is proposing to reconstruct the burned buildings and all landowners are proposing to conduct fire mitigation which includes salvage logging. The bridges are not in useable condition, so much of the road traffic uses fords to cross the stream. The landowners wish to reduce fording in the stream and return to useable bridge crossings. Logging trucks and other construction equipment cannot ford the stream. NF Sheep Creek is an important spawning tributary for rainbow trout and brown trout from the Missouri River. These landowners have installed and maintained these bridges over many years which has contributed to the stability and health of NF Sheep Creek as a trout spawning stream. These landowners are seeking assistance to restore the function of the bridges. This project (**Phase 1**) involves repairing 8 bridges and installing one new bridge on NF Sheep Creek.

There is one bridge located on the South Fork Sheep Creek that is currently not useable due degradation over time. Currently, most, if not all traffic utilizes a ford adjacent to the bridge. The crossing provides access to seven landowner cabins upstream, as well as extensive crossings by ATV's, as the crossing is part of a trail network that is utilized by all landowners in the north and south forks of Sheep Creek, including that by Willo Ranch ATV users. This project (**Phase 2**) involves installing one new bridge on SF Sheep Creek.

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

Restore function to 8 existing bridges.

Install one new bridge on NF Sheep Creek and one new bridge on SF Sheep Creek.

Reduce fording of the stream by most vehicles.

Protect, maintain or enhance trout spawning habitat in a tributary to the Missouri River.

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

Rebuilding 5 of the bridges involves removing burned decking (wood) and installing new decking (wood). Two bridges require replacement of dilapidated decking materials (wood). Bridge #2 will require lifting with heavy machinery and installing new concrete abutment blocks. Installing bridge 9 (Don's Bridge) and the SF Sheep Creek Bridge will require delivering a new steel rail car to the site, realigning the approaches, setting precast concrete abutments and installing the railcar on top of the abutments using heavy machinery.

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

Cultural review, environmental permitting and materials purchase would begin immediately upon available funding (Jan 2022). Demolition and construction would commence following those processes and according to weather conditions. The project is expected to be completed by June 2022.

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

FWP will help coordinate with landowners and the conservation district for permitting.

FWP will require landowner agreements to ensure bridges are used and fords are reserved for emergency purposes.

FWP will help facilitate the project moving forward through coordination with landowners and NorthWestern Energy.

FWP will contact Trout Unlimited regarding potential cost share.

NorthWestern Energy will facilitate CRM compliance.

NorthWestern Energy will contract with a vendor for labor and equipment for demolition and construction.

NorthWestern Energy will purchase and/or reimburse for materials

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor **Phase 1** - \$64,925 **Phase 2** - \$18,000
- Travel and Living
- Materials **Phase 1** - \$61,456, **Phase 2** - \$27,309
- Other Direct Expenses **Phase 1** - \$2,500 to skid railcar to Don's camp, **Phase 2** – \$6,000 Bridge demo and skid railcar to SF Sheep site
- Direct Overhead*
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions landowner donations include

Phase 1:

14 K rails @ \$75 each	=	\$1,050
16 precast blocks@\$65 each	=	\$1,040
134 12ft railroad ties@\$48 each	=	\$6,432
D-5 DOZER to skid railcar	=	\$2,500
Total	=	\$11,022

Phase 2:

Demo bridge and skid Railcar to site (work or funding Provided by landowners)	=	\$6,000
Total	=	\$6,000

DNRC is providing \$5,000 for bridge repair.

Missouri River Flyfishers has pledged \$2,500 for the bridge repair

Montana Trout Unlimited Chapter Minin Grant program has approved \$7,000 for the bridge repair

***NorthWestern Energy TAC funds will not be used for agency overhead on projects that do not fund personnel. Applications for materials and equipment should not contain overhead.**

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 deliverables will be restoring function to 8 bridges and installing two new bridges. This improvement will safeguard stream habitat and maintain or enhance trout spawning habitat.

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:

A CRM review will be conducted by NWE consulting archaeologist who will determine the necessary level of compliance. If necessary an inventory, report and letter of SHPO concurrence will be obtained.

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 9 March 2016.

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines:

No changes to water rights.

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

Manager, Hydro License Compliance

Andrew.Welch@NorthWestern.com

☎ 406-444-8115

☎ 406-565-7549

208 N. Montana Ave

Suite 205

Helena, MT 59601

Phase 1 Summary – North Fork

Materials – Repair 8 Bridges

Materials Summary			
Item	Qty	per unit	total
3"x12"x16' treated planks	280	\$54.00	\$15,120.00
Zinc allthread 5/8" x 6 ft	74	\$8.08	\$597.00
5/8" nut	1464	\$0.12	\$175.68
5/8" flat washer	1464	\$0.12	\$175.68
5,034 7" cons lag bolt (250/bx)	20 bx	\$222.50	\$4,450.00
12' railroad tie	107	\$48.00	\$5,136.00
6"x6"x20' treated planks	24	\$141.75	\$3,402.00
Misc parts			\$3,000.00
			\$29,056.36
K rails @ \$75 each	14		\$1,050
Precast blocks@\$65 each	16		\$1,040
	Total		\$34,146.36

Materials – Don's Camp New Bridge

Bridge #	scope	item	qty	unit cost	cost
Dons Camp	new bridge	60' rail car	1		\$16,500.00
		30"x30"x60" concrete block	12	\$135.00	\$1,620.00
		k-rail wings	4	\$135.00	\$540.00
		12' railroad tie	27	\$48.00	\$1,296.00
		Angle bracket 9"x3"x3"x3/8"	54	NA	\$200.00
		3"x12"x16' treated planks	39	\$54.00	\$2,106.00
		6"x6"x20' treated planks	6	\$141.75	\$850.50
		7" construction lag bolts	3 bx	\$222.50	\$667.50
		5/8" allthread - ties (Linear Ft)	108	\$8.08	\$88.88
		5/8" allthread - rails (Linear Ft)	66	\$8.08	\$56.56
		5/8" nut	348	\$0.12	\$41.76
		5/8" flat washer	348	\$0.12	\$41.76
		Concrete block delivery			\$1300.00
		Misc parts			\$2,000.00
		total			\$27,308.96

Equipment and Labor Install Summary = \$64,925

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT	COST	TOTAL
North Fork Sheep Creek - Phase 1				
Bridge Decking	3	LS	1,575.00	4,725.00
Bridge and Rails	4	LS	6,925.00	27,700.00
Deck & Rail Lift and Set	1	LS	9,500.00	9,500.00
Mobilization	1	LS	5,000.00	5,000.00
*****NOTE**** If Stream Works does all phases at once there will only be a one time charge of \$5000.00 mobe. If the phases are done individually there will be a charge of \$5000.00 for each phase.				
North Fork Sheep Creek- Phase 2				
Mobilization	1	LS	5,000.00	5,000.00
Don's Camp- New Bridge	1	LS	13,000.00	13,000.00

Phase 2 Summary – South Fork

Materials – Install 1 new bridge = \$27,309

Bridge #	scope	item	qty	unit cost	cost
SF Sheep	new bridge	60' rail car	1		\$16,500.00
		30"x30"x60" concrete block	12	\$135.00	\$1,620.00
		k-rail wings	4	\$135.00	\$540.00
		12' railroad tie	27	\$48.00	\$1,296.00
		Angle bracket 9"x3"x3"x3/8"	54	NA	\$200.00
		3"x12"x16' treated planks	39	\$54.00	\$2,106.00
		6"x6"x20' treated planks	6	\$141.75	\$850.50
		7" construction lag bolts	3 bx	\$222.50	\$667.50
		5/8" allthread - ties (Linear Ft)	108	\$8.08	\$888.88
		5/8" allthread - rails (Linear Ft)	66	\$8.08	\$565.68
		5/8" nut	348	\$0.12	\$41.76
		5/8" flat washer	348	\$0.12	\$41.76
					\$1300.00
		Concrete block delivery			0
					\$2,000.00
		Misc parts			0
		Total materials			\$27,308.96

Equipment and Labor Install Summary = \$18,000

\$5,000 mobilization – Likely reduced if completed at same time.

\$6,000 Demo/haul away old bridge. Skid new rail car to site – Provided by Landowners

\$13,000 install new bridge



Figure 1. Bridge #2 over NF Sheep Creek with typical damage sustained during Harris Mountain Fire, September 2021.



Figure 2. Bridge over SF Sheep Creek, October 2021.