



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: Hardy Creek Weed Control

Date: 10/12/2022

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

FERC License 2188, Article 416 (3), states NorthWestern Energy should "...Propose additional measures to minimize fish loss and to mitigate for avoidable and unavoidable impacts...These measures may include but will not be limited to:
1. Spawning and rearing habitat enhancement projects in the reservoir and in tributaries to the reservoir and tailwaters..."

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

Priority 1 and 2. This project is Priority 1 because it enhances riparian habitat utilized by mainstem Missouri River trout populations. It would also be considered Priority 2 as it enhances habitat on a tributary to the Missouri River that is utilized for spawning and rearing.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Jason Mullen – FWP – Great Falls Area Fisheries Biologist

Location of Proposed Project: Hardy Creek, near Cascade, MT.

Narrative: The project would provide weed control on a previously completed restoration project. The restoration project resulted in substantial disturbance to the ground and weed control is needed in the disturbed area to restore to pre-disturbance condition.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; 47.18827 Long: -111.80532

Total Project Cost: \$2,300

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: \$2,300

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

The Hardy Creek restoration project was completed in early February 2021. The project included construction of a floodplain and stream channel within a gravel pit, redefining a stream channel to the confluence, replacement of a culvert with a bridge, and providing fish passage through a perched culvert. Subsequent maintenance work was completed in June 2021 following a flood event. Vegetation has become well established, but weeds have also become established in the disturbed areas. NorthWestern Energy provided funding for weed spraying of the disturbed areas in May 2022. Additional weed spraying is needed in the disturbed areas to restore to pre-disturbance condition.

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

Complete additional weed spraying in spring 2023 and spring 2024 to restore the disturbed areas to pre-disturbance conditions.

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

Utilize a qualified contractor to complete weed spraying of approximately 3.5 acres at the designated disturbance areas from the restoration project (Figure 1) in spring 2023 and spring 2024. Based on discussions with weed control professionals, it is expected that weed spraying for three consecutive years will bring the site to pre-disturbance conditions.

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

Spring 2023 and spring 2024.

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

It is anticipated that NorthWestern Energy will utilize an approved contractor. West River Land Management completed the first round of weed spraying and it is expected that they will complete the additional treatments.

Jason Mullen – FWP Great Falls Area Fish Biologist – will be the project lead and coordinate with NorthWestern Energy and the contractor.

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor
- Travel and Living
- Materials
- Other Direct Expenses
- Direct Overhead*
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions

***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.**

Budget includes contractor labor and chemical for application to an approximate 3.5 acres site:

Spring 2023 - \$1,100

Spring 2024 - \$1,200

Total = \$2,300

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?

Success from this project will be demonstrated by the reduction of weeds in the restoration area. Monitoring will be conducted with photo documentation.

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 cultural resource survey was completed for this project prior to the start of restoration activities. There will be no additional ground disturbance from weed spraying and thus no additional cultural resource surveys are needed.

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:

Water rights are not applicable to this project.

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

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Figure 1. Map of Hardy Creek restoration project area. Red shaded areas = on-channel and floodplain disturbance areas. Yellow shaded areas = off-channel disturbance areas.