

2023 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: Middle Missouri River Fisheries New Yamaha 150/105 outboard Jet - 2022

Date: November 2, 2022

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

Article 417: 1) Monitor the relative abundance of the most common fish species in the Missouri River downstream of Morony Dam. 2) Protect and provide for the recovery of Threatened and Endangered species and other species of special concern in the Missouri River downstream of Morony Dam. This is a priority one (Missouri) and two (Marias).

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

The 17' 4" Wooldridge with a 105 Yamaha outboard jet is the main and most versatile vessel used to evaluate long term trends of pallid sturgeon. This vessel is used for trammel netting of pallid sturgeon, larval sampling, set lining, boom electrofishing for standard monitoring (including the Cascade section), and occasionally for radio telemetry sweeps.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Luke Holmquist

Location of Proposed Project: Missouri River between Morony Dam and Fort Peck Reservoir and the lower Marias River. In addition, this boat is used above Morony Dam for rainbow trout estimates near Cascade.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743)

Site: Morony Dam	Lat:47.58159	Lon: -111.05972
Site: Tiber Dam	Lat:47.58159	Lon: -111.09705
Site: Fort Peck Headwaters	Lat:47.55384	Lon: -107.92449

Total Project Cost: **\$17,250**

TAC Funds Requested for Project: **\$8,750.00**

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

The 17' 4" Wooldridge XP with a 105 Yamaha outboard jet (Model F150JB) is the main and most versatile vessel used to evaluate long term trends of pallid sturgeon. This vessel is used for trammel netting of pallid sturgeon, set lining, larval sampling, boom electrofishing for standard monitoring (including the Cascade section), and telemetry runs. This vessel gets the most use of all our boats each year. The outboard currently mounted has nearly 1000 hours. We typically replace motors every 1000 hours and this motor has had some mechanical issues over the past couple of years. Through normal wear and tear and the amount of use this motor has lost a significant amount of power and it struggles to get on plane when loaded with gear. The loss in power from this motor makes use of the boat far less efficient and far less safe. A new motor is needed to continue to utilize this versatile vessel.

Proposal 2022-9 was approved at the 2021 meeting which allocated \$8,500 for a new motor at MBC with a \$5000 dollar trade in for the old motor. The motor was not purchased because of supply chain issues. At the time of this proposal, Montana Boat Center (MBC) is still unable to get a motor and would not provide an updated quote due to lingering COVID related supply chain issues and increased demand creating shortages of Yamaha outboards. The supplied price is the quoted price that Y Marina in Coos Bay Oregon provided for a motor they will have in stock in December 2022 or January 2023 and can ship to the Montana Boat Center for installation. MBC will install the motor when it arrives for the cost of \$500. MBC will not offer a trade-in for the old motor because the motor is purchased from a third party. FWP will have to surplus the old motor or keep for parts.

II. Objectives; explicit statement(s) of what is intended to be accomplished.
This boat will be used in the monitoring of the fish communities in the Middle Missouri River and for pallid sturgeon investigations.

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

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end. Purchase motor for use in the 2023 field season.

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

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Materials Only:	Yamaha F150JB outboard jet (Y Marina)	\$16,750.00
	Installation (Montana Boat Center)	\$500.00
	2022-9 MOTAC funds	-\$8,500.00
		Total:	\$8,750.00

Direct Labor NA
 Travel and Living NA
 Other Direct Expenses NA
 Direct Overhead NA – Purchase by NWE
 All contribution sources and amounts

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 motor getting purchased and installed on the boat in 2022.

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: No ground disturbance associated with this project.

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 9March2016.

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines: No water rights associated with 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, Leader Hydro License Compliance, NorthWestern Energy, 1315 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601; 406-444-8115 (office); 406-565-7549 (cell); Andrew.Welch@northwestern.com.