

2026 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 Trammel Nets Purchase - 2026

Date: November 10, 2025

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

Article 417: 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:

These trammel nets will be used on the Missouri River from Carter Ferry to Fort Peck Reservoir (Priority 1) and in the lower Marias River (Priority 2) as part of the monitoring plan for this reach.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Luke Holmquist

Location of Proposed Project: Missouri River between Morony Dam and Fort Peck Reservoir and the lower Marias River.

These trammel nets will be used on the Missouri River from Carter Ferry to Fort Peck Reservoir (Priority 1) and in the lower Marias River (Priority 2).

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: **\$14,951**

TAC Funds Requested for Project: **\$14,951**

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

Sampling with a trammel net is necessary to assess the populations of large deep-water fish species as required by the monitoring plan. Additionally, trammel net sampling is the most effective gear to recapture pallid sturgeon for evaluating the stocking program and for capture of fish for radio telemetry. We complete approximately 140 - 400 sets/year and 90-110 of those drifts are during summer and fall standardized sampling (1-inch inner trammel) and the rest during targeted recapture of reproductive pallid sturgeon with radio transmitters (4- or 5-inch inner trammel). Trammel nets are used to maximize pallid sturgeon collections and obtain shovelnose sturgeon information during standard netting efforts. River conditions are not always conducive to sampling (submerged logs, boulders, and other debris), and nets can be severely torn and even destroyed during the sampling process thus some nets must be replaced each year. The number of destroyed nets varies from year to year. Every winter, crews repair as many trammel

nets as possible to return them to working condition. However, having an excess of 60 or more standard nets (150'x 6' x 1") and more than 30 reproductive assessment nets is necessary to complete our annual workplan. Having an adequate number of nets requires that nets be replaced. More nets have been used in recent years to maximize river field work time. This year we are requesting 15 new 1-inch mesh nets for standardized monitoring and 15 new 5-inch mesh nets for targeted pallid sturgeon capture and broodstock netting. These nets are to replace nets that have been damaged beyond cost effective repair. The past few years many older nets have been used and have been repaired many times. This purchase will allow crews to have adequate nets to complete annual workplans in 2026.

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

These nets will be used to capture sturgeon and other large deep-water fishes as part of the standardized fall and summer netting as outlined in the monitoring plan.

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

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end. Purchase 30 nets for use during 2026 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:	15 – 150 x 6 x 10 x 1"	@ \$491/net.....	\$7,365
	15 – 150 x 6 x 10 x 5"	@ \$468/net.....	\$7,020
		Shipping:	\$ 566
		Total:	\$14,951
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? NA

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.



Quote

Quote #	9018
Date	10/15/2025

Customer Information

Luke Holmquist
406-708-7218
lholmquist@mt.gov

Shipping Information

Luke Holmquist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
205 W. Aztec Drive
Lewistown, MT 59457

Rep:	BJS
Reference	
Commit Date	

QTY	U/M	Product Description	Rate	Amount
15	ea	150' Long x 6' Deep Trammel Net - 3 Panel -Three Panels: Outer Panels 10' Sq. #9(8MD Folded), Inner Panel 1" Sq. #210/6 Multifilament(54 MD) -Top Rope: 3/8"(10lb Buoyancy/600') Foamcore Rope -Bottom Rope: 30lb(30lb Sink/600') Leadcore Rope -Breast Lines: 1/8" Solid Braid Nylon -Hung Using #9 Twine with tie intervals less than 12"	491.00	7,365.00T
1		Freight via FedEx LTL Priority Pre-Pay & Add: ~\$ Notify Duluth Nets if Liftgate is Needed *Amount subject to change upon day of shipping *Shipping charge for both 9017 & 9018 to ship together non	566.00	566.00T
			0.00%	0.00
Orders over \$5,000.00 may be subject to 3% Credit Card Fee applied at payment.			Total	\$7,931.00



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QTY	U/M	Product Description	Rate	Amount
15	ea	150' Long x 8' Deep Trammel Net - 3 Panel -Three Panels: Outer Panels 10" Sq. #9(8MD Folded), Inner Panel 5" Sq. #210/12 Multifilament(13 MD) -Top Rope: 3/8"(10lb Buoyancy/600') Foamcore Rope -Bottom Rope: 30lb(30lb Sink/600') Leadcore Rope -Breast Lines: 1/8" Solid Braid Nylon -Hung Using #9 Twine with 10" Tie Intervals	468.00	7,020.00T
		*Ship with 9018, charges listed on Q9018 non	0.00%	0.00

Orders over \$5,000.00 may be subject to 3% Credit Card Fee applied at payment.

Total \$7,020.00