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: Habitat Project Consultant Assistance 2027

Date: November 17, 2026

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s):
The project supports FERC license articles 414, 415 and 416, which specify enhancement of tributary spawning and mitigation for impacts of operation of Hauser, Holter, and the Great Falls dams.

This project is Priority #1 because it typically involves habitat restoration projects on the mainstem Missouri River. Some elements of this project are Priority #2 because they involve restoration work on primary tributaries to the Missouri River or reservoirs.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Joe Hagengruber (NorthWestern Energy)

Location of Proposed Project: Upper Missouri River Watershed

Total Project Cost: $15,000

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $15,000

I. Introduction; brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.
Habitat projects addressed in the FERC license agreement (Articles 414-9 and 416-7) have been proposed and funded since the inception of the PM&E funding program. Viable habitat projects have sometimes been difficult to identify and implement. This proposal is to continue a contract with McNeal Resources (Allen McNeal) to continue working on

habitat restoration projects in the Great Falls area and in the Helena Valley. Consultant may also work on identifying and development of projects on other streams and rivers in the FERC Project 2188 project area as opportunities arise. This project will cover the cost of project design and permitting and also will defray construction oversight costs including mileage, lodging and per diem, as necessary.

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

Depending on availability, investigate feasibility and initiate design of restoration projects on Missouri River and reservoir tributaries.

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

A contract would be established between NWE and McNeal Resources to complete this work.

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

Investigative and scoping work on other projects will proceed during the year as time allows.

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

Work on this project will be accomplished by McNeal Resources Inc. (Allen McNeal) in cooperation with private landowners, construction contractors, MDFWP staff, and staff from other organizations and agencies.

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor	Consultant and contractors will design and construct. FWP biologists and staff will provide oversight.
Direct Overhead	N/A – claims will be submitted directly from consultant to NWE for payment
Travel and Living	On occasion, the consultant will bill for mileage, perdiem and lodging.
Materials	Raw materials required for stream reconstruction will be incorporated into stream specific proposals.

- 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.**

VII. Deliverables; This proposal is designed to design and complete habitat projects in the MoTAC project area. Success will be measured in habitat projects completed and stream/river length that has been restored. Project completion reports will be prepared by project partners.

VIII. Cultural Resources. Cultural resource surveys will be conducted and SHPO clearance will obtained prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities on habitat improvement projects funded by MoTAC.

IX. Water Rights. This project requires no new water rights or changes to existing rights. Water rights issues will be handled on a case-by-case basis by trained experts as the need arises.