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: Equipment – Holter/Hauser Reservoir vertical gillnets

Date: 9/20/2026

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

Article 414, 5) evaluate the impact of fish spilled from Hauser on the resident fish populations in Holter Lake, 8) Monitor the effects of project operations on Hauser Reservoir fish populations; and Article 416, 6) Monitor the effects of project operation on Holter Lake fish populations. This proposal is to purchase 6 vertical gillnets for sampling fisheries population trends on two Missouri River reservoirs (Hauser and Holter).

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

Given the nets would be used to conduct fisheries population surveys on two Missouri River reservoirs (Hauser and Holter), this proposal is considered Priority 1.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Nathan Jaksha - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Location of Proposed Project:
Narrative: Hauser and Holter Reservoirs (Missouri River)

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743)
Hauser: 46.763152, -111.885589

Holter: 46.988798, -111.998688

Total Project Cost: $7,275

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $7,275

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

This proposal is to buy 6 vertical gillnets for kokanee salmon monitoring on Hauser and Holter reservoirs. Pelagic fish populations in both reservoirs are monitored annually throughout the summer months using 6 vertical gill nets of various mesh size. These surveys are important as they provide crucial information regarding the status of the two kokanee salmon populations, stocking success, and spillover rates of Hauser kokanee plants to the Holter fishery. This task is included as part of the 5-year Missouri River Fisheries PM&E Plan. The current nets being used were purchased in the early 2000s and are degrading due to environmental exposure. Under the current sampling design, the new nets should last 10-15 years.

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

Purchase 6 vertical gillnets and for fisheries surveys in Hauser and Holter Reservoirs.

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

Gillnets will be purchased prior to the 2027 field season and implemented in kokanee monitoring.

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

Will purchase gillnets as soon as possible with kokanee monitoring starting in July 2027.

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

Nathan Jaksha – MTFWP Fisheries Biologist – Project Leader

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor: $0.00
- Travel and Living: $0.00
- Materials:$7,185.00 (nets)
- Other Direct Expenses: $90.00 (freight)
- Direct Overhead*: $0.00
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions: $0.00

See Appendix 1 for quote.

***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?

Results from standardized fisheries population monitoring surveys will be presented annually in a report to NWE.

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-breaking activity. Not applicable.

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 water rights. Not applicable.

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

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
O 406-444-8115
C 406-565-7549
208 N. Montana Ave
Suite 205
Helena, MT 59601

Appendix 1. Vertical gill nets quote.

DULUTH NETS
by H. Christiansen Co.

Quote

Quote #	8928
Date	9/18/2025

Customer Information

Montana FWP - Helena
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620

Shipping Information

Montana FWP - Helena
1420 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Rep:	BJS
Reference	
Commit Date	

QTY	U/M	Product Description	Rate	Amount
		Below Vertical Gill Nets Built with Following Specs: - 12' wide x 150' tall - Steel rings tied on every ~25' - Netting hung on the 1/2 Basis - Hollow Braid rope on all sides (1/4") -Nets Hung and Spliced with #9 Twine, less than 8" ties spacing -Netting Panels Spliced Horizontally to achieve 125' Depth		
1	ea	1/2" Sq. 210/2 or 210/3 Multifilament	1,480.00	1,480.00
1	ea	3/4" Sq. 210/2 or 210/3 Multifilament	1,337.00	1,337.00
1	ea	1" Sq. 210/2 or 210/3 Multifilament	1,294.00	1,294.00
1	ea	1-1/4" Sq. 210/2 or 210/3 Multifilament	1,197.00	1,197.00
1	ea	1-1/2" Sq. 210/4 or 210/6 Multifilament	980.00	980.00
1	ea	2" Sq. 210/4 or 210/6 Multifilament	897.00	897.00
1		FedEx Parcel Shipping Pre-Pay & Add: ~$90	90.00	90.00

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

Total $7,275.00