Cost-Share Proposal Form for NorthWestern Energy Project 2188 TAC Funds

Project 2188 (Madison-Missouri River) License proposed Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement (PM&E) projects should relate to an effect from the continued operation of one or more of NorthWestern Energy's (NorthWestern) nine hydro developments (Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony Dams). PM&E projects are required to reduce or offset impacts to river resources from the continued operation of the hydro developments. 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: Little Prickly Pear Creek – fish screen repair

Date: 10/20/2026

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…" This is a Priority 2 project as it is a primary tributary to the Missouri River.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected:
This project would repair a non-functioning fish screen on an irrigation ditch that pulls water from Little Prickly Pear Creek near Sieben. A repaired fish screen would prevent fish from becoming entrained in the ditch which would benefit resident and spawning fish.

Project Sponsor (submitted by):
Adam Geik – Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Fisheries Biologist

Location of Proposed Project:
Little Prickly Pear Creek near Sieben

Narrative
Little Prickly Pear Creek is a primary spawning tributary to fish in the Missouri River. A fish screen on an irrigation ditch that pulls water from Little Prickly Pear Creek has stopped working due to the age of the structure. The concrete chute, screen, and paddle wheel are still useable, but the structure needs new mechanical parts, aluminum carriage, brushes, arms, and drive system. The irrigation ditch has not been used in recent years but use will resume as soon as 2027.

Repairing the fish screen will prevent fish from becoming entrained in the ditch and would benefit resident and spawning fish.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) **Lat:** 48.87675 **Long:** -112.14161

Total Project Cost:
$26,000

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:
$26,000

I. Introduction; brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.
A fish screen on an irrigation ditch that pulls water from Little Prickly Pear Creek is in a state of disrepair and has not operated for several years. The ditch has not been used in recent years but use will resume as early as 2027. The fish screen is located on private land, but the primary user of the ditch is a landowner adjacent to where the screen is located. Both landowners are on board with the project. We are requesting funds to repair the mechanical parts, aluminum carriage, brushes, arms, and drive system of the structure. The concrete chute, screen, and paddle wheel are still useable and will be left in place. The water user is contributing to the project by cleaning debris and muck that has accumulated in the ditch and structure, cleaning out the return pipe, and realigning rocks where the return pipe enters Little Prickly Pear Creek to prevent erosion.

II. Objectives; explicit statement(s) of what is intended to be accomplished.
A non-functioning fish screen will be repaired to prevent fish entrainment in the irrigation ditch.

III. Methods; description of how Project objectives will be accomplished.
The concrete chute, screen, and paddle wheel are still useable and will be left if place, but all mechanical parts, aluminum carriage, brushes, arms, and drive system will be replaced with new parts

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end.
The project will start and be completed in summer and fall of 2027.

V. Personnel who will do the work? Identify Project leader or principal investigator.
Pittman Machining will be contracted to repair the fish screen.

VI. Project budget with line items including amounts for the following:
See emailed quote below.

- **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.**

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?
Deliverables will be a functioning fish screen that allows agricultural water use and prevents fish from becoming entrained in the ditch.

VIII. Cultural Resources. Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern 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 NorthWestern representative for further information or assistance from NorthWestern's staff archeologist. 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 cultural resource management is required for this project.

IX. Water Rights. For projects that involve development, restoration or enhancement of streams or 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:
This project will repair an existing fish screen and will not affect or change water rights on the ditch.

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



Fish screen structure in state of disrepair on an irrigation ditch that pulls water from Little Prickly Pear Creek near Sieben. May 2026.

Emailed quote from Ptiman Machining:

From: pitman@blackfoot.net <pitman@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 11:53 AM
To: Brown, Peter <Peter.Brown@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Prickly Pear

Hello Peter

Put some thought into repairing the fish screen we looked at. These are estimates but should be pretty accurate.

Option 1
Leave concrete structure, Screen , and paddle wheel.
Replace every mechanical part , install new aluminum carriage and Pitman style chain drive system, new brushes and arms.

$26,000

Option 2
Leave concrete structure,
Replace every component beside the concrete structure

$40,000

Option 3
Complete modular fish screen steel structure, ¼" steel plate construction.

$56,000

There might be some other details we need to discuss as we move forward. Steel has been very expensive lately not sure what its going to do, the only option that would greatly be effected by that is #3.

David

Pitman Machining
301 Hauser Dr
Seeley Lake MT 59868
406-677-2581