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: Trammel Nets – Middle Missouri

Date: 10/30/2026

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

Article 417: 1) 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. 2) Monitor the relative abundance of the most common fish species in the Missouri River downstream of Morony Dam. 3) Provide assistance to FWP for ongoing evaluation of pallid sturgeon recovery in the Missouri River downstream of Morony Dam.

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

These trammel nets will be used to sample fishes in the Missouri River (Priority 1) and the lower Marias River (Priority 2).

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Luke Holmquist, Biologist, MTFWP

Location of Proposed Project:

Narrative; Missouri River from Morony Dam to Fort Peck Reservoir; Lower Marias River (Below Tiber Dam); Lower Teton River

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: $10,380

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $10,380

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 recapture of 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 10 new 1-inch mesh nets for standardized monitoring and 10 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 2027.

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 20 nets for use during 2027 field season.

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

Equipment

VI. Project budget with line items including amounts for the following:

- **Direct Labor** NA
- **Travel and Living** NA
-
- **Materials**: Qty 10 – 150 x 6 x 10 x 1" @ $502/net……$5,020
- Qty 10 – 150 x 6 x 10 x 5" @ $476/net……$4,760
-
-
- Shipping: $ 600
- Total: $10,380
- **Other Direct Expenses**
  NA
- **Direct Overhead***
  NA
- **All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions**
  NA

***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?

This will be successful if the new nets are purchased and used during 2027 fieldwork.

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 ground disturbance associated with 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:

No wetland development 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

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

Quote

Quote #	10231
Date	10/21/2026

Customer Information

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

Shipping Information

Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Luke Holmquist
190 Terminal Drive
Lewistown, MT 59457

Rep:	BJS
Reference	
Commit Date	

QTY	Unit	Product Description	Rate	Amount
10	ea	150' Long x 6' 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	476.00	4,760.00T
		non	0.00%	0.00

Total $4,760.00

Quotes Valid for 90 Days.

4976 Arnold Rd Duluth MN 55803 sales@duluthnets.com 1-800-372-1142 www.duluthnets.com

DULUTH NETS
by H. Christianson Co.

Quote

Quote #	10232
Date	10/21/2026

Customer Information

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

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Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
Luke Holmquist
190 Terminal Drive
Lewistown, MT 59457

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		non	0.00%	0.00

Total $5,020.00

Quotes Valid for 90 Days.

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