

2020 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: **Wall Creek Barrier Construction**

Date: **October 20, 2020**

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

This project addresses specifically article 408 7) Monitor fish species of special concern (i.e., Arctic grayling and westslope cutthroat trout) and article 409 6) Inclusion or exclusion of fish barriers.

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

The proposed project is a Priority 2 proposal: The proposed scope of work is to construct a fish migration barrier that would protect seven miles of habitat occupied by 95% genetically pure WCT from further threats of hybridization with non-native rainbow trout that ascend Wall Creek from the Madison River.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): **Travis Lohrenz-MFWP**

Location of Proposed Project: **Wall Creek – Madison County, Montana; Township: 10S Range: 1W Section: 23**

Wall Creek is a tributary of the Madison River that originates in the Gravelly Mountain Range approximately 27 miles South of the town of Ennis.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; **44.943** Lon: **-111.684**

Total Project Cost Estimate: **\$317,933**

TAC Funds Requested for Project: **\$64,500**

Direct Construction:	\$62,621
Indirect Costs (3%):	\$ 1,879
Total Requested:	\$64,500

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

Westslope cutthroat trout is a species of trout native to Montana's cold-water streams west of the continental divide and the Upper Missouri River Basin east of the divide. Competition and hybridization with non-native fish, degradation of habitat, and climate change have reduced populations of pure westslope cutthroat trout to 4% of their historic range in the Upper Missouri River Basin. To ensure long-term self-sustaining persistence of westslope cutthroat trout populations, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) is working to protect and restore westslope cutthroat trout populations with 10% or less nonnative genetic contribution to 20% of their historic range.

MFWP considers a population secure when they are isolated from non-native fishes, typically by a physical fish passage barrier, have a population size of at least 2,500 fish, and occupy enough habitat (5 to 6 miles) to assure long-term persistence.

Wall Creek is a tributary to the Madison River occupied by a westslope cutthroat trout population of 95% genetic purity threatened by introgression with nonnative rainbow trout that can ascend Wall Creek from the Madison River. To eliminate the risk of further genetic dilution of the population, MFWP plans to install a migration barrier to protect the upper 7.5 miles of habitat occupied by westslope cutthroat trout. Successful implementation will aid in meeting management goals for westslope cutthroat trout populations set by MFWP, long-term persistence of the local population.

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

Prevent further invasion of rainbow trout into the headwater of Wall Creek protecting 7.5 miles of habitat occupied by westslope cutthroat trout.

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

Construction of the barrier will be completed by a contractor. All funds will go to a construction contract.

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

Summer-Fall 2021

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

Matt Jaeger, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Travis Lohrenz, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Total Project Cost Breakdown	Amount
Barrier Construction	277,375
Engineering Oversight	11,655
Total Direct Costs	289,030
Project Contingency (10%)	28,903
Total Cost	317,933

Total contributions available for construction of the Wall Creek project to date is \$168,000. Table below reflects current status of funding applications for the project.

Source	Funding Type	Direct Dollars for Project	Status
Forest Service	Federal	128,000	Awarded
American Fisheries Foundation	Private	87,379	In Process
Future Fisheries Improvement Program	State	40,000	Awarded
TAC Funds Requested (\$64,500)	Private	62,621	Proposal Submitted

318,000

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?

MFWP will conduct periodic collection of genetic tissue samples from fish above the barrier to monitor genetic purity and each year, the barrier will be visually inspected for damage following high water, cleaned of debris that could inhibit barrier function. Results of findings will be conveyed to Northwestern Energy in an annual report submitted by MFWP.

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:

USFS has completed the NEPA process. All permitting will be done in compliance with Montana and Federal law.

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:

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.