

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT
FY2024 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: Ryan Island Hand Railing Replacement

Reservoir or River Segment: Morony Reservoir County(ies) Cascade

Site Name (or project location): Ryan Island Day Use Site

Applicant Name: Jerry Gray

Position and Agency: Supervisor, Great Falls Hydro Projects, NorthWestern Energy

Telephone: 406-268-2307

Email: Jerry.gray@northwestern.com

Project Sponsor Name: Andy Welch

Position and Agency: Manager, Hydro License Compliance, NorthWestern Energy

Telephone: 406-444-8115

Email: Andrew.welch@northwestern.com

Project Cost Breakdown and Financial Request:

Complete the financial section below by providing total project cost (to the nearest dollar), contributions by applicant and cooperators, request for NorthWestern Energy match of agency funds (see detailed instruction), and River Fund Grant request. Document in-kind contributions by public agencies for determination of NorthWestern Energy match request. A description of funding sources and in-kind contributions should be included in the Project Description.

Total project cost: \$28,000

Applicant Contributions – cash \$5,000

Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:

Other Contributions – Please list by source:

| | | Percentage of Total Project Cost: |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|

| | | |
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| Total Applicant and Other Contributions: | <u>\$5,000</u> | <u>18%</u> |
|--|----------------|------------|

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| NorthWestern Energy Match Request: | <u>\$0</u> | <u>0%</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|

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| River Fund Grant Request: | <u>\$23,000</u> | <u>82%</u> |
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Proposed Project Implementation Period: Spring 2024

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1. Has this project been previously submitted for funding consideration by the River Fund Board, either as a separate project or part of another project? _____ Yes X No

If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.

2. **Project Description:** Provide a description of the proposed project. Be sure to include specific project elements that are planned, and any associated cost detail.

▶ Ryan Island Day Use Site is a popular recreation site on the outskirts of Great Falls. The island is situated just below Ryan Dam and is open annually during the peak recreation season. The site hosts about 5,000 group visits per year. The overlook area at the upstream end of the island offers interpretation and magnificent views of the dam, spillway, and the natural falls from atop a rocky cliff. A perimeter chain link fence with top hand railing and bottom kick board exists to keep visitors at the overlook area safe. The wood railing has deteriorated and is in need of replacement. During August 2023 Public Use Inspections conducted by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) staff, it was noted that some of the railing was deteriorated to the point of having exposed nails, and in 9/7/2023 follow-up correspondence, FERC ordered that the hand railing be repaired. This project will replace the top hand railing and bottom kick board with new treated timbers and bring the site into compliance with FERC’s order.

3. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or construction season.

▶ This project is not eligible for phasing.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern Energy as a condition of awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds. Grant and matching 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 Energy representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed will be held without any action until the information has been submitted.

Summarize how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management.

▶ Replacement of an existing structure will not require cultural review.

5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Put answers in the cell after ▶.

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

▶ Yes, Ryan Island is a 2188 site.

5.2 Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site. Describe if the project will meet operation and maintenance needs. Higher points awarded to projects that are higher priority and are not a recurring expense. Lower points awarded to projects that are low priority and/or have been previously funded. It is unlikely that the timeframe of River Fund would address emergency operation and maintenance needs but could support non-emergency operation and maintenance needs.

- ▶ Replacement of the hand railing and kick board is a maintenance project that falls outside the scope of ongoing operation and maintenance budgets and tasks, but is of critical importance for visitor safety and FERC compliance.

5.3 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations. Identify project partners other than NorthWestern Energy or River Fund, if any, and describe their participation. Document all funding sources and all in-kind support and services to a project, because all are sources of partnerships and in-kind contributions from public agencies qualify for calculation of NorthWestern Energy matching funds. If there are no project partners, explain why.

- ▶ There is no collaboration on this project. NorthWestern owns and operates Ryan Island so the prospect of collaboration is very low.

5.4 Project provides a benefit to public recreation in the Project Area and addresses specific issues and goals of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan (CRP). Identify how the project provides a benefit to public recreation and describe how the project specifically addresses issues and goals in Chapter 2-1 of the CRP.



5.5 Project responds to a clearly identified need. Describe and document the need for this project and how the project would address that need. Cite specific sources, as possible, to establish need and support the project. Discuss consequences if the funding request is unsuccessful. For a new construction or acquisition project, identify how post-project, long-term costs (such as site maintenance and management) will be provided.

- ▶ Need for the railing replacement was established through the FERC order to repair or replace the existing hand railing. Replacing both the hand railing and kick board at once maximizes efficiency of contractors going onsite to perform the work. A lack of project funding would prevent the project from moving forward, thus putting NorthWestern out of compliance at a Project-related recreation site.

5.6 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected. Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project, demonstrate that the project has been well vetted, and include cost estimates.

- ▶ The project will replace the railing with like materials, so there was no re-design conducted. The previous railing was in place for many years and the new railing should last for many years into the future. A \$2,050 contingency was added to the bid received (see attached) to account for inflation.

5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency plans, including Project 2188 License plans and land use and land management plans in place in the Corridor. Management plans should provide justification for the project.

- ▶ Ryan Island is privately owned by NorthWestern Energy, so agency resource management plans don't apply. However, NorthWestern holds safety as a top priority for their employees and visitors, and the recreation sites they manage are no exception. This project will protect public safety at the overlook area, which sits atop a rock cliff with significant risk for injury or death if a person were to fall from there.

6. Insert map(s) showing the location of the proposed project, drawings and design work related to the project, and a reasonable number of photos (as available) here.







August 29, 2023

Northwestern Energy

Great falls, MT. 59404

Re: Ryan Dam Island
Hand Railing & Toe Kick

Chris,

We are pleased to quote the sum of **\$ 25,950.00** Dollars to complete the work as listed below for the above referenced project.

- Remove existing double 2 x 4 top railing.
- Remove 2 x 6 kick board and top rail.
- Dispose of old 2 x's
- Install new brown treated 2x4 double top railing.
- Install new brown treated 2x6 kick board.
- Install new brown treated 2x6 top railing.
- We will hand pick as close as possible for least number of defects.
- All fasteners are included.
- Reattach metal fencing as needed.

Excluded Items:

- Any finish staining or clear.
- Any replacement of vertical supports.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy M. Tabacco
Guy Tabacco Construction Co.