

2022 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 Reservoir Rainbow Trout Marking

Date: 10/13/2021

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): *Article 416, 3) Propose additional measures to minimize fish loss and to mitigate for avoidable and unavoidable impacts.* Project allows efficient field identification of different strains of rainbow trout stock, which allows field staff to efficiently collect eggs to raise fish for stocking in Hauser and Holter reservoirs as well as other waters throughout the region.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: This proposal is considered priority 1.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

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

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat: NA Lon: NA

Total Project Cost: approximately \$60,000

TAC Funds Requested for Project: \$2,897

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

The Holter Reservoir rainbow trout fishery is sustained by stocking Eagle Lake and Arlee strains of rainbow trout. Since 2007, Holter Reservoir has also been used as an egg source for propagation of rainbow trout at Big Spring Hatchery. Distinctly marking the Arlee strain with a clipped adipose fin allows easy strain identification in the field and efficiently separate strains when sorting for spawning. Marked fish also simplify strain evaluation and recruitment to the angler creel. Fish are clipped at the fish hatchery, with approximately 125,000-150,000 fish expected to be marked in 2022.

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

Approximately 125,000-150,000 Arlee strain rainbow trout will be fin clipped (adipose fin) at Big Springs Hatchery in Lewistown, MT by FWP Staff, volunteers and others over approximately 3-4 days in spring/early summer 2022.

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

FWP will provide staff and equipment required to fin clip approximately 125,000-150,000 Arlee strain rainbow trout.

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

Fin clipping is expected to occur late spring or early summer, 2022.

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

FWP Staff; Adam Strainer – MTFWP Fisheries Biologist – Project Leader

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

| | | |
|------------------------|----|-------------|
| Direct Labor | \$ | 0.00 |
| Travel Expenses | \$ | 2,897.00 |
| Materials | \$ | 0.00 |
| Other Direct Expenses | \$ | 0.00 |
| <u>Direct Overhead</u> | \$ | <u>0.00</u> |
| | \$ | 2,897.00* |

*

| | Unit(s) | Cost | # per day | # of days | Total |
|--------------------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Crew Lodging | 1 night | \$99.95 | 6 | 3 | \$1,799 |
| Per Diem/Groceries | 1 day | \$30.50 | 12 | 3 | \$1,098 |
| Subtotal | | | | | \$2,897 |
| FWP Overhead (12%) | | | | | \$0** |
| Total | | | | | \$2,897 |

**Line item costs will be purchased directly by a representative of NorthWestern Energy prior to the project.

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?

Arlee strain rainbow trout will be fin clipped and released into Holter Reservoir, and other waterbodies, from summer to fall, 2022.

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.

No ground-breaking activity. Not applicable.

Summarize here how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management:

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.

No water rights. Not applicable

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.