



Cost-Share 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: Missouri River Cottonwood/Livestock - Well Enhancement

Date: 11.11.2024

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

License Article 423 requires the development of a plan to monitor and enhance native plants and wildlife populations on the lands and waters associated with the project. The current 5-year plan (2023-2027) states restoration and enhancement of riparian lands and wetlands in the project area has been a primary goal of the wildlife and vegetation enhancement plan since the establishment of the program and the Wildlife TAC in 2000. The program has funded several projects to monitor and restore cottonwood forests along the Missouri River.

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

This is a priority 1 project dealing with wildlife habitat enhancement on the mainstem Missouri River.

Project Sponsor (submitted by):

NorthWestern Energy

Location of Proposed Project:

Narrative Approximately 3.5 miles downstream of Fort Benton.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; 47.841614° __ Long: __ -110.617160° _____

Total Project Cost:

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: \$21,910

I. Introduction; brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.
In 2024 WildTAC provided funding for the Missouri River Trees, Fence, Irrigation project (2024-3) and the related Missouri River Fence project (2024-14 INT). One aspect of the project was an integration of a livestock watering project that included low volume livestock watering, up to 100 days, associated with the newly developed well. The project was completed in July 2024. Preliminary evaluations showed the irrigation project was very successful with appropriate water volumes. However, once livestock watering began, there appeared to be a water volume issue between the irrigation and livestock watering that forced water system delays and system shut downs.

This project is designed to develop the well system to a greater depth to increase water volumes during periods when both irrigation and livestock watering is occurring.

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

Install a second groundwater well case pickup to ensure necessary water volume when both irrigation and livestock watering are occurring.

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

Bury a 5ft dia x 20ft long CMP in a vertical position so approximately 10 feet of the pipe is interfacing with groundwater.

Install water pump and necessary plumbing to integrate in to existing control system for irrigation and livestock watering.

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

The ideal time period for conducting this upgrade is late winter when groundwater is at base level (January-March). Electrical and plumbing upgrades will be completed by April 2025.

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

NWE will purchase most materials.

Jonas Sprinklers and Fertilizer was the primary contractor on the first irrigation project and will be hired to perform these upgrades.

A local contractor would be either sub contracted by Jonas or directly hired by NWE to bury the CMP and help tie into existing infrastructure.

- Direct Labor Irrigation upgrade-materials, labor, equipment, mob = \$7,985

Culvert install-equipment, labor, mob =\$8,850

- Travel and Living

- Materials 5ft x 20ft corrugated metal pipe = \$2,200
 Aluminum cover & pipe perforations = \$2,200
 20 ft ladder = \$350
 Grass seed = \$325

- Other Direct Expenses

- Direct Overhead*

- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions

Total = 21,910

***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.**

VI. Deliverables; describe work product (reports, habitat restoration, etc.) which will result from this Project. How will “success” for this project be monitored or demonstrated?

The deliverables would be a water system that supplies reliable and ample water for both tree irrigation and livestock simultaneously.

VII. 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:

A CRM inventory and report was conducted by NWE in 2024. This project is within that defined area and would not result in any impact to CHA resources.

VIII. 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 9 March 2016.

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines:

The project is designed to improve reliability of an existing groundwater development that is currently under application for a groundwater certificate. There is no additional volume proposed for this system. The primary purpose is a modification in design that provides enough stored groundwater volume to maintain reliable irrigation and livestock water pumps and control.

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

Manager, Hydro License Compliance

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