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)
We added this content to the aforementioned text box.
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: **2188 Operations and Personnel (33005/3300500)**

Date: **November, 2026**

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): **Funding is for the wages and operations of FWP 2188 project personnel that identify, develop, assess, monitor, and implement projects that meet the FERC 2188 license conditions.**

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
2188 Project Personnel will include activities within all three priority levels.

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

Location of Proposed Project: **Ennis, Madison River drainage**

Narrative: **The Ennis Field Office was established to identify, develop, assess, and implement fisheries monitoring and enhancement projects as described in the 6/29/2018 MOA between NorthWestern Energy and FWP and in the FERC 2188 license. This proposal will fund staff time and operations required to comply with 2188 Articles 404, 408, 409, 412, 413, and 412. FWP 2188 project personnel Travis Lohrenz and Jenna Sirmon will conduct monitoring, enhancement, and reporting activities for the Madison River, Hebgen Reservoir, and Ennis Reservoir fisheries under the direction of FWP R3 Hydropower Program Supervisor Matt Jaeger.**

NorthWestern Energy, FWP, and partners are presently pursuing several large-scale projects to improve spawning and recruitment habitat for Brown and Rainbow Trout in the Madison River. The aforementioned FWP staff will be responsible for project development, implementation, monitoring, and data analysis and reporting. FWP will additionally continue with monitoring specified by the 2188 license, monitoring of ongoing projects, such as the recovery and protection of native fish species in the Madison Drainage, and the continued fisheries

monitoring related to the Hebgen Dam failure in the fall of 2021.

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; _____ Long: _____

Total Project Cost: **$235,322.16**

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:

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

This proposal will fund staff time and operations required to comply with 2188 Articles 404, 408, 409, 412, 413, and 412 as described in the 6/29/2018 MOA between NorthWestern Energy and FWP.

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

This proposal will fund staff time and operations required to comply with 2188 Articles 404, 408, 409, 412, 413, and 412 as described in the 6/29/2018 MOA between NorthWestern Energy and FWP.

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

FWP 2188 project personnel Travis Lohrenz and Jenna Sirmon will conduct monitoring and enhancement activities required to comply with Articles 404, 408, 409, 412, 413, and 412 under the direction of Matt Jaeger FWP R3 Hydropower Program Supervisor.

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

January 1, 2027- June 30, 2028

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

FWP 2188 project personnel Travis Lohrenz and Jenna Sirmon will conduct the monitoring and enhancement activities specified in the 6/29/2018 MOA between NorthWestern Energy and FWP under the direction of Matt Jaeger FWP R3 Hydropower Program Supervisor.

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor
- Travel and Living
- Materials
- Other Direct Expenses
- Direct Overhead*
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions

Staff	Item	FTE	Hours	Pay rate including benefits	Amount	Amount
Monitoring & Enhancement Activities						
TL - 37331	F&W Tech	1.00	2088	$43.91		$ 91,684.08
JD - 37322	F&W Tech	1.00	2088	$36.85		$ 76,942.80
	Travel				$ 5,000.00	
	Operations				$15,000.00	
	Subtotal	2.00	4176		$20,000.00	$168,626.88
12.23%	Indirect					$ 20,623.07
	Subtotal	2.00	4176		$20,000.00	$189,249.95
Native Species Management & Hydropower						
MJ	Program Supervisor	0.17	356	$60.25		$ 21,449.00
	Travel				$ 2,000.00	
12.23%	Indirect					$ 2,623.21
	Subtotal	0.17	356		$ 2,000.00	$ 24,072.21
	Subtotal of	2.17	4532.00		$22,000.00	$213,322.16
	Total					$235,322.16

***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?

Preparation and submission of an annual report to NWE describing the previous year's activities as described in the 6/29/2018 MOA between NorthWestern Energy and FWP and how they meet FERC article requirements. Additional reporting and presentation of data related to the Hebgen gate failure will also occur as needed.

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:

There are no ground breaking activities associated with fisheries monitoring.

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 9 March 2016.

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

There is no water rights impact or compliance associated with fisheries monitoring.

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
Andrew.Welch@NorthWestern.com
O 406-444-8115
C 406-565-7549
208 N. Montana Ave
Suite 205
Helena, MT 59601

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: Ennis Office Rent

Date: 10/8/2026

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): **Provides office and shop space for the FWP 2188 fisheries personnel and equipment.**

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: **Provides office and shop space for 2188 fisheries personnel who carry out mitigation and enhancement projects that address all three priority levels.**

Project Sponsor (submitted by): **MFWP**

Location of Proposed Project: **Ennis**

Narrative **The office will provide a local base of operations for MFWP 2188 fisheries personnel.**

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; _____ Long: _____

Total Project Cost: **$9,600**

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:

I. Introduction; brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.
One year office and shop space for MFWP Madison 2188 fisheries personnel

II. Objectives; explicit statement(s) of what is intended to be accomplished.
Provide a local base of operations for 2188 personnel to carry out mitigation and enhancement tasks.

III. Methods; description of how Project objectives will be accomplished.
Normal billing and payment

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end.
2027 billing cycle

V. Personnel who will do the work? Identify Project leader or principal investigator.
FWP 2188 project personnel

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

- Direct Labor
- Travel and Living
- Materials
- Other Direct Expenses
- Direct Overhead*
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions

***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?

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:

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:

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

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: West Fork Madison Enhancement and Habitat Protection

Date: 11/16/2026

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s):
The project would address Priority 2. While the project would occur on the West Fork Madison River, the enhancement and protection of tributary habitat would also benefit the fishery of the Madsion River. Fluvial trout residing in the Madison River migrate to the West Fork Madison River to spawn. Juvenile trout often rear in the West Fork Madison River prior to out migrating to the Madison River, contributing to the fishery. As a major tributary of the Madison River, the West Fork contributes a large volume of water to the mainstem. The West Fork Madison River is listed as impaired by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality due to elevated water temperatures which impact aquatic life and recreation. The proposed project would enhance riparian plant communities that provide shade to the stream channel, helping to prevent increased stream temperatures during the summer months.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Trout Unlimited Inc., Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest (USFS)

Location of Proposed Project:
Project activities would occur at two locations: 1) head cut/side channel enhancement at river mile 5 and 2) bridge/toilet removal and habitat enhancement at river mile 6.

Location 1) Lat; 44.836548 Long: 111.592478
Location 2) Lat; 44.823612 Long: 111.599114

Total Project Cost: $186,670

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $30,030

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

Trout Unlimited is seeking TAC funding to complete the remaining surveys, designs, and bid package which will allow TU to apply for construction funding from other sources. This is likely to be a mixture of grant applications to FWP Future Fisheries, DEQ 319, and the Madison River Foundation. We also have received interest from another private foundation that would like to contribute to this project; however they would like to see other local funding raised prior to committing to this work.

Background: The West Fork Madison is a major spawning and rearing tributary for both resident and fluvial trout that migrate from the Madison River. Unfortunately, the West Fork Madison River is listed as impaired by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality due to elevated water temperatures which impact aquatic life and recreation. This impairment is primarily due to degraded streamside vegetation caused by historic land use as well as current recreational and grazing impacts. Between river mile 5 and 6 there are multiple opportunities to protect and enhance habitat for the benefit of wild trout populations in both the West Fork and mainstem Madison Rivers:

River Mile 5: A 4-acre floodplain has been the location of extensive dispersed camping. Here the West Fork Madison has recently received abundant large wood, forming multiple channel spanning log jams. The wood accumulations have created high-quality complex fish habitat and helped to aggrade the stream channel. As the stream interacts with high spring flows, water is being pushed onto the 4-acre floodplain. Unfortunately, this water quickly found a flow path through ruts created by vehicles accessing dispersed camping areas. Without floodplain roughness such as downed trees and woody riparian plants, the shallow overflow water began to pick up speed and erode into the ruts. Over a couple of spring runoff events, the channel has formed a large headcut and a high flow side channel. In response, USFS closed the dispersed campsite to reduce any additional impacts from recreationists. Unfortunately, the headcut continued to march upstream and without intervention, it is likely that the entire West Fork Madison River could jump into the channel. If this occurs, the stream will vacate the current well-shaded channel with complex habitat. Instead, the river will run through a large open field with no riparian vegetation. This would result in an incised stream channel completely exposed to the sun with no shade, high erosion rates, and little instream structure. During 2026, TU, USFS, NWE, FWP, and MRF all attended site visits and were in agreement that if action wasn't taken imminently, the headcut would likely reach the main channel during the next runoff cycle.

In early fall 2026, TU worked with the USFS and Geum Environmental Consulting under an emergency action to stabilize the headcut with existing funding (USFS- $78k, MGTU- $6k). This included stepping down the headcut with logs and cobble that function as a grade control. We also installed ~200 ft of brush bank matrixes to reduce erosion and velocity of overland flows. This is a stopgap that will allow TU to seek additional funding to work with Geum to design and implement the remaining restoration actions on the side channel. The remaining actions will likely include another 540 ft of brush banks along the side channel as well as additional floodplain revegetation actions. A video of the completed emergency action can be seen here: WF Madsion Headcut.

River Mile 6: The USFS has closed a failing bridge that provided recreational access to a large, dispersed campsite with a vault toilet. With the bridge closed, the public has begun fording the stream to access the dispersed campsite. This has degraded the riparian area adjacent to the bridge and the toilet is filled with human waste. The USFS is working with TU to pump the toilet and remove both the bridge and the vault toilet. Additionally, stream banks adjacent to the bridge need attention to prevent fording of the river and reestablish native vegetation. The most likely treatment would be constructed brush banks that will provide instream habitat for fish, allow reestablishment of riparian plants, and prevent fording of the stream.

The results of the completed enhancement and protection actions will protect existing high-quality habitat, remove a failing bridge and toilet, reduce erosion, and enhance riparian and floodplain habitat. These outcomes will address recreational impacts which will benefit the fisheries of both the West Fork and Madison Rivers.

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

The objective of this project is to protect existing high-quality habitat and enhance degraded habitat that has been impacted by recreational activities. This will be achieved through a handful of actions:

- River Mile 5
  - Complete remaining ~540 ft of brush banks (estimate)
  - Revegetate floodplain
- River Mile 6
  - Remove bridge
  - Remove toilet
  - Construct ~260 ft of brush banks (estimate)

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

Final designs will inform the methods. The designs are likely to include:

Brush banks will be constructed in a similar manner to those completed during the 2026 emergency action. Degraded streambanks will be excavated, and a mixture of logs/brush, cobble, and willows will be installed. This will reduce erosion, create fish habitat, and reestablish riparian vegetation. The vault toilet will be pumped to remove human waste. Then the bridge and toilet will be removed and transported to the nearest landfill.

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

- Fall 2026
  - Emergency action to slow headcut migration was completed
- Winter 2026
  - Geum will complete conceptual designs for the project using existing funding
  - TU will use conceptual designs to seek additional funding for construction

If MadTAC funding is secured:

- Spring 2027
  - Site visit to assess the success of last year's emergency action
  - Geum will complete additional surveys as needed for bridge/toilet removal and brush banks
  - Pre-project photos
- Summer 2027 – Summer 2028
  - Complete final designs
  - Complete permitting and cultural resource consultation
  - Follow procurement guidelines and select a construction contractor
- Fall 2028
  - Implement project by the end of September to comply with grizzly bear regulations
- Spring 2029
  - Post project monitoring photos
  - Adaptive management if needed
- Summer – Winter 2029
  - Final report including:
    - Before/after photos
    - Recommendations for addressing future recreational impacts to WF Madison

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

Trout Unlimited project manager Connor Parrish will lead the project. TU already has a contract with Geum Environmental Consulting to complete conceptual designs for the project. If funded, TU would amend that contract to include additional topographic surveys, final designs, and bid package. TU would seek additional funding to construct the project during fall 2028. TU would hire a qualified construction contractor. Both TU and Geum would participate in construction oversight.

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

WF Madison Budget			
	Funding Source		Comments
Category	TAC	Other	Other funding sources may include FWP future fisheries, DEQ 319, private foundations, etc.
Direct Labor	$ 3,000	$ 10,000	TU staff time for site visits, meeting coordination, permitting, and construction oversite
Travel and Living	$ 300	$ 2,400	10 round trips to project area.
Materials	$ -	$ -	
Other Direct Expenses	$ 24,000	$ 130,000	MadTAC- Geum surveys, designs, permit support, bid package. Other funding- construction, bridge/toilet removal, oversight.
Direct Overhead	$ 2,730	$ 14,240	15%
Total	$ 30,030	$ 156,640	
Total Project Cost		$ 186,670	

Figure 1: Construction costs are estimates based on the quotes received for construction during the 2026 emergency action. If TAC funding is awarded, the final designs will provide more accurate projections of project costs.

***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?
Deliverables:

- Final designs
- Permits
- Completed project
    - Constructed brush banks
    - Removal of bridge and vault toilet
- Project video- shared on social media and at local TU events
- Site Tour
- Final report
    - Before/after photos

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:

TAC funding would be used for designs, permitting, and creation of a bid package. These are all non-ground disturbing activities. However, the project would occur on the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest, as such it will require cultural resource consultation. Once construction funding is secured, TU will work with USFS staff to complete this requirement.

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:

None of the proposed actions will impact water rights. TU will secure the required permits from Madison CD, Montana DEQ, and USFS

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

Photos



Figure 2: Top left- Headcut during high flows in June 2026. Top right- headcut prior to construction (after flow was diverted). Bottom- stepped down headcut and brush banks post construction.



Figure 3: Top left- remaining side channel formed by the headcut needing brush banks and floodplain enhancement. Top right- dispersed campsite with vault toilet in the background which needs to be removed. Bottom- closed bridge that needs removal, one of the user-built fords accessing the dispersed campsite and toilet can be seen on the right of the photo.

Cost-Share Proposal Form for NorthWestern Energy Project 2188 TAC Funds

Project Title: **Indian Creek Water and Fisheries Conservation Project**

Date: November 16, 2026

Project 2188 License Article(s):

Our goal is to reconnect Indian Creek to the Madison River by providing year-round continuous flow. As such, the proposed project falls within both Priority 1 – by delivering cold, clean water and trout recruitment directly to the Madison River – and Priority 2 – by improving streamflows, habitat, and trout spawning and rearing in Indian Creek between the Indian Creek Canal Company diversion and the Madison River.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3:

Priority 1: This project meets PM&E conditions by ensuring Indian Creek delivers cold, clean water to the Madison throughout the year. As a result of this project, fisheries in the mainstem will benefit from improved recruitment of young trout through increased spawning and rearing habitat and improved connectivity and the establishment of a thermal refuge below the confluence during the intense heat of the summer, reducing stress and bolstering survival of coldwater fish populations during high temperatures and drought conditions.

Priority 2: This project also meets PM&E conditions for fish and wildlife populations and habitats in a primary tributary of the Madison River. First, rewatering over five miles of Indian Creek through water conservation will restore vital spawning, rearing and thermal refuge habitat and bolster healthier resident, fluvial, and adfluvial salmonid populations, and restore aquatic invertebrate communities suppressed by annual summer dewatering. Second, this project will improve the health and resilience of the riparian area along Indian Creek, which suffers from annual dewatering. Year-long flow will allow cottonwood galleries and riparian shrubs to flourish after decades of dewatering, which in turn will expand and improve habitats for migratory breeding birds, amphibians, and large mammals. Both grizzly bears and wolverine have been documented using Indian Creek as a migratory corridor.

Project Sponsors: **Trout Unlimited, Madison River Foundation**, **NWE, MFWP**

Location of Proposed Project:

Indian Creek is the largest tributary of the Madison River between Ennis Reservoir and the West Fork of the Madison. The confluence of the Madison River and Indian Creek, approximately 0.9 miles downstream of McAtee Bridge, is in a reach with few tributaries and is experiencing high water temperatures (over 70°F) from late July to early September. [For example, the USGS gage for the Madison River at Cameron (Varney) recorded a peak temperature of 73° F on July 18, 2026 at 4:15 pm]. Indian Creek originates at high elevations in the Madison Range, flowing west through a deep canyon which delivers cold, high-quality water to the Madison above this gage. The Indian Creek Ditch diversion lies at the mouth of the canyon, approximately 5.3 miles upstream from the confluence with the Madison River.

Geocode Latitude: 45.10251 Longitude: -111.56532

(at Indian Creek Ditch Company diversion)

Total Project Cost: $137,000

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $100,000

I. Introduction;

For over a century, the Indian Creek Ditch Company (Ditch Company) has tapped into Indian Creek to irrigate several thousand acres by way of its network of ditches traversing glacial deposits to reach fields as far as ten miles to the north. The Ditch Company has large, senior water rights to legally divert Indian Creek in its entirety, seasonally dewatering Indian Creek generally from July through September. Conveyance losses from the ditch system have been estimated as high as 8 to 14 cfs. Fisheries scientists believe that rewatering Indian Creek through the summer would buffer high water temperatures, increase spawning and recruitment, and build resilience to warming temperatures into the Madison River fishery. Early estimates indicated that 12 to 15 cfs in Indian Creek could overcome natural seepage losses and reach the Madison River.

In 2014, Trout Unlimited began working with the Ditch Company and Granger Ranches to collect hydrologic data to determine where seepage losses in the Ditch Company conveyance system and Cameron Ditch could be conserved for potential instream flow restoration to Indian Creek. After multiple years of study and analysis, TU, in cooperation with the Ditch Company, contractor WGM Group and funder NorthWestern Energy's Madison Technical Advisory Committee, developed a set of preliminary recommendations for irrigation infrastructure improvements, along with an analysis of

water rights and potential pathways for conserving water instream. The Ditch Company reviewed the reports and prioritized conceptual approaches that would maintain or improve agricultural operations while potentially conserving water to improve fisheries.

The next phase of the project will focus on the Ditch Company's initial priority of assessing the feasibility of bypassing a portion of its water rights down Indian Creek to the Madison River. This would result in rewatering Indian Creek, while allowing northern Ditch Company irrigators to divert from the Madison River at the Cameron (a.k.a Storey) Ditch. This phase more deeply analyzes: 1. Whether the side channel approaching the diversion, headgate, and canal have the capacity to carry an additional 15 – 20 cfs; 2. Whether installing a fish screen in the canal is necessary and feasible; and, 3. Whether the side channel approaching the diversion could be reconfigured to be more passable to floaters.

Deliverables will include engineering analysis of the capacity of the Cameron Ditch and diversion, and preliminary designs for the diversion, fish screen and canal lining as necessary.

II. Objectives:

The overall goal of this project is to increase the conveyance efficiency of the Indian Creek Ditch network to sustain existing agricultural production, improve network infrastructure, and conserve water to enhance late summer streamflows in Indian Creek. Building on the recommendations of the 2024 assessment, the primary priority of the Ditch Company and partners is focusing on the feasibility of leaving a portion of the Ditch Company's water rights in Indian Creek past the main diversion to the Madison River, where the Cameron (Storey) Ditch could be added as an alternative point of diversion and conveyance to serve the furthest downstream irrigators on Indian Creek Ditch. The objectives are:

1. Building on the 2024 reports, conduct a more detailed assessment of the capacity of the Cameron Ditch and headworks to convey an additional 20 cfs, stress test, and identify infrastructure improvements necessary to ensure the ditch is not placed at risk with additional flow.
2. Assess and redesign the Cameron Ditch headgate as necessary to facilitate increased capacity and water management flexibility.
3. Produce preliminary designs and cost estimates for a fish screen and bypass on the Indian Creek Ditch and the Madison River diversion channel to increase diversion capacity.
4. Build a broader partnership within the Ditch Company, including outreach to adjacent producers and landowners, and engage with state and federal agencies to develop additional funding for implementation of further options.

III. Methods:

Task 1. Cameron Ditch Capacity Assessment

Secure qualified engineer to examine a set of cross-sections of the Cameron Ditch to identify the extent of existing canal liner, calculate and reaffirm existing flow capacity, and examine the risk of canal failure at increased flow levels of +10 and +20 cfs by conducting a stress test at higher flows.

Task 2. Headgate Design

Assess the condition of existing headgate and propose design improvements that would:

1. continue to convey current flow levels,
2. accommodate up to 20 cfs in additional flow, and
3. identify options for more precise adjustments that would divert water rights as necessary but allow timely adjustments that would minimize capture of pulse flows.

Task 3. Fish Screen Design, Diversion Channel and Floater Bypass

Produce preliminary (50%) designs and cost estimates for a fish screen and bypass to minimize entrainment in the Cameron Ditch. Survey existing Madison River side channel (leading to Cameron Diversion) to assess existing channel capacity and produce preliminary designs for a floater-friendly bypass near the diversion.

Task 4. Build Partnership

Build a broader partnership with the Ditch Company, with outreach by TU and Madison River Foundation staffers to MadTAC members, adjacent landowners and agricultural producers; and local, state and federal agencies. Additionally, identify individual, foundation, and public grant sources to support implementation phases.

IV. **Schedule**:

Table 1. Project Timeline - 2027

	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Task 1												
Task 2												
Task 3												
Task 4												

V. **Personnel:**

Trout Unlimited staff including Pat Byorth, Connor Parrish (Project Leader), and Meg Casey will be primarily responsible for coordinating the work associated with this project. Mia Cignoni and Keith Brauneis of Madison River Foundation will collaborate in executing the project. WGM Group will be retained to conduct the engineering assessment.

VI. Project budget:

Table 2. Project Budget

Direct Labor	$28,870.00
Travel and Living	$980.00
Materials	$0.00
Other Direct Expenses	$61,000.00
Direct Overhead	$9,150.00
Cost share / in-kind	$37,500.00
Total	**$137,000.00**

VII. Deliverables;

The deliverables for the project will include: a summary report of findings of Tasks 1-3, including a narrative summarizing results and recommendations, preliminary designs where necessary, and maps and figures to illustrate findings.

VIII. Cultural Resource Management:

This project will not disturb land outside of the existing Indian Creek ditch system. Any excavation will occur within the footprint of the ditch system. Thus, no cultural resources will be disturbed and no compliance will be required.

IX. Water Rights:

At this stage of the greater project, we do not expect any change in the Ditch Company's water rights to be necessary. Once preliminary designs and advanced assessments are completed, the Ditch Company and partners would decide on the next steps that may require changes in water rights. For example, if the decision was made to divert a portion of the Ditch Company's Indian Creek water rights at Cameron Diversion, an additional point of diversion would need to be added to the water rights. Similarly, if the decision was made to line a reach of the Indian Creek Ditch to conserve water as instream flow, a change authorization would be necessary to protect conserved water in Indian Creek.

2027 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: Emergency/contingency fund

Date: 11/9/2026

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): Priority 1: This fund will be used for, but not be limited to, emergency purchasing of equipment, scoping potential stream rehab proposals, and support of 2024 approved proposals.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: During ongoing operations and proposal work there are times when this approved proposal would allow for immediate funding of equipment, stream restoration assessments or other conditions that may require immediate attention. This proposal will eliminate (within the $10,000 limit) the need for TAC approval of a new proposal for spending of TAC funds.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Jon Hanson

Location of Proposed Project: Within TAC approved proposals.

Total Project Cost: $10,000

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: $10,000

I. Introduction; Contingency funding to be used in emergency situations

II. Objectives; To have TAC approved funding for emergency situations as noted above.

III. Methods; Funding will used for situations as noted above.

IV. Schedule; Used when needed during 2027

V. Personnel; NWE will determine and report usage of funding.

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor
Travel and Living
Materials…yes
Other Direct Expenses…yes
Direct Overhead
All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions

VII. Deliverables; describe work product (reports, habitat restoration, etc.) which will result from this Project. Spending will be reported at annual meeting.

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. Generally NA but maybe used for this if needed

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

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 9 March 2016. NA

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

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.

2027 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: Norris Island Side Channel Supplement

Date: 11/13/2026

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): Priority 1: This project will build upon the original Norris Island construction work that occurred in 2025. Based on monitoring and observations by MFWP and NWE biologists, the additional side channel created in 2025 provides good habitat for juvenile fish. Further enhancement of this small side channel includes introducing additional CFS into the channel to increase the habitat and velocities. The channel is adequately sized to handle additional flow capacity.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: *Work is within the Lower mainstem Madison River and therefore a Priority 1 project.*

Project Sponsor (submitted by): *NWE, RDG, MFWP*

Location of Proposed Project: *Lower Madison River, Norris Islands. Lat: 45°35'59.40"N: Lon: 111°34'22.04"W*

Total Project Cost: *$20,000*

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: *$20,000*

I. Introduction; *NWE and MFWP are interested in increasing the quantity of flow through the floodplain side channel in the Norris Islands project (Figure 1). Providing more flow during baseflow conditions will provide more suitable habitat for juvenile salmonids. After a year of monitoring and observation biologists would like to see more water flowing through the side channel. Electrofishing efforts detected some salmonid use but were primarily dace. More water in the channel at lower flows is expected to retain more juvenile salmonids in the newly created habitat.*



Figure 1. Constructed 625' floodplain side channel adjacent to highway.

II. Objectives; *Increase the flow through the constructed channel.*

III. Methods; *RDG will direct work to modify the entrance of the side channel. The work will primarily consist of re-grading a portion of the confluence of the side channel and mainstem Madison River. TNT will be the contractor finishing the work and are the ones that completed the original construction.*
Permits acquired for the original construction are still valid and only a 310 should be needed. Mobilization costs will be minor as the project can be accomplished as the contractor is moving to a different project in the Madison Valley.

IV. Schedule; *Spring 2027*

V. Personnel; *Jon Hanson, John Muhlfeld, Matt Jaeger*

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Direct Labor
Travel and Living
Materials- *$5,000 (included if additional rock may be necessary)*
Other Direct Expenses- *Construction $15,000*
Direct Overhead
All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions

VII. Deliverables; describe work product (reports, habitat restoration, etc.) which will result from this Project. *A summary of the work will be available and subsequent biological monitoring of the side channel has been incorporated into current FWP monitoring.*

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. Generally NA but maybe used for this if needed

Summarize here how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management*: CRM inventory and SHPO consultation was completed prior to the initial construction work.*

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 9 March 2016. NA

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

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, 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.

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: 2027 Beaverhead-Deerlodge Staff and Technician Funding Request

Date: 11/16/2026

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

This project would partially fund a USFS Fisheries Biologist and Technician to assist MTFWP biologists, NorthWestern Energy staff, and other NGO cooperating partners on multiple projects and monitoring efforts in field season 2027. Dedicated funds for the biologist and technician would prioritize work and data collection on the Madison over other non-priority work elsewhere on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Specific goals to achieve include: continuing developing the stream restoration plan along the lower West Fork Madison in partnership with Trout Unlimited for the constructed high-water overflow channel project. Other goals include continuing to support Westslope cutthroat expansion through the necessary NEPA coordination and analysis; identifying and assessing road/stream crossings that inhibit aquatic organism passage, as well as overseeing the contracted removal of a failed bridge and abandoned vault toilet in the floodplain along the Lower West Fork road. Other general duties that address the following articles include: population monitoring for species of special concern (population estimates, presence/absence surveys, nonnative removals, collection of genetic material); fish barrier site identification, reconnaissance, and barrier maintenance; and assist NWE & MFWP fisheries personnel with their 2027 program of work (monitoring and project) as needed in the Madison River drainage.

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

Priority 2: The USFS biologist and technician will collect data for ongoing and future priority work while also assisting with projects that meet License Article requirements and PM&E for fisheries populations and their habitats in primary tributaries and provide PM&E for Madison River resources, in coordination with USFS, MTFWP and NWE fisheries personnel.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Jennifer Mickelson, USFS Beaverhead-Deerlodge Watershed Program Manager & Patrick Luckenbill, USFS Beaverhead-Deerlodge Fisheries Biologist

Location of Proposed Project: Madison River and its associated tributaries (Madison Ranger District)
Narrative

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat; _45.346323___ Long: __-111.742144_____

Total Project Cost: Total Project Cost: $15,271.00

TAC B-D GS/9 Fisheries Biologist: $373.55/day x 10 days	=$3,735.50
B-D GS/9 Fisheries Biologist: $373.55/day x 10 days	=$3,735.50
TAC B-D GS/9 Fisheries Technician: $340/day x 10 days	=$3,400.00
B-D GS/9 Fisheries Technician: $340/day x 10 days	=$3,400.00
TAC Field Gear for Biologist and Technician:	=$1000
TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:	=$8,135.50

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

While the Madison Ranger District continues to have a Fisheries Biologist staff vacancy that historically would be overseeing work related to the Madison River drainage, the coordination of this work has been absorbed by other Fisheries staff within the BDNF Watershed Program. The requested funding would dedicate a USFS BDNF Fisheries Biologist and a USFS BDNF Fisheries Technician to a minimum of 10 days of work within the Madison drainage by offsetting costs that would be incurred by the USFS. This funding method ensures the focus for 10 days is solely within the Madison and dedicated to MADTAC related work. While the USFS continues to have considerable budget reductions and modifications with an unclear funding and staffing future, this dedicated funding ensures proper attention and coordination is given to aquatic issues on the Madison.

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

-The USFS will be allocating $10,000 for the contracted removal of a failed bridge and abandoned vault toilet in the floodplain along the Lower West Fork Road.
-Data collection and continued planning with Trout Unlimited and Geum Consulting for the constructed high-water channel in the lower West Fork Madison.
-Internal coordination and planning with other USFS specialists to ensure timely NEPA compliance for future fish barrier construction on FS property.
-Advocate for the implementation of road BMP's as well as improvements to dispersed recreation along the lower West Fork.
-Range improvements in Upper Fox Creek and identification of other potential improvements throughout West Fork Madison.
-Assist MTFWP with 2027 field and project work as needed in the Madison River drainage.

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

A Forest Service biologist and technician will work to collect data and outline stream rehabilitation plans for the Lower West Fork Madison while also working cooperatively with NWE, MTFWP crews, and other NGO partners throughout the FY27 field season to accomplish PM&E projects in the Madison River drainage.

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

Present - November 2027

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

Project lead is a USFS BDNF Fisheries Biologist with assistance from USFS BDNF Fisheries Technician

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor =$7,135.50
- Travel and Living
- Materials =$1000
- Other Direct Expenses
- Direct Overhead*
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of "in-kind" contributions

***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?

With the first phase of the lower West Fork constructed overflow channel completed, success for this project will include steps to fully fund and implement the rest of the design along with completed improvements to the dispersed recreation site. Other successful project implementation will include the ongoing use of seasonal temporary fencing in upper Fox Creek to limit impacts from livestock grazing, as well as assisting MTFWP, NorthWestern staff, or NGO partners with planned project and monitoring work.

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:

Not Applicable-cultural resource management is not as part of this proposal.

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 9 March 2016.

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

Not Applicable.

All TAC Project proposals should be 7 pages or less and emailed (as a WORD file) to each of:

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- Jon.Hanson@Northwestern.com

Further questions about TAC proposals or Project 2188 license requirements or related issues may be addressed to:

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O 406-444-8115
C 406-565-7549