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:

Revitalizing Missouri River Tributaries and Riparian Corridors (2027-2029)

Date:

9/28/2026

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

License Article 423 focuses on developing a vegetation and wildlife monitoring and enhancement plan that includes specific goals, objectives, and standards to enhance native plants and wildlife populations on the lands and waters associated with the project. The proposed project on Dog Creek and an additional Spring Coulee, both direct tributaries to the Missouri River, will use a Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR) method to restore 5 miles of degraded stream. Low-tech restoration methods will raise the water table, reduce stream-bed incision, and dissipate stream energy during peak flows. The riparian footprint will increase, allowing seasonal wetlands and mesic meadows to form and retain water longer into the growing season, creating more wildlife habitat in critical riparian areas. Additionally, the project will create and implement a monitoring protocol for identified aquatic and terrestrial species and their habitats. The project's structure will meet License Article 423 goals and ultimately help restore a degraded intermittent tributary of the Missouri River and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat quality throughout the treated reaches.

Justify Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected:

The restoration projects are classified as a Priority 2 project because Dog Creek and the Spring Coulee are direct tributaries to the Missouri River and flow intermittently/ephmeraly. The project will focus on increasing fish and wildlife populations by enhancing habitat through low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR).

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Montana Conservation Corps (Applicant), Prickly Pear Land Trust (Sponsor), Canyon Cattle Co. (Sponsor), Juedeman 7 Mile LLC (Sponsor)

Location of Proposed Project:

Canyon Cattle Co.

- **Narrative**: Canyon Cattle Co. will host a project to restore a spring-fed coulee that flows directly into the Missouri River. The proposed project will take place northwest of Craig, MT, in Lewis & Clark County, and will cover about two miles of stream.
- **Geocode:** 05-2552-26-2-01-01-0000 , 05-2552-23-1-01-01-0000
- **Lat, Long:** Upstream (-111.967086°, 47.132408°) Downstream (-111.94560, 47.11978)

Juedeman 7 Mile LLC

- **Narrative**: Juedeman & Mile LLC will host a project to restore several miles of Dog Creek, a direct tributary to the Missouri River. The proposed project will take place southwest of Craig, MT, in Lewis & Clark County, to revitalize Dog Creek's riparian area, totaling three miles of stream.
- **Geocode:**05-2446-04-1-01-01-0000, 05-2552-32-2-01-01-0000, 05-2552-30-4-01-01-0000
- **Lat, Long:** Upstream (-112.035488°, 47.121144°) Downstream (-111.99365°, 47.08689°)

Total Project Cost:

	Year 1 (2027)	*Year 2 (2028)*	*Year 3 (2029)*	*3-Year Total*
Total Requested NWE Funds: *Project Supplies + Project Labor +Tech. Assist.+Admin*	**$17,727.15**	**$36,555.65**	**$17,727.15**	**$72,009.94**
Total Project Match:	$12,509.16	$12,009.16	$12,009.16	**$36,527.48**
Project Total:	$30,236.31	$48,564.81	$29,736.31	**$108,537.42**

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:

	Year 1 (2027)	*Year 2 (2028)*	*Year 3 (2029)*	*3-Year Total*
Total Requested NWE Funds: *Project Supplies + Project Labor +Tech. Assist.+Admin*	**$17,727.15**	**$36,555.65**	**$17,727.15**	**$72,009.94**

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

Project Site Background

The proposed projects encompass an upper watershed management approach. The goal of utilizing this approach is to reduce sediment, arrest incision, attenuate peak flows, recharge the groundwater, sequester carbon, create habitat, and restore the hydrology of the Missouri River watershed's headwaters to pre-development conditions. *(Sonoma Resource Conservation District.2025, June).* The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has listed the Upper Missouri-Dearborn, a Missouri River subwatershed, as impaired for excess sedimentation/silt, nitrogen, and arsenic. An upper-watershed approach is ideal for addressing these impairments. Canyon Cattle Co. and Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC, are neighboring properties with deep-rooted historical family ties to cattle operations. The two properties border the Missouri River canyon near Craig, MT, and, combined, account for five stream miles that are direct tributaries of the Missouri River. (See Figure 1). Working across property lines to implement riparian restoration projects will undoubtedly

maximize upper-watershed impact and promote healthy, resilient riparian ecosystems under current and future drought conditions.

Intact mesic habitat and tributary corridors are essential ecological anchors for many key wildlife species. These lush, water-rich bottoms provide critical migration corridors, fawning grounds, and late-summer forage for elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and black bears, while also supporting sharp-tailed grouse, songbirds, amphibians, and pollinators. Beyond terrestrial wildlife, the water quality of these tributaries directly affects the health of the Missouri's downstream fisheries. Clean, cold tributary inflows deliver vital oxygen, prevent excess silt from burying spawning gravels, and provide thermal refuges for valuable fish populations during peak summer heat. Protecting and improving water quality in these tributary systems is essential to sustaining both the ecological integrity and the recreational economy of the Missouri River corridor.

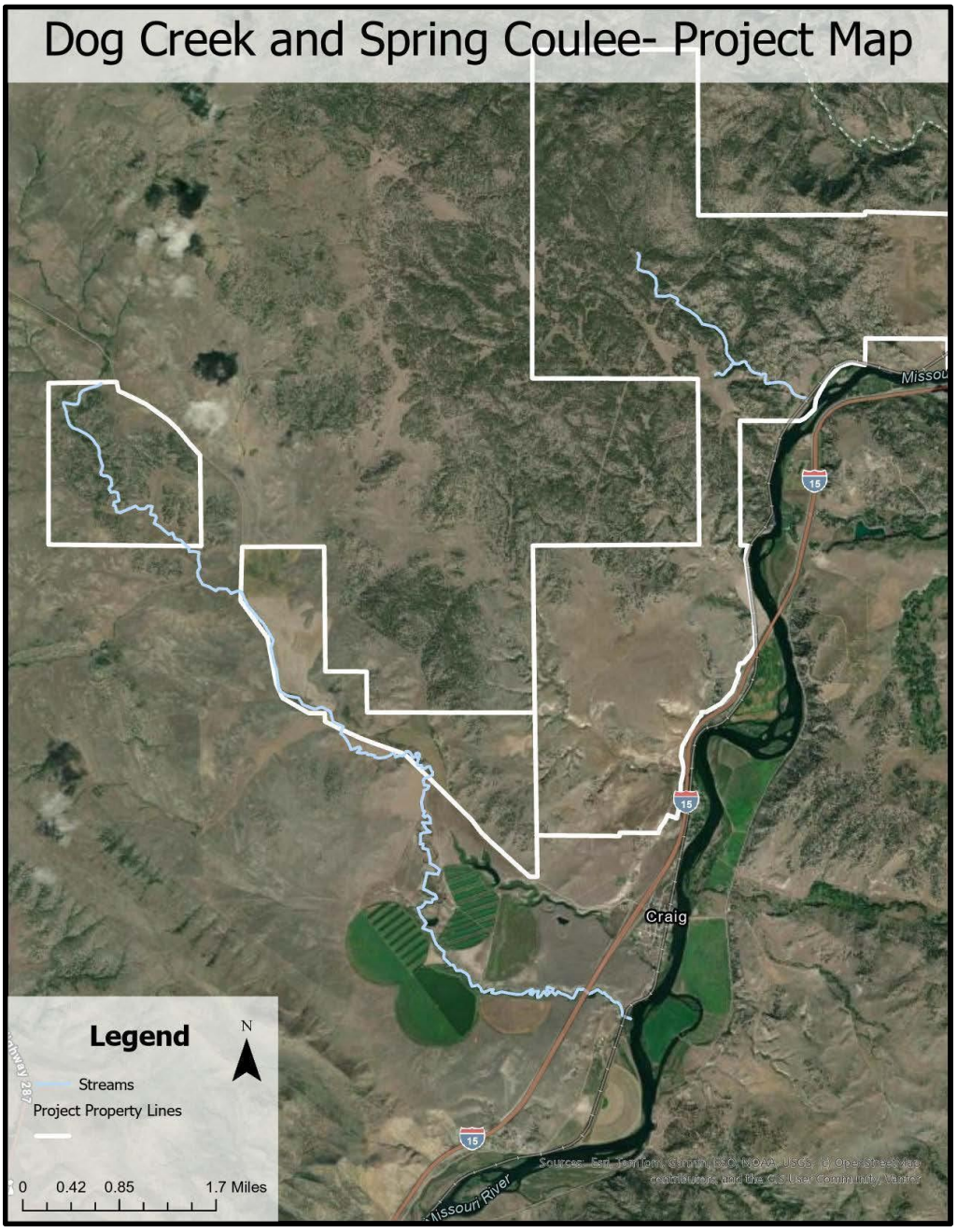


Figure 1: Canyon Cattle Co. & Juedeman 7 Mile - combined property boundaries in relation to Missouri River

The land across both properties features areas with significant elevation changes, supporting coniferous vegetation and a mix of short grass and shrubby vegetation. The proposed project areas include Dog Creek, a small perennial-to-intermittent stream on the Seven Mile LLC property, and an intermittent-to-ephemeral Spring Coulee on the Canyon Cattle Co. property. The following subparagraphs further detail the project areas.

Canyon Cattle Co. - Spring Coulee Site Conditions and History

Montana Conservation Corps conducted a site assessment of Spring Coulee in the summer of 2025. The main channel appears intact, with little incision; however, the surrounding floodplain and riparian area would benefit from greater access to incoming flows. (Figure 2) Invasive species and upland vegetation are encroaching into the riparian area because ideal site conditions for desirable riparian and wetland species are lacking. The landowner chose this stream as the focus area primarily because of its history; the stream channel historically had surface-level flows that reached the confluence with the Missouri River but has since receded about 0.25 miles from the confluence due to drought conditions and a weakened riparian area. The primary management goal is increased water pooling and retention, as water is sometimes pumped out during dry periods. The conditions are better suited to BDAs, especially with limited cattle impoundment. Montana Conservation Corps, in partnership with Prickly Pear Land Trust, provided 1 year of funding to kick-start the Spring Coulee stream restoration project. Montana Conservation Corps Restoration Field Crews installed 24 low-tech structures in the summer of 2026 (Figure 3). Additionally, the landowner will implement a stock-water project in 2027 to reduce cattle pressure on Spring Coulee.



Figure 2: Site conditions pre-restoration work



Figure 3: Beaver Dam Analog installed on Spring Coulee in 2026.

Juedeman 7 Mile - Dog Creek Site Conditions and History

Montana Conservation Corps conducted a site assessment of Spring Coulee in the summer of 2026. Dog Creek was identified as the priority system for restoration. Drought has impacted Dog Creek; evidence shows decreased water retention, bare soils, invasive weeds, and isolated pools lacking wetland and riparian vegetation, making algae common. Despite these impacts, the site supports a strong native plant community with a healthy seed bank, indicating good recovery potential. The surrounding land features steep ravines; however, Dog Creek sits on a relatively flat valley floor, and its source flow comes from several natural springs. Rock-based structures are less feasible; however, large amounts of deadwood are available on site for PALS or BDAs. Landowner priorities include improving riparian vegetation production and increasing surface water pools on the landscape. This site would benefit from riparian fencing/cattle exclusion sites, which could be a future project.



Figure 4: Dog Creek Site Conditions

Both Spring Coulee on Canyon Cattle Co. and Dog Creek on Juedeman 7 Mile LCC are spring-fed systems that have become degraded due to drought conditions. Historic drought conditions have increased channel incision, reduced floodplain connectivity, diminished native riparian vegetation, and left bare, erosive soils. These altered conditions have limited the stream's ability to retain water and support diverse riparian and upland wildlife habitat. The proposed restoration actions are designed to work with natural fluvial processes to reestablish hydrologic and ecological function across both project areas, resulting in a larger upper watershed-level impact.

Proposed Project: Revitalizing Missouri River Tributaries

Joint Landowner priorities (Canyon Cattle Co. & Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC)

1. Increase water retention on the landscape to recharge the spring-fed systems
2. Increase riparian plant production & improve vegetative biodiversity
3. Decrease high rates of erosion through improving ground cover
4. Enhance the riparian habitat
5. Limit cattle presence within the riparian area
6. Monitor for short-term and long-term results

Through a site visit with PPLT, MCC, Judeman 7-Mile, and Canyon Cattle Co. landowners, the group completed a collaborative prioritization process and identified two primary stream systems as the most strategic and feasible locations

to kick-start the collaborative restoration effort. Given current degradation concerns and landowner goals, project partners determined that both the Spring Coulee and Dog Creek would benefit from a low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) method. Process-based restoration is defined as protecting, enhancing, and/or restoring normative rates and magnitudes of physical, chemical, and biological processes that sustain river and floodplain ecosystems. The combined project sites will implement approximately 100 low-tech structures throughout 5 miles of stream. The project will use two primary structures: Beaver-Dam Analogs (BDAs) and Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS). The structures will address stream impairments by capturing and storing water during spring runoff, promoting sediment deposition and reducing stream incision. Over time, these structures will raise the water table, recharge springs, and increase the historic mesic/wetland footprint of the stream, improving stream habitat quality and increasing the diversity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.

Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs)

BDAs are channel-spanning structures designed to mimic the form and function of natural beaver dams. These structures reduce stream velocity, promote aggradation, increase overbank flooding, and raise local groundwater levels. BDAs at this site are anticipated to consist primarily of double post-line configurations, incorporating locally sourced woody material and live willow to encourage long-term vegetative establishment and structural resilience.



Figure 5: Example of a Beaver Dam Analog. (Left - Before installation) (Right - After installation of BDA). Note the water-level rise, allowing increased water retention and floodplain connectivity.

Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS)

PALS are constructed using untreated wooden posts and large woody material to create grade control and flow-deflecting features within the channel. Within the Canyon Cattle Co. drainage, channel-spanning and bank-attached PALS will promote sediment retention, induce lateral channel movement, and encourage a more sinuous channel planform. These structures are intended to work in conjunction with BDAs to restore natural channel processes and floodplain interaction.



Figure 6: Example of a Post-Assisted Log Structure (PALS) working in conjunction with a BDA

The proposed projects on the Spring Coulee and Dog Creek will implement the low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) method along a combined 5 miles of stream within the Canyon Cattle Co. and Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC. Low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) techniques will address channel incision, raise the water table, promote the establishment and expansion of native riparian vegetation, pool water across the landscape, and recharge the spring-fed headwaters of these systems. The restoration actions are designed to work with natural fluvial processes to reestablish hydrologic and ecological function across the project area. By revitalizing these natural processes, the goal is to make the land more resilient to drought, ultimately bolstering fish and wildlife habitat for the Upper Missouri River Watershed.

In addition to implementing low-tech, process-based stream restoration, the project also proposes riparian cattle exclusion fences along 3,000 lin-ft of Spring Coulee. Riparian exclusion fences help restore stream processes on working lands by removing heavy hoof traffic, reducing the sediment load entering the stream. Additionally, riparian fencing will eliminate direct fecal deposition in stream flows by livestock, drastically reducing bacteria, nitrogen, and phosphorus levels. Establishing an exclusion zone will also allow native grasses and shrubs to reestablish, acting as a natural buffer in the riparian area. Installed exclusion fencing will follow the wildlife-friendly fence guidelines established by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MT FWP) to allow wildlife to utilize the riparian zone.

While this proposal focuses on implementation within the identified stream reaches, both landowners, Montana Conservation Corps and Prickly Pear Land Trust, view this effort as a pilot phase that will inform and guide future restoration across additional stream reaches and adjacent properties, as resources and partnerships allow. The success of this project will serve as an example for the area and encourage continued collaboration, with hopes of expanding conservation benefits across the broader landscape and improving overall water quality and quantity for the Missouri River.

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

The following objectives have been developed for both riparian restoration projects in conjunction with the project partners and landowners:

- Raise the water table within the system
- Induce stream channel complexity and connectivity
- Slow the rate of erosion
- Increase native woody vegetation recruitment and overall plant diversity in the riparian area
- Enhance and increase fish & wildlife habitat (aquatic and terrestrial species)
- Protect the riparian area through installing a riparian fence along the project area (Canyon Cattle Co.)

The following monitoring objectives will be accomplished to obtain measurable short-term and long-term outcomes

- Plant composition surveys (in determined control/experimental reaches)
- Width/depth ratio measurements at each structure location
- Established permanent photo points

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

Canyon Cattle Co. - Spring Coulee Restoration

With support from the NWE Wild-TAC program, approximately 2 miles of riparian and stream restoration work will be conducted on Spring Coulee over the next three years (2027-2029) by working in three identified project reaches (See Figure 7). Low-tech structures will be strategically selected and placed within the stream to address impairment and promote natural processes. The structures will be placed approximately 20-30 yards apart, totaling 40 +/- 10 structures, given the system's steeper gradient (4-6%). To complement the stock water development project and protect the proposed riparian restoration project, 3,000 lin-ft of riparian fence will be installed. Lastly, the project lead will obtain the necessary permits to implement the restoration project: Conservation District 310 Permit, DEQ 318 Permit, and Nationwide 27 Section 404 permit with the Army Corps of Engineers.

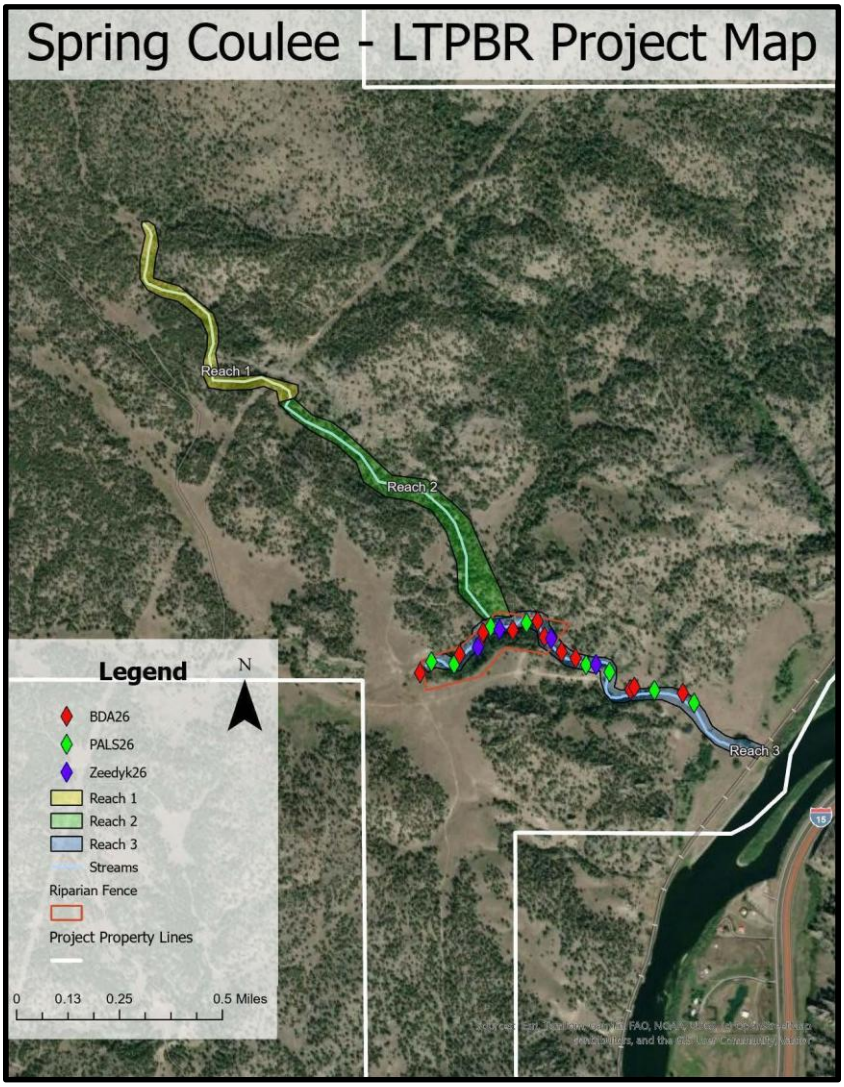


Figure 7: The three project reaches are identified via colored polygons. The red-outlined area indicates where the riparian fence will be placed.

Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC - Dog Creek Restoration

With support from the NWE Wild-TAC program, approximately 3 miles of riparian and stream restoration work will be conducted on Dog Creek over the next three years (2027-2029) across four identified project reaches (See Figure 8). Each low-tech structure will be placed strategically within the stream to address the impairment and promote natural processes. The 60+/- 10 structures will be placed approximately 30-40 yards apart, given the lesser gradients (2-3%). The project lead will obtain the necessary permits to implement the restoration project: Conservation District 310 Permit, DEQ 318 Permit, and Nationwide 27 Section 404 permit with the Army Corps of Engineers.

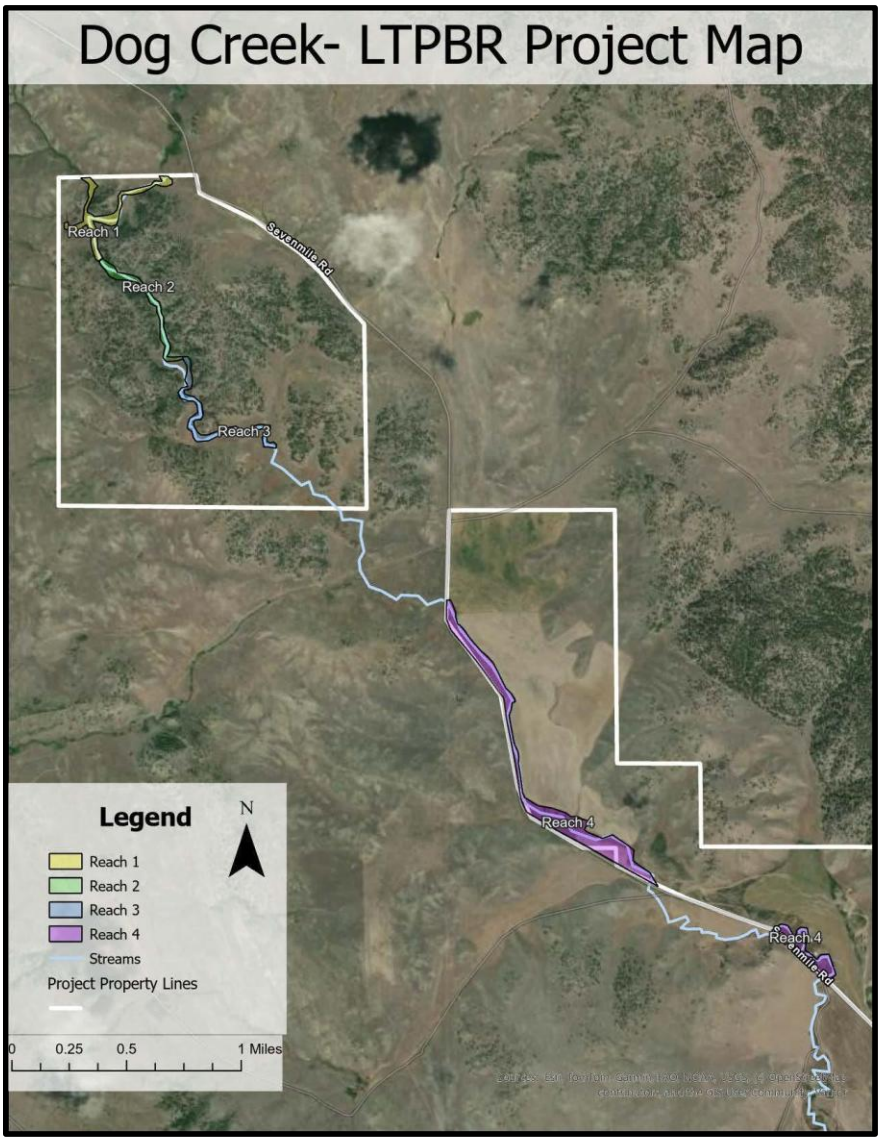


Figure 8: The four project reaches are identified in upper Dog Creek via colored polygons.

Implementation

The MCC Restoration Field Crew, led and trained by MCC staff, will be the primary and most efficient source for addressing the labor demands of installing riparian fence and low-tech structures. Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) field crews will complete 8 weeks' worth of restoration work across both properties using hand-built techniques.

Throughout both project properties, the construction of the combined 100+ low-tech structures will follow the guidelines set by the Natural Resources Conservation Service for properly installing low-tech structures and will rely exclusively on all-natural materials, including: (Figures 9-10)

- Untreated wooden posts

- Locally sourced woody material (conifer, willow, cottonwood, etc.)
- Deadwood harvested from the property
- Sod collected on-site

The construction of 3,000ft of riparian fence, specifically on Canyon Cattle Co., will follow the specifications listed in MT-FWP's *A Landowner's Guide to Wildlife-Friendly Fences* (Figure 11) and will be built utilizing the following materials:

- Smooth Wire
- Barbed Wire
- T-posts
- H-braces

Montana Conservation Corps staff will partner with Prickly Pear Land Trust to allocate and manage volunteer assistance from community members. Additionally, MCC AmeriCorps members will conduct monitoring, and maintenance will be conducted as needed throughout the three-year funding treatment period.

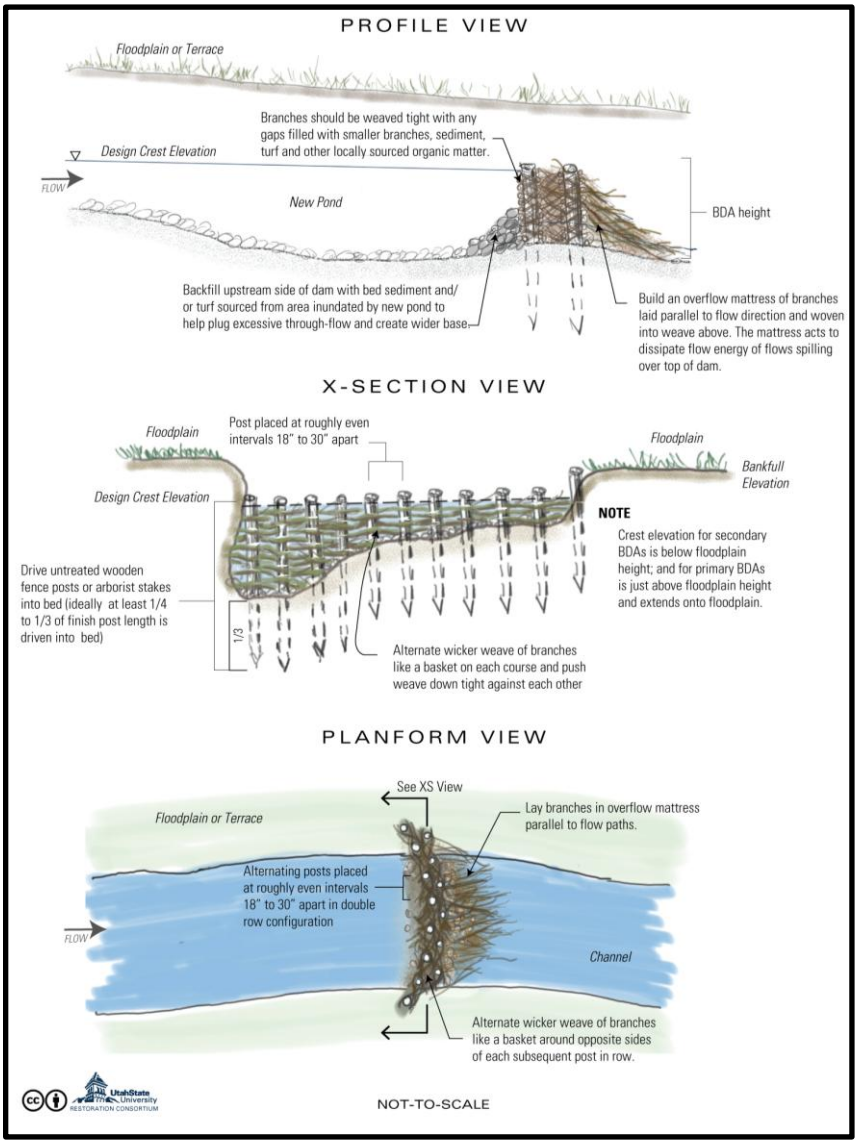


Figure 9: Design layout of a Beaver Dam Analog

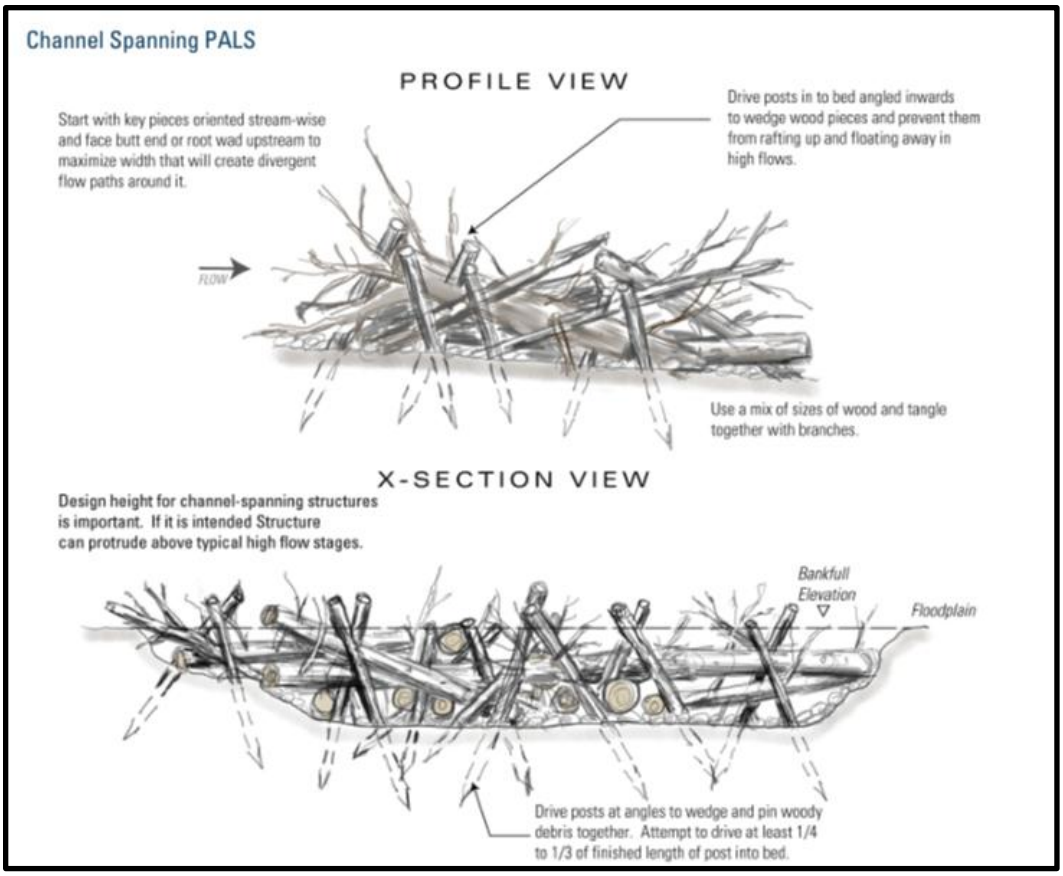


Figure 10: Design layout of a Post-Assisted Log Structure

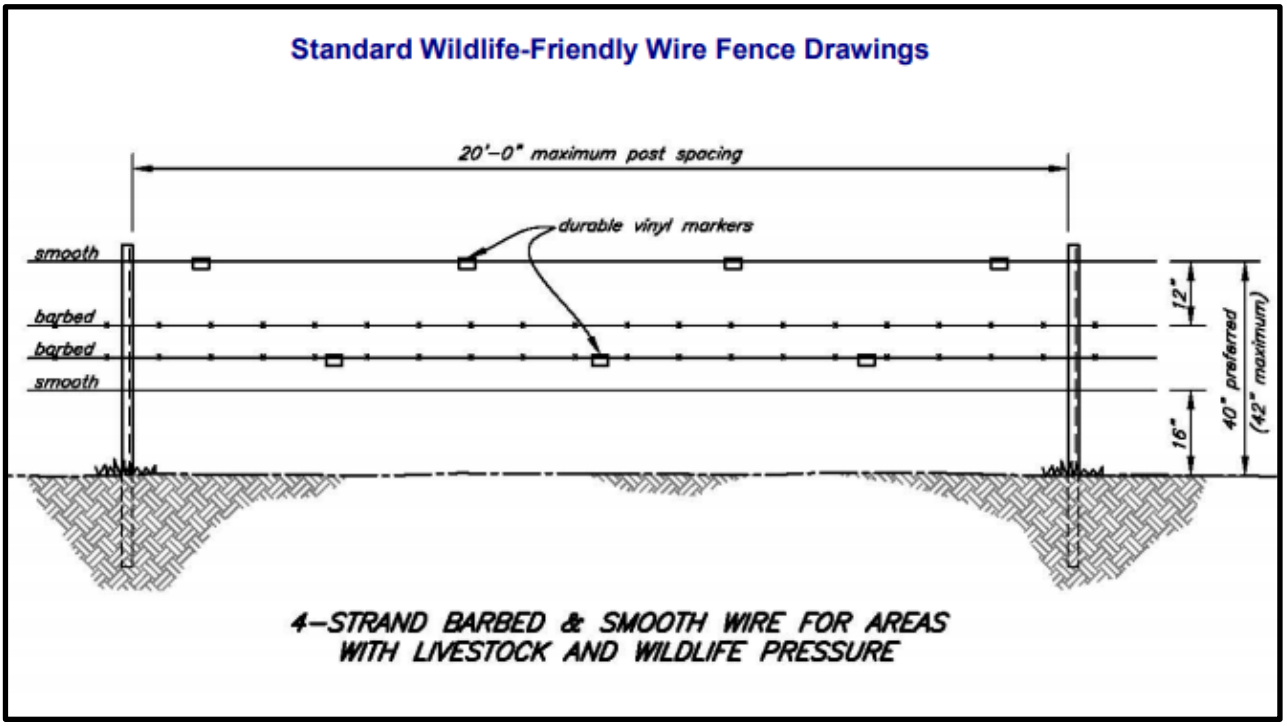


Figure 11: Design layout for the wildlife-friendly riparian fence

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

Revitalizing Missouri River Tributaries and Riparian Corridors																
Task	2026	Fall	2027	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	2028	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	2029	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Contact partners, solidify partnership roles, and finalize work plan		X		X	X				X	X				X	X		
Project plans/permits finalized and submitted				X	X												
Implement LTPBR Project						X					X					X	
Project monitoring						X					X					X	
Additional habitat improvement projects (riparian fence-Canyon Cattle Co. ONLY)											X						
Assess success of project and any "future-work" discussion							X					X					X

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

- **Autumn Holzgen - Montana Conservation Corps:** Autumn has worked closely with various stakeholders throughout the proposed project area over the last four years. She has received training in wet meadow/mesic restoration activities. She has spent the last 7+ years working with landowners and local groups to implement restoration projects by writing project plans and securing the necessary permits and maintenance agreements. Autumn will be the overall project manager and will be responsible for project communications, scheduling, and reporting.
- **Montana Conservation Corps - Restoration Field Crew:** The Restoration Field Crew is a part of the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) long-standing field crew program. The field crew comprises four adult AmeriCorps members who MCC staff manage and train in specific leadership and technical skills. The field crew will have the necessary vehicles, tools, and equipment to implement the restoration project. Additionally, the crews will be trained to obtain the knowledge required to implement LTPBR projects.
- **Regan Ware - Montana Conservation Corps:** Regan brings a strong background in agriculture and rangeland management to the Northern Great Plains Program. She has worked in Montana on invasive species management and in South Dakota on holistic rangeland systems, developing extensive knowledge of grazing practices, plant identification, and applied land stewardship. Her experience across diverse public and private lands strengthens MCC's ability to collaborate effectively with ranchers and other stakeholders while aligning restoration strategies with working-lands management.
- **Prickly Pear Land Trust (PPLT):** Prickly Pear Land Trust's mission is to connect people to the land, water, wildlife, and agricultural heritage of central Montana through conservation, recreation, and education. They have an easement with Canyon Cattle Co. in place and will provide a cash match to support the proposed restoration project.
- **Mark Juedeman - Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC (Landowner)**: Mark and his family are active land stewards seeking innovative ways to restore and conserve the land, its resources, and vital habitat. Mark and his family will work with Montana Conservation Corps to guide project planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- **Kevin Juedeman - Canyon Cattle, Co. (Landowner):** Landowner of Canyon Cattle Co.; Kevin operates a cattle ranch and is proactive in best management practices to sustain the land and the vital habitat it provides. Kevin

will help guide the project planning, implementation, and monitoring. Additionally, Kevin will lead riparian fencing efforts to ensure the placement and specifications are implemented adequately.

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

Revitalizing Missouri River Tributaries and their Riparian Corridors (2027-2029)					
Project Supplies					
Purpose	**Calculation**	***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year SubTotal***
Purchased Untreated Wood Posts	300 posts x $2 each	$600.00	$600.00	$600.00	$1,800.00
Riparian Fence	(Barbed & Smooth Wire, T-Post, H-Brace)	$0.00	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00
	Project Supplies Subtotal:	**$600.00**	**$5,600.00**	**$600.00**	**$6,800.00**
Project Labor					
Purpose	**Calculation**	***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year SubTotal***
MCC - Restoration Field Crew	2 weeks x $6,300 per week	$12,600.00	$25,200.00	$12,600.00	$50,400.00
	Project Labor Subtotal:	**$12,600.00**	**$25,200.00**	**$12,600.00**	**$50,400.00**
Technical Assistance					
Purpose	**Calculation**	***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year SubTotal***
MCC Staff: Autumn Holzgen	$37.57 per hour x 80 hours	$3,005.60	$3,005.60	$3,005.60	$9,016.80
	Technical Assistance Subtotal:	**$3,005.60**	**$3,005.60**	**$3,005.60**	**$9,016.80**
Admin Rate					
Purpose	**Calculation**	***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year SubTotal***
MCC Federally Approved Admin Rate	(Project Labor + Technical Assistance) * 9.75%	$1,521.55	$2,750.05	$1,521.55	$5,793.14
	Admin Rate Subtotal:	**$1,521.55**	**$2,750.05**	**$1,521.55**	**$5,793.14**
Project Match					
Purpose	**Calculation**	***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year SubTotal***
Local Volunteers Recruited by MCC	3 volunteers x ($36.14 per hour x 8 hours)	$867.36	$867.36	$867.36	$2,602.08
Landowner In-kind	2 Landowners x ($36.14 per hour x 40 hours)	$2,891.20	$2,891.20	$2,891.20	$8,673.60
MCC - Restoration Field Crew In-kind	2 weeks x $2,622.50 per week	$5,245.00	$5,245.00	$5,245.00	$15,735.00
MCC Staff: Regan Ware In-kind	$37.57 per hour x 80 hours	$3,005.60	$3,005.60	$3,005.60	$9,016.80
*Prickly Pear Land Trust - Donation to Support project work for Canyon Cattle Co.		$500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$500.00
	Project Match Subtotal:	**$12,509.16**	**$12,009.16**	**$12,009.16**	**$36,527.48**
***Notes:** *Pending Final Approval*. Volunteer hourly rate is determined using the Independent Sector Volunteer Rate. MCC Crew in-kind match is based on national service participant living stipend subtracted from the Independent Sector Volunteer Rate for each year (which is currently accepted as in-kind match by the BLM, NPS, BoR, USFWS and NRCS).*		***Year 1 (2027)***	***Year 2 (2028)***	***Year 3 (2029)***	***3-Year Total***
	Total Requested NWE Funds: *Project Supplies + Project Labor +Tech. Assist.+Admin*	**$17,727.15**	**$36,555.65**	**$17,727.15**	**$72,009.94**
	Total Project Match:	$12,509.16	$12,009.16	$12,009.16	**$36,527.48**
	Project Total:	$30,236.31	$48,564.81	$29,736.31	**$108,537.42**

- **Year 1-3 (2027-2029):** The total cost to implement all three years is **$108,537.42**
  - The total project match to support all three project years is **$36,527.48**
    - Montana Conservation Corps will provide $27,353.88 as match
      - Montana Conservation Corps, in partnership with Prickly Pear Land Trust, will recruit 3 volunteers a year to serve 8 hours each at the project sites, totaling $2,602.08
      - Montana Conservation Corps will provide an in-kind match from our AmeriCorps Conservation Corps Crews, totaling $15,735.00
      - Regan Ware, an MCC employee, will provide technical assistance as match, totaling 80 hours per year ($9,016.80) to help meet project demand.
    - Both landowners, Canyon Cattle Co. and Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC, will provide 40 hours a year for in-kind match, totaling $8,673.60
    - Prickly Pear Land Trust has proposed a $500 donation to MCC to support the project
  - Montana Conservation Corps is requesting **$72,009.94** in funding from the NWE Wild-TAC Program
    - MCC is requesting $50,400 to fund 8 weeks of the Restoration Field Crews' labor to implement the low-tech structures and riparian fence

        - 4 weeks of labor for 2027 & 2029 (2 weeks per year) to support labor demands for installing low-tech structures
        - 4 weeks of labor alone for 2028, to account for the riparian fence project in addition to the continued installation of the low-tech structures
    - MCC is requesting $1,800 ($600 a year) to purchase three bundles of untreated posts to support the project's material needs for maintaining low-tech structures.
    - MCC is requesting $5,000 in 2028 to purchase the necessary riparian fencing materials
    - MCC is requesting $9,016.80 to cover 80 hours a year of Autumn Holzgen's time spent managing the project, crews, and overall communications and reporting.
    - MCC is requesting $5,793.14 to cover overhead (tech assistance + project labor)

***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?

By installing LTPBR structures to slow and disperse flow, the project will increase floodplain inundation frequency, promote sediment deposition, and raise the local water table. These hydrologic improvements will support the establishment and expansion of native riparian vegetation, improve soil moisture retention, and enhance habitat for riparian and upland wildlife. Increasing groundwater retention and reconnecting the stream to its floodplain will improve ecological resilience to drought and provide lasting conservation value to the properties.

The monitoring protocol for both Canyon Cattle Co. and Juedeman 7 Mile LLC, on Spring Coulee and Dog Creek, will evaluate changes in species richness, functional groups, native and non-native species, and overall vegetation cover within the riparian community. Changes in water availability following stream restoration may create conditions that support a different plant community over time. Monitoring plant composition within treatment and control reaches allows the landowners and project partners to determine whether these changes are associated with restoration rather than broader environmental conditions affecting the entire site. When paired with vegetation health measurements, plant composition provides a more complete picture of how the plant community is responding to restoration.

<u>Project deliverables will include the following for both Canyon Cattle Co and Juedeman 7 Mile, LLC project sites:</u>

- Montana Conservation Corps Restoration Field Crews will implement **40 low-tech structures, install 3,000 ft of riparian fence, and impact 580 acres of riparian habitat on Spring Coulee (Canyon Cattle Co.)**
    - The project will be implemented over four weeks (two 9-day, 80-hour hitches)
- Montana Conservation Corps Restoration Field Crews will implement **60 low-tech structures and impact 693 acres of riparian habitat on Dog Creek (Canyon Cattle Co.)**
    - The project will be implemented over four weeks (two 9-day, 80-hour hitches)
- **Yearly monitoring** will include the following:
    - Photo series taken from set points along treated reaches to document conditions before and after restoration efforts.
    - Measurements of stream bed depth and width at set points along treated reaches
- **Plant Composition will be measured** during the first year of implementation at each project site to establish a baseline, then repeated biannually for the next 3-6 years.
    - Establish 5 randomized 20-m transects within each sampling reach and maintain those transect locations for future monitoring.
    - 200-yard control and treatment reaches
- **Montana Conservation Corps will submit a yearly progress report** documenting completed work plans for future work and the performance of existing structures.

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:

Montana Conservation Corps, in conjunction with the landowners, will take the necessary steps to determine whether a CRM consultation process is needed to complete the restoration project. The proposed project will fully comply with the CRM process.

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:

The use of low-tech structures, such as Beaver Dam Analogs (BDA's), has been written into the Montana DNRC's Guidance for Landowners and Practitioners Engaged in Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities document, under Stream Restoration Projects #3 - Beaver Dam Analogs. Within this statement, it is stated that "So long as beaver analogs do not use control gates, culverts, headgates, ditches, or pipelines, they typically do not require a water right." The restoration projects will comply with this statement by following the Natural Resources Conservation Service guidelines for properly installing Low-Tech Structures. Additionally, all low-tech structures will use natural materials, be strategically placed by a trained project manager, and be implemented by a trained Restoration Field Crew. By returning year to year, MCC field crews will perform routine maintenance on the low-tech structures to ensure they continue to function properly.

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