

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

Project Name: West Fork Campground Improvement Project

Reservoir or River Segment: Upper Madison River County(ies) Madison

Site Name (or project location): West Fork Campground

Applicant Name: Joel Sather

Position and Agency: District Recreation Staff Officer, USFS/Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF/Madison RD

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Email: joel.sather@usda.gov

Project Sponsor Name: Erik Lundin

Position and Agency: Outdoor Recreation Planner/BLM

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Email: elundin@blm.gov

Project Cost Breakdown and Financial Request:

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

Total project cost:	<u>\$50,930</u>	
Applicant Contributions – cash	<u>\$11,584</u>	
Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind:	<u>\$4,446</u>	
Other Contributions – Please list by source:		
People & Carnivores	<u>\$400</u>	
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	<u>\$10,500</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	
	<u>\$</u>	Percentage of Total Project Cost:
Total Applicant and Other Contributions:	<u>\$26,930</u>	<u>53%</u>
NorthWestern Energy Match Request:	<u>\$4,008</u>	<u>8%</u>
River Fund Grant Request:	<u>\$19,992</u>	<u>39%</u>
Proposed Project Implementation Period:	<u>FY24</u>	

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

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

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

- ▶ *West Fork Campground is a seven-site, tent-only campground located at the confluence of the Madison and West Fork Madison Rivers. The site is popular throughout the busy summer fishing season, and it also sees a significant amount of use during the big game hunting season. The campground serves an important role as an alternative/overflow to the other busy USFS and BLM campgrounds in the river corridor.*

Most of the recreation furnishings at West Fork Campground are in severe disrepair (see pictures below.) The Madison Ranger District developed recreation crew will replace the furnishings at all seven sites. This would include picnic tables, fire rings, site marker posts, and site identification numbers. In addition, there are no bear boxes located at each site. Madison Ranger District would install bear boxes at each campsite to keep visitors safe and large carnivores wild.

This project proposal requests a total of \$24,000 for the purchase, delivery, and installation of a new vault toilet. The old vault toilets would be pumped, dismantled, and the site would be rehabilitated. The new location for the new vault toilet would be located at the entrance to the campground on the main road. The new location is centrally located to better serve visitors and provide restroom facilities to people traveling on the main road.

Detailed Project Cost Analysis:

➤ Applicant contributions-cash	
○ Picnic table bases. \$500/each x 7:	\$3,500
○ Picnic table boards. \$350 per table x 7:	\$2,450
○ Stain:	\$300
○ Fire rings. \$400/each x 7:	\$2,800
○ Rental equipment (excavator and packer).5 day rate:	\$1,600
○ Site marker posts. \$50/each x 7:	\$350
○ Site marker signs. \$12/each x 7:	\$84
○ Gravel:	\$500
 Subtotal:	 \$11,584
➤ Applicant contributions-value of in-kind	
○ GS-11. Daily rate \$400.00 x 2 days:	\$800
○ GS-9. Daily rate \$350.00 x 5 days:	\$1,750
○ GS-7. Daily rate \$189.00 x 5 days:	\$945
○ GS-5: Daily rate \$153.00 x 5 days:	\$765
○ Travel	
▪ Vehicle. \$7/day x 5 days:	\$35
▪ Fuel. .43/mile x 350 miles:	\$151
 Subtotal:	 \$4,446

➤ <i>Other contributions</i>	
○ <i>People & Carnivores. Bear box hardware:</i>	<i>\$400</i>
○ <i>Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Bear boxes. \$1,500 each x 7:</i>	<i>\$10,500</i>
<i>Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$10,900</i>

Total Applicant and Other Contributions: \$26,930

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

▶ *It is entirely feasible for us to complete the campground improvements and have the vault toilet installed in 2024. However, due to material shortages, contracting, and shipping delays, it is likely the vault toilet will not be installed until 2025.*

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NorthWestern Energy as a condition of awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds. Grant and matching funds may not be used for any land-disturbing activity, or the modification, renovation, or removal of any buildings or structures until the CRM consultation process has been completed. Agency applicants must submit a copy of the proposed project to a designated Cultural Resource Specialist for their agency. Private parties or non-governmental organizations are encouraged to submit a copy of their proposed project to a CRM consultant they may have employed. Private parties and non-governmental organizations may also contact the NorthWestern Energy representative for further information or assistance. Applications submitted without this section completed will be held without any action until the information has been submitted.

Summarize how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management.

▶ *All work will be performed in an existing developed recreation site. The picnic tables, fire rings, and site marker posts will be replaced in the same location therefore no CRM is needed. A new location will be selected for the vault toilet. The site will be reviewed by Ayme Swartz, Beaverhead-Deelodge NF Forest Archeologist and Heritage Program Manager.*

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

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

▶ *No.*

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

- ▶ *This project will meet operation and maintenance needs. All the recreation infrastructure at West Fork Campground is in a state of severe disrepair. Madison Ranger District will replace infrastructure with sustainable materials that will require less maintenance in the future. The grant request for a new vault toilet will replace two older model wooden vault toilets. This small campground only requires one vault toilet; therefore, the reduction of one vault toilet will reduce future maintenance costs and needs.*

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

- ▶ *This project proposal will work with the following partners:*
 - *People & Carnivores (P&C) have been working in the field to reduce conflicts between large carnivores, like grizzly and black bears, and people, with the goal of keeping people and their property safe and large carnivores wild. P&C is providing \$400 to this project to purchase materials to install the bear boxes.*
 - *Portions of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF lie within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). The GYE Forests have been partnering with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) to invest in attractant storage campground infrastructure. The most recent phase of this partnership has developed, and Madison Ranger District will be receiving a large number of campsite bear boxes. Bear boxes will be installed at each campsite in West Fork Campground.*
 - *Madison Ranger District will procure the new picnic table bases from the Anaconda Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (AJCC.) The AJCC encourages students to learn in nature and work to sustain and improve the land they live on. By embracing their natural surroundings, students at AJCC are able to train in additional career fields including forestry conservation. The AJCC built the picnic table bases that were used to upgrade Bear Creek Campground. The public loves the new picnic tables.*

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

- ▶ *The Madison/Missouri River corridor has seen a tremendous increase in visitors over the last five years. The agencies charged with managing the recreation sites are having a difficult time keeping up with this increased use. The goal of this project is to provide visitors with a clean and serviceable campground. This project would support the following issues and goals of the CRP:*
 - *Condition and Capacity of Recreation Sites and Use Area*
 - *Goal met by having a well-maintained campground.*
 - *User Demands/Desires for Various Uses and Experiences*
 - *Goal met by providing a “tent only” facility for that specific user group to avoid large campgrounds with trailers.*
 - *Universal Access and Related Opportunities*
 - *Goal met by having new, accessible recreation facilities.*

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

- ▶ *The Madison River corridor receives a tremendous amount of use. Missouri-Madison 2022 Visitor Use Counts show 25,645 group visits during the summer season in the immediate vicinity of West Fork Campground (Kirby Area, Lyon's Bridge FAS, and West Fork Campground.) West Fork Campground is small compared to the two other campgrounds in the area with Madison River and Riverview Campgrounds having a combined total of 34 sites. West Fork Campground serves a vital role in this area because there are often sites available in the campground which is important as surrounding campgrounds often fill up.*

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

- ▶ *This project is replacing the current campground infrastructure with new and improved facilities. The new infrastructure will be built with sustainable materials which will reduce future maintenance needs.*

As stated, West Fork Campground currently has two, old, wooden vault toilets. The campground only has seven sites and only needs one vault toilet. This project proposal would replace the two wooden vaults with a new concrete toilet. This will drastically reduce future maintenance costs and needs.

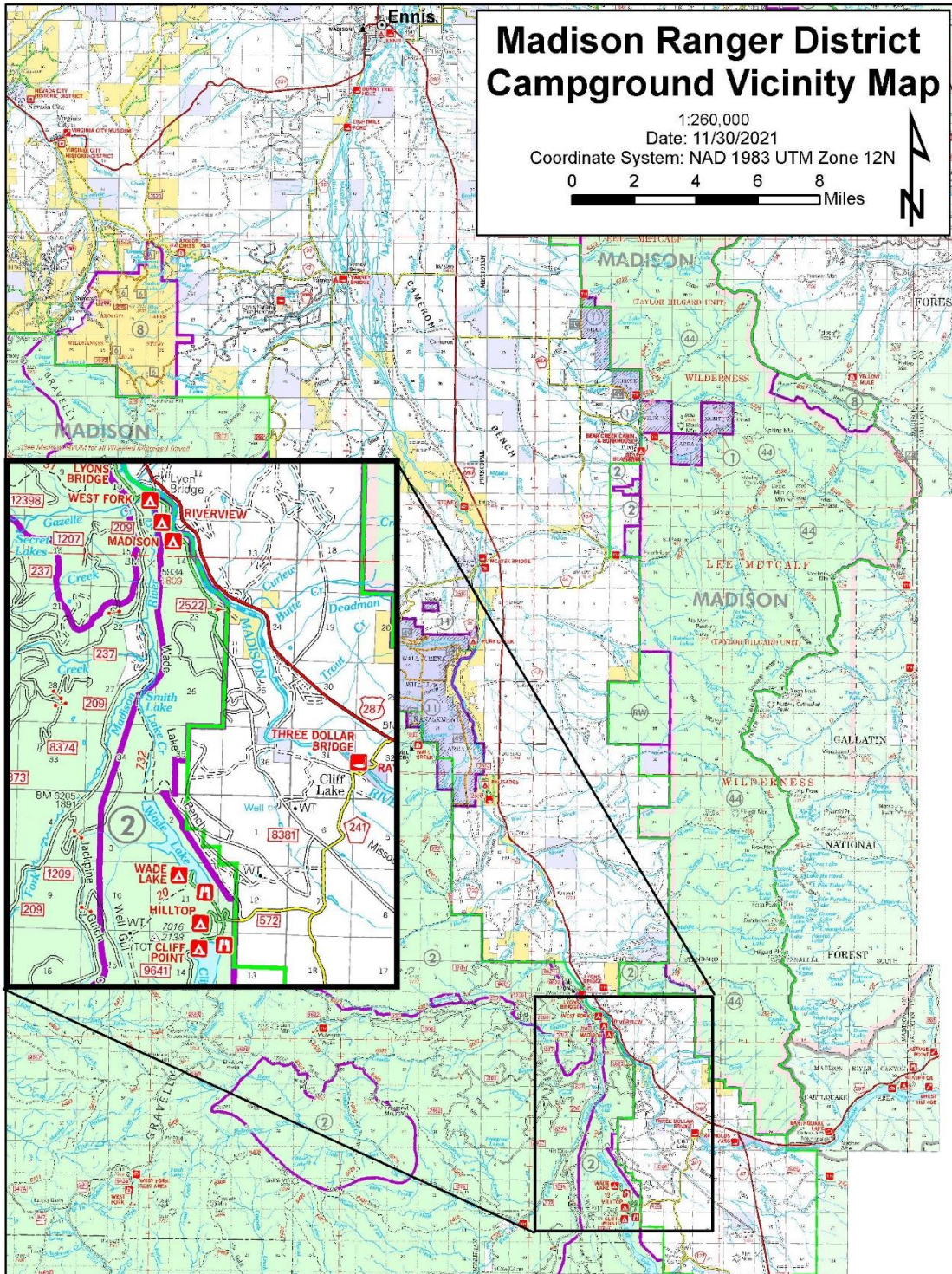
5.7 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. Describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource and agency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

- ▶ *West Fork Campground is located on the banks of the West Fork Madison River. A properly designed and maintained campground reduces negative impacts on the riverbank through the positioning of parking barriers and clearly discernable campsite boundaries.*

This project supports the following goals and standards of the Beaverhead -Deerlodge National Forest Plan:

- *Aquatic Resources. Recreation sites: Developed sites, dispersed sites, and trails are designed, constructed, and maintained in a manner which achieves desired stream function (RM 1).*
- *Infrastructure. Recreation Facilities: Monitor use and reconstruct sites as needed, construct additional recreation facilities to meet demand, and convert existing sites to dispersed use areas if warranted. Reconstruct 30% of existing developed sites.*
- *Recreation and Travel Management. Developed sites: High quality developed recreation facilities are strategically located to concentrate use, provide access to backcountry settings, and protect natural resources. Sites are clean, well maintained, and designed for universal accessibility.*

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





West Fork Campground fire ring



West Fork Campground picnic table



West Fork Campground vault toilets. Camera is level. Toilets are not.



Proposed new picnic table!!!