

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT
FY2027 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Project Name: White Sandy Dock Decking Replacement

Reservoir or River Segment: Hauser Reservoir County(ies) Lewis and Clark

Site Name (or project location): White Sandy

Applicant Name: Chris McGrath

Position and Agency: Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM, Butte Field Office - Helena

Telephone: 406-438-0837

Email: cmcgrath@blm.gov

All projects are required to have a Project Sponsor to be considered for funding by the River Fund. Project sponsors serve as active members of Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups and will consult with applicants on projects. Sponsorship denotes that the proposed project meets the basic criteria for consideration (below). A project that does not meet the basic criteria or does not have a project sponsor will not be scored by the Regional Working Group.

Project Sponsor Name: Chris McGrath

Position and Agency: Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM, Butte Field Office - Helena

Telephone: 406-438-0837

Email: cmcgrath@blm.gov

The Basic Project Criteria below must be met for a project to be considered for funding:

1. The project is consistent with the FERC Project 2188 License.
2. The project occurs in the Missouri-Madison Project Area.
3. The project must be consistent with or support management plans in the Project Area
4. The project provides a public recreation benefit.

Refer to the Grant Application Instructions for further clarification on these criteria.

Awarded River Fund grant funds or NorthWestern Energy matching funds may be used for the purchase of materials, supplies, and equipment, or to pay contractor services or other non-agency project components. Project funds may not be used to pay agency or applicant overhead expenses, such as agency staffing costs for design and engineering, project management, or administrative expenses. Funds may be used to pay costs for contracted design and engineering, as appropriate. Accounting of project expenses must be included in status reports provided for the annual River Fund Board meeting.

Requests for review of draft applications must be submitted two weeks prior to the submission deadline.

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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 instructions), 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.

Nearest Whole Dollar

Total project cost: \$16,500

Applicant Contributions – cash 0

Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind: \$5,000

Other Contributions – Please list by source:

Percentage of
Total Project Cost:

Total Applicant and Other Contributions: \$5,000 30%

NorthWestern Energy Match Request: \$5,000 30%

River Fund Grant Request: \$6,500 40%

Proposed Project Implementation Period: March – April
2027

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.

This proposed project is to replace the aging decking on the dock at White Sandy. We have been evaluating the BLM administered docks on Hauser and Holter reservoir to determine when they need to start getting replaced. The dock at White Sandy is roughly 48 feet in length and 8 feet wide. The decking is 2" x 6" composite boards. The composite decking on the dock shows significant signs of wear and tear on them, while the rest of the dock is in pretty good condition still. The decking used on the original dock at White Sandy did not use Marine Grade composite decking. We feel lucky to have gotten the decking to last 20 + years considering it wasn't Marine Grade and had a 20-year expected life span for primarily dry conditions. Marine Grade composite decking has a 50-year expected life span and guarantee and would be the proper material to use on a dock. The deck on this dock will need to be replaced within the next few years to avoid public safety hazards. Replacing the decking will allow the dock to continue operating for many more years to come, as the remainder of the dock is still in good condition.

Replacing the decking will be very cost-effective compared to replacing the entire dock and would save us around \$30,000. We replaced the courtesy dock at Devil's Elbow in 2026, and it cost over \$46,000 for a similar sized dock. Replacing the decking on the dock would cost an estimated \$9,000. Fasteners and TefGel (apply to threads of screws and frame to prevent galvanic corrosion on screws/frame) would cost an estimated \$2,000. Side bumper rails are estimated at \$500. The total project request is for \$11,500, with \$5,000 being NorthWestern Energy matching funds and \$6,500 being River Fund funding. In-house labor is estimated at \$5,000, bringing the total project cost to \$16,500.

The BLM would like to replace the decking on the White Sandy dock prior to installing the dock in early to mid-April 2027. BLM would be replacing the dock decking, fascia and fasteners as well as installing bumper rails and reinstalling the cleats. The BLM is estimating that this work would take our staff four days for two people or two days for four people. Labor is estimated to cost \$5,000.

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

This project doesn't make sense to complete in phases. It is a relatively small financial request to purchase the materials to replace the dock decking in house. In the future we will likely be making similar requests for our three other dock systems.

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.

This project is for maintenance of an existing dock and therefore would not require normal Cultural Resource Management as it would not impact them in any way or shape. The project would occur while the dock is in the parking lot at White Sandy but would not have any potential to impact any cultural resources. If needed the BLM can have our archeologist review the project and submit it to SHPO.

5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Start answers after ►.

5.1 Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?

Yes, White Sandy.

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 proposal is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site (White Sandy). The project is to make sure we stay ahead of our dock maintenance and would prevent a potential future emergency. Replacing just the decking will save a significant amount of funds compared to replacing the whole dock.

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.

There are no partners for this project unfortunately.

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 proposed project benefits the public recreation by continuing to have a safe and functional dock at the busy White Sandy boat ramp for many years to come.

Goal: To provide safe and well-managed recreation sites and dispersed use areas that provide enjoyable user experiences across a spectrum of opportunities and seasons.

The proposal would help to provide safe and well-managed recreation sites that provide enjoyable user experiences. Replacing the decking would reduce potential safety concerns that may arise from the deterioration of the current decking if they are not replaced in the next few years.

Goal: To maintain or proactively increase public safety for recreationists in the Project Area.

The project would proactively increase public safety for recreationists at White Sandy. If the decking is not replaced it would continue to deteriorate and would eventually become a serious safety hazard to the public.

- 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.

This project is an attempt to get in front of any public safety or emergency by maintaining the decking in safe and functional condition. The decking is nearing the end of its lifespan and needs replacing, the sooner the better. If this project is not funded the BLM would likely resubmit this project in future years and attempt to find other funding sources before we have an accident. BLM does not currently have the funding in-house to complete this project by ourselves so we would have to wait until we find the funding to replace the decking on this dock. Eventually and likely within a few years the decking could become degraded to the point of it not being safe for the public to utilize. The BLM would continue to replace boards one at a time as the need arises, but it is difficult to obtain marine grade composite decking boards and takes up to a couple of weeks to get boards here for us to install. It took three weeks for us to receive two boards to repair a portion of a dock at Devil's Elbow this summer.

- 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.

BLM has had several discussions on how to best operate and maintain our existing dock facilities. Replacing just the decking at this time would significantly save funding compared to replacing the portions of the dock that are still in decent condition and have years of life left in them. The brand of Marine Grade composite decking that we originally planned to utilize has now been sold to a box store and they are experiencing manufacturing difficulties and their Marine Grade decking is currently not available. We have done additional market research and found several suitable options with similar price points.

- 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.

The proposed project of restoring the dock at White Sandy would improve or at a minimum maintain public access by ensuring that the dock is safe and usable for years to come. The proposal would have minor positive impacts on water quality and fishery health by removing the aging decking boards that are having small plastic particles fall into the water from the deteriorating decking.

The proposed project is consistent with the Butte Field Office Land Use Plan, named Butte Resource Management Plan (2009), as detailed below.

BFO RMP Goals:

Goal RM1 – Provide a diverse array of recreational opportunities while maintaining healthy public land resources.

This project is to ensure continuation of the use of the courtesy dock at White Sandy. We only have four recreation sites with dock facilities, and this is our smallest dock system as it only has one courtesy dock not an extensive dock system such as what is in place at Devil's Elbow, Holter Lake and Log Gulch. Maintaining the dock would help the BLM maintain the ability to have a courtesy dock at White Sandy.

Goal RM2 – Establish, manage, and maintain quality recreation sites and facilities to meet a broad range of public needs subject to appropriate resource constraints.

This project is to maintain quality recreation sites and facilities that are heavily used by the public. Replacing the decking is the fiscally responsible method to maintain the dock.

BFO RMP Management Actions:

10. The BLM will continue to establish partnership agreements that are mutually beneficial to BLM and the public and maintain them to enhance comprehensive planning, collaborative management, and collective funding.

• Challenge Cost Share opportunities and grants to offset funding shortages will be sought and utilized.

This proposal is a way to utilize established partnerships and to utilize grants to offset funding shortages.

18. Priority funding and management efforts will be given to developed recreation sites that receive the heaviest visitation rates. Sites that cannot be managed to acceptable health and safety standards will be closed until deficiencies are corrected. (Goals RM2, TF1)

This proposal is to maintain facilities at a heavily visited developed recreation site. Replacing the decking is the fiscally responsible method to ensure acceptable health and safety standards are met.

21. Recreation sites and facilities will be maintained and managed to promote resource value protection, public safety and health, quality facilities, visitor experiences, management efficiency, and value-based returns. (Goals RM2, TF1, SE2)

This proposal aligns well with this management action as it is maintaining recreation facilities to promote public health and safety and will continue to allow good visitors experience while being fiscally responsible.

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.



