

**APPROVED**



**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT  
GRANT APPLICATION FORM – FY2022**

Project Name: Rainbow and Lewis & Clark Overlook Parking Lot Rehabilitation

Reservoir or River Segment: Rainbow Reservoir County(ies) Cascade

Site Name (or project location): Rainbow Dam Overlook and Lewis and Clark Overlook and Trailhead

Applicant Name: Alex Sholes

Position and Agency: Park Manager Giant Springs and Ackley Lake State Park

Telephone: 406-788-6873

Email: alex.sholes@mt.gov

Project Sponsor Name: Montana State Parks

Position and Agency: Park Manager, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

Telephone: 406-788-6873

Email: alex.sholes@mt.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: \$190,200

Applicant Contributions – cash \$20,540

Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind: 0

Other Contributions – Please list by source:

River's Edge Trail Foundation \$ 4,425

\$

\$

\$

Percentage of  
Total Project Cost:

Total Applicant and Other Contributions: \$24,965 13%

NorthWestern Energy Match Request: \$20,540 11%

River Fund Grant Request: \$144,695 76%

Proposed Project Implementation Period: Summer/Fall 2022

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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.*

The Rainbow Overlook parking lot was crack, and slurry sealed in 2016 as part of the Rainbow Overlook Landslide Repair and Site Rehabilitation project. The total amount awarded for the project by the River Fund board was \$102,636.

In 2009, a major landslide occurred just below the Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead. In 2010-2011 approximately \$200,000 was approved for landslide repairs through special appropriations by the River Fund Board, separate of the Recreation application process. With these repairs almost complete, a second landslide occurred, which required additional work to stabilize the area. That same year, prior to the second landslide, FWP had put in a River Fund application to repave the site as the final step to the first repair job. Instead of awarding the funds for the paving, they were diverted to the second landslide repair. In 2013 the Finalization of Lewis and Clark Overlook Repairs project was funded by the River Fund board at an amount of \$3,750. This project did not include paving work.

2. Is the proposed project at one of the Project 2188 license sites identified in the Missouri-Madison MOU and listed on page A2-2 of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan?     Yes     No

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

- ▶ Giant Springs is the most visited State Park in Montana, receiving between 300,000 and 400,000 visitors annually. The Park's lands vary from well-manicured areas to open prairie. The park is located adjacent to 4 of the Missouri River's waterfalls and contains several overlooks that provide views of these waterfalls. The park is also home to roughly half of the River's Edge Trail system, which consists of 60 miles of trail in and around Great Falls.

This project will focus on the asphalt parking lots at Rainbow Overlook and Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead. The Rainbow Overlook parking lot is in good shape (having been sealed in 2016), except for a portion that was damaged by a car fire in 2019. The fire burned hot enough to melt the car's engine and severely damaged the asphalt surface. As part of this project, a 1,000 square foot section of the lot would be milled and replaced. The mobilization, milling and paving is estimated to cost \$15,360 (this includes a 10% contingency and \$1,500 for advertising and printing).

The current condition of the Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead parking lot is mostly poor with large sections that will require new subsurface material. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Design and Construction Bureau have recommended a complete mill and repave. The work associated with this would consist of mobilization, removal of asphalt, sub-excavation, finish grading, resurfacing, and striping. The total for this project is estimated at \$169,300 (this includes a 10% contingency and \$1,500 for advertising and printing).

Funding Sources: The applicant cash contributions include \$15,000 that will be paid toward the contractor costs for this work and an estimated \$5,540 in time from our Design & Construction (D&C) staff. . The D&C contribution estimate is calculated at 3% of the total construction cost (\$184,660) for contract administration. IThe total construction cost for both portions of this project is estimated at \$184,660.

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.

- ▶ Montana State Parks Heritage Resources Manager will review the project and the site. Once the project has been reviewed, the Heritage Resources Manager will work with the State Historic Preservation Office for approval.
5. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria in no more than two (2) additional written pages. Put answers in the cell after ▶.
- 5.1 *Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site or an existing Project 2188 license site.* Describe how the project would support O&M needs at an existing recreation site that are over and above day-to-day site maintenance. Needs may include measures to open a site for public use as well as minor repair; facility upgrade, reconstruction, and replacement; and major site rehabilitation.
- ▶ The work that is proposed as part of this project is above and beyond the day-to-day maintenance that our staff can perform. An experienced contractor with the appropriate equipment will need to be hired to ensure that work is done correctly. Additionally, the cost of this project is above the level that the State can fund out of existing budgets.
- 5.2 *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.
- ▶ The Rainbow and Lewis & Clark Overlook Parking Lot Rehabilitation project involves collaboration with multiple organizations including Montana State Parks, The City of Great Falls and the Rivers Edge Trail Foundation. Support was shown for this project from the Great Falls Bike Club and Race MT. No financial contributions to the project were made from these organizations. FWP will be contributing \$5,000 of in-kind services to the project in terms of project oversight from the Design and Construction Bureau.
- 5.3 *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. Describe how specific issues and goals in Chapter 2-1 of the CRP would be supported.
- ▶ *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.* Increasing visitor use data, which will be discussed more in 5.4, provides evidence that these are significant sites in Giant Springs State Park. The overlooks are used for a wide variety of activities including viewing Rainbow Falls and Dam, Crooked Falls, bicycling, hiking, trail running, roller blading, wildlife viewing, dog walking, and pleasure driving. Visitors also utilize the interpretive

panels at the overlooks to learn about the geology of the waterfalls, hydroelectric power production at Rainbow Dam, the Lewis & Clark expedition, and railroad history. The sites are open year-round to provide visitors with recreational opportunities no matter the season. Providing a safe and well-managed site, which includes the parking lot surface, is important especially at these heavily used locations.

*Goal: Continue to improve and expand recreation opportunities that offer universal accessibility*

All the facilities at these overlooks were developed to be universally accessible (access to overlooks, interpretive panels, benches, picnic tables, and vault toilets). By rehabilitating the parking lots, the proposed project will ensure accessibility to these amenities and will benefit those with physical limitations or disabilities.

5.4 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.

- ▶ Rainbow Overlook and Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead are two of the most visited sites in Giant Springs State Park, outside of Giant Springs proper which contains the Giant Springs and the Hatchery. According to the Missouri-Madison 2020 Recreation Visitor Use Counts, visitation at both sites has increased over the last 5 years. Rainbow Overlook had 20,347 visitors in 2016 and 34,450 visitors in 2020, an increase of 69%. Lewis and Clark's use has increased as well, although to a lesser degree, with 29,490 visitors in 2016 and 29,866 visitors in 2020. What has increased at Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead, is the use of the trails the site provides access to (the River's Edge Trail system's single-track South Shore trails). In 2016 the trails were used by 16,849 individuals, in comparison to 20,400 in 2020, an 21% increase. The numbers above support the need to maintain these parking areas at a high level and show that funding this project will benefit the large number of individuals that use these areas as scenic overlooks and trailheads. The poor condition of the Lewis & Clark parking lot dates to 2011 and 2012, when a second landslide impacted the area and diverted funds from a River Fund application that was submitted for repaving. Deterioration of the parking lot has continued over the last decade and this work is a high priority for the Park.

5.5 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 and include cost estimates.

- ▶ Engineers in the Fish, Wildlife and Park's Design and Construction Bureau began working with park staff to develop a plan for the project during the winter of 2021. Design and Construction staff developed estimates and if the project is funded, would provide project oversight to ensure that work results in high quality product.

5.6 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area. In addition to project-related benefits under #3 above, describe how this project will protect resource values (such as public access, water quality, fisheries, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources) and support other resource plans, including Project 2188 License plans and land use and land management plans in place in the Corridor.

- ▶ Rainbow Dam Overlook and Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead are two of three Project 2188 License scenic overlook sites listed in the Comprehensive Recreation Plan. The overlooks and the adjacent River's Edge Trail are designed to act as a network to promote public access and recreation on safe durable travel routes and viewing areas. The overlooks and connecting River's Edge Trail

effectively provide public access and protect the river corridor from human impacts. Without proper maintenance and operation of the overlooks, the public would likely enter into sensitive and dangerous terrain above the river to get better views and damage natural resources in the process. The proposed project is also in keeping with the Giant Springs State Park Management Plan which establishes the goals of 1) Utilizing roads and parking areas as a tool to maintain adequate site control, while meeting park and community access needs and 2) Continue use of Giant Springs Road for the basic purpose of scenic and recreational use. Well-developed and maintained facilities at Rainbow Overlook and Lewis & Clark Overlook and Trailhead clearly support these stated goals. The project also supports the Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan through 1) promoting outdoor recreation opportunities for all Montanans and 2) enhancing public access to outdoor recreation resources and facilities. These goals will be supported through this project by providing well-maintained recreation sites that are accessible for all users.

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.

# Giant Springs Overlook Rehabilitation Project

Prepared by Montana FWP

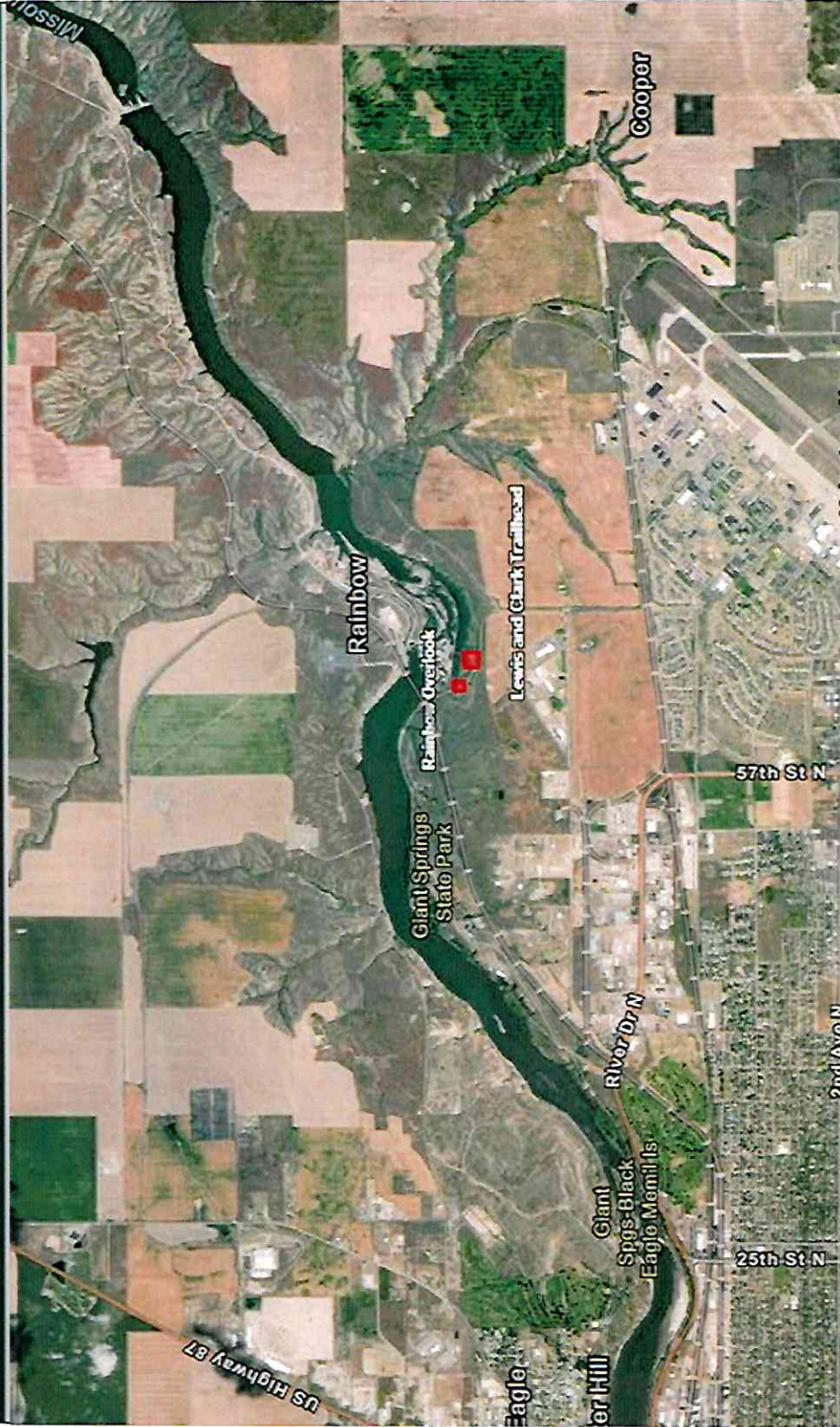
DATE: 02-04-2021

Lewis and Clark Overlook - Mill and Pave				Engineers est.	
ITEM	Bid Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Bid Price
1	Mobilization	LS	1	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
2	Finish Grading	SY	3,727	\$ 2.50	\$ 9,317.50
3	Remove Asphalt	SY	3,727	\$ 12.00	\$ 44,724.00
4	3" Hot Mix Asphalt	SY	3727	\$ 22.50	\$ 83,857.50
5	Sub-Excavation	SY	400	\$ 15.20	\$ 6,080.00
6	Striping	LS	1	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
	Project Total				\$ 152,479.00

	10% Contingency				\$ 15,247.90
	Advertising + Printing Costs				\$ 1,500.00
	Project Total Anticipated Cost				\$ 169,226.90

Rainbow - Paving Burned Area				Engineers est.	
ITEM	Bid Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Bid Price
1	Mobilization	LS	1	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00
2	Remove/Replace Asphalt	SF	1,000	\$ 10.45	\$ 10,450.00
	Project Total				\$ 12,600.00

	10% Contingency				\$ 1,260.00
	Advertising + Printing Costs				\$ 1,500.00
	Project Total Anticipated Cost				\$ 15,360.00



Map Produced: 9/12/2021  
Giant Springs State Park

Rainbow Overlook and Lewis and Clark Trailhead Project Area



Background Imagery from ESRI



Burned car in Rainbow Overlook



Damaged asphalt from car fire





Entrance to Lewis & Clark



Lewis & Clark entrance looking southwest



Lewis & Clark loop



Lewis & Clark main parking lot

7. Permitting and Planning Acknowledgement:

By submitting this application, and with an award of grant funds, applicant agrees that all permitting and planning requirements, such as NEPA and MEPA and cultural resource compliance, will be completed *prior to expenditure of awarded funds*. Furthermore, all design, layout, and contractual requirements will be completed in a timely manner.

Please refer to information and logos provided for acknowledgements and signage related to River Fund grants and NorthWestern Energy matching funds, which can be requested from Kim Bergstrom.