**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND RECREATION PROJECT**

**FY2026 GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Name: |  | | | |
| Reservoir or River Segment: | |  | County(ies): |  |
| Site Name (or project location): | |  | | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant Name: | |  | |
| Position and Agency: | | |  |
| Telephone: |  | | |
| Email: |  | | |

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.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Sponsor Name: | | |  |
| Position and Agency: | |  | |
| Telephone: |  | | |
| Email: |  | | |

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: | $ |
| Applicant Contributions – cash | $ |
| Applicant Contributions – value of in-kind: | $ |
| Other Contributions – Please list by source: |  |
|  | $ |
|  | $ |
|  | $ | Percentage of Total Project Cost: |
|  | $ |
| Total Applicant and Other Contributions: | $ | % |
| NorthWestern Energy Match Request: | $ | % |
| River Fund Grant Request: | $ | % |
| Proposed Project Implementation Period: |  |

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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. |

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| 1. **Project Description:** Provide a description of the proposed project. Be sure to include specific project elements that are planned, and any associated cost detail. |
|  [start here] |
| 1. **Project Phasing:** Briefly discuss whether the project could be phased over more than one year or construction season. |
|  [start here] |
| 1. **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. |
|  [start here] |

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| 1. **Scoring Criteria.** Respond to the following Scoring Criteria. Start answers after . |
| * + 1. *Does the project occur at a 2188 license site?* |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| * + 1. *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. |
|  [start here] |
| 1. 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. |