



Cost-Share Proposal Form for NorthWestern Energy (NWE) Project 2188 TAC Funds

Project 2188 (Madison-Missouri River) License Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement (PM&E) projects are required to offset impacts to river resources from the continued operation of one or more of NWE's nine hydro developments (Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony Dams). 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: Equipment – Boat Electrofishing Unit – ETS Model MBS-1DP-SR Version 3

Date: 10/21/2025

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

Article 416 (4). Evaluate the effect of short-term flow fluctuations on the resident fish community in the tailwaters.
The electrofishing unit would be used to monitor fish populations as described in the 5-year PM&E plan.

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected:

Priority 1 and Priority 2 as the equipment would be utilized on the mainstem Missouri River and tributaries.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Jason Mullen - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Location of Proposed Project:

Narrative: Missouri River and tributaries

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743)

Missouri River at Craig: 47.072746, -111.962094

Total Project Cost: \$10,885

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project: \$10,885

- I. **Introduction;** brief statement of project to be completed with pertinent background information.

This proposal is to buy a Model MBS-1DP-SR Version 3 electrofishing unit from ETS Electrofishing Systems. The electrofishing unit will be used to monitor fish populations as described in the 5-year PM&E plan. Currently, Smith Root VVP-15B electrofishing units are being used, which are relatively old and have malfunctioned with increasing frequency in recent years. These units have been discontinued and service by Smith Root is limited. Given the aging units and limited ability for service an alternative is needed. The ETS electrofishing unit will include continuous DC and quadrapulse options, to match commonly used settings. ETS will customize the unit to match the customized compartments utilized by most FWP electrofishing jet boats, and will match to existing plug wiring.

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

Purchase ETS Model MBS-1DP-90 as described in attached quote, for continued fisheries monitoring.

III. **Methods;** description of how Project objectives will be accomplished.

Purchase prior to the 2026 field season. Utilize with existing equipment.

IV. **Schedule;** when the Project work will begin and end.

Purchase as soon as possible for use in 2026.

V. **Personnel;** who will do the work? Identify Project leader or principal investigator.

Jason Mullen – MTFWP Fisheries Manager – Acquire quote, coordinate, etc.

Adam Geik – MTFWP Fisheries Biologist – Use equipment

VI. **Project budget** must include amounts for the following:

- Direct Labor: \$0.00
- Travel and Living: \$0.00
- Materials:\$10,790
- Other Direct Expenses: \$95.00 (freight)
- Direct Overhead*: \$0.00
- All cost-share sources and amounts, including estimation of “in-kind” contributions: \$0.00

See Appendix 1 for quote.

***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?

Results from standardized fisheries population monitoring surveys will be presented annually in a report to NWE.

VIII. **Cultural Resources.** Cultural Resource Management (CRM) requirements for any activity related to this Project must be completed and documented to NWE 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 NWE representative for further information or

assistance. 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:

No ground-breaking activity. Not applicable.

- IX. **Water Rights.** For projects that involve development, restoration or enhancement of 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:

No water rights. Not applicable.

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
- Grant.Grisak@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

☎ 406-444-8115

☎ 406-565-7549

208 N. Montana Ave

Suite 205

Helena, MT 59601

Appendix 1. ETS Electrofishing Systems quote for boat electrofishing unit, model MBS-1DP-SR Version 3.



ELECTROFISHING SYSTEMS, LLC

1240 E. Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703

PH/FAX: 608-661-0599
Email: ets@etselectrofishing.com

Equote: Prices valid throughout 2025

Equipment Desc: 1 ea. boat electrofishing unit, MBS-1DP-SR, and acc. per description below: ETS Quote: 102225-3

Quote Date: 10/22/2025

Prepared for: Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Est. Delivery: 90 days ARO,
Less time possible if requested.

Contact person: Jason Mullen
Phone: 406-454-5853
Email: jmullen@mt.gov

Quote per: Mark O'Neal, ETS Electrofishing Systems, LLC

Boat Electrofishing Unit:

Qty.	Description	Model/Type/Function	Cost each \$	Ext'd cost \$
1	Boat electrofishing control box unit: 0-300/600 Vpeak dual range pulsed DC output)	MBS-1DP-SR Version 3 pulsed-DC. Handle 1" clearance on top of box, box 2" shorter length. Note: Price now includes footswitch/ pad control circuitry as standard. 90 peak amp output. Splash resistant controls now standard*	8,800.00	8,800.00
1	Substitute Smith-Root compatible connectors for standard connectors.	Smith-Root compatible generator and output/footswitch Amphenol connectors, size 20, 4-pin and size 20, 4-socket. Suffix "SR"	No charge	0.00
1	Move controls and connectors to right side of box rather than standard front side. Custom box size length 17" instead of 19".	Left side to have heat sink and electromechanical (non-resettable) total usage timer.	600.00	600.00
1	Add selectable continuous DC		200.00	200.00
1	Add selectable Quadrapulse bursted waveform		200.00	200.00
1	Honda 6500i/7000i filter	Eliminates voltage instability associated with use of these generators.	990.00	990.00
1	Manual		0.00	0.00
1	One year limited warranty, parts and labor		0.00	0.00

Subtotal:	10,790.00
Shipping and handling, insurance:	95.00
Total:	10,885.00

Photo 1. Example of MBS-1DP-SR Version 3 on left side of photo.

