

2026 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: Travel Trailer - Middle Missouri River - 2026

Date: November 10, 2025

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

Article 417: 2) Protect and provide for the recovery of Threatened and Endangered species and other species of special concern in the Missouri River downstream of Morony Dam. This is a priority one (Missouri) and two (Marias).

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

This travel trailer will be used to house field crews near remote field sites while conducting work on the Missouri River from Carter Ferry to Fort Peck Reservoir (Priority 1) and in the lower Marias River (Priority 2) as part of the monitoring plan for this reach.

Project Sponsor (submitted by): Luke Holmquist

Location of Proposed Project: Missouri River between Morony Dam and Fort Peck Reservoir and the lower Marias River.

This travel trailer will be used to house field crews near remote field sites while conducting work on the Missouri River from Carter Ferry to Fort Peck Reservoir (Priority 1) and in the lower Marias River (Priority 2).

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743)

Site: Morony Dam

Lat:47.58159

Lon: -111.05972

Site: Tiber Dam

Lat:47.58159

Lon: -111.09705

Site: Fort Peck Headwaters

Lat:47.55384

Lon: -107.92449

Total Project Cost: **\$40,000**

TAC Funds Requested for Project: **\$40,000**

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

The fisheries crew that conducts monitoring activities on the Middle Missouri River are based in Lewistown. Lewistown is a minimum of 1 hour from the nearest access point and up to 2.5 hours from the furthest access point. Traveling back and forth is not practical. Travel trailers parked in Fort Benton/Loma and the James Kipp Recreation area are necessary to reduce travel time while maximizing the amount of field work conducted. Currently, two of the four travel trailers being used are going on 25 years old and are showing significant signs of wear and tear. Crews spend well over 120 cumulative nights at this camper during a non-creel year and much more during a creel year. This proposed purchase will replace the 2001 Layton camper which is still operable but quite old and often needs repairs to be made to keep it functional during the year. This camper has limited trade in value and will be transferred to

the Great Falls office where it will be utilized much less frequently but at least several nights a year for monitoring the Missouri River downstream of Holter Dam (Article 416 (4)). Specific camper may need to be chosen at the time of purchase as inventory fluctuates.

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

Camper trailer will be used to house field crews close to remote sampling locations and reduce travel time while maximizing the amount of field work conducted.

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

IV. Schedule; when the Project work will begin and end. Purchase a new bunkhouse style camper for use during 2026 field season.

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

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

Materials Only: Bunkhouse Style Travel Trailer (Quotes for several manufactures/configurations are roughly \$40,000)

E.g., 2026 Keystone SUNSET TRAIL 28QBS

Total: \$40,000

Direct Labor NA
Travel and Living NA
Other Direct Expenses NA
Direct Overhead NA – Purchase by NWE
All contribution sources and amounts

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? NA

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 disturbance associated with this project.

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 9March2016.

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines: No water rights associated with this project.

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, Leader Hydro License Compliance, NorthWestern Energy, 1315 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601; 406-444-8115 (office); 406-565-7549 (cell); Andrew.Welch@northwestern.com.