

2022 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 – Holter/Hauser Reservoir gillnets (sinkers & floaters)

Date: 11/25/2025

Explain how this Project addresses a specific Project 2188 License Article(s): *Article 414, 8) Monitor the effects of project operations on Hauser Reservoir fish populations; and Article 416, 6) Monitor the effects of project operation on Holter Lake fish populations.* This proposal is to purchase three sinking and two floating gillnets for sampling fisheries population trends on two Missouri River reservoirs (Holter and Hauser).

Provide justification for Priority 1, 2 or 3 (above) that you selected: Given the nets would be used to conduct fisheries population surveys on two Missouri River reservoirs (Holter and Hauser), this proposal is considered priority 1.

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

Location of Proposed Project: Two Missouri River reservoir (Holter and Hauser)
Narrative

Geocode (in decimal degrees ex 46.89743) Lat: NA Lon: NA

Total Project Cost: Based on Duluth Nets quote #9170 the cost would be about \$2,750 for 6 nets and shipping.

TAC Funds (Cost-Share) Requested for Project:

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

This proposal is to buy 3 experimental sinking and 3 floating gillnets. Reservoir fish populations are monitored annually in spring and fall using experimental floating and sinking gillnets set in 30 locations in Holter Reservoir and 33 standardized locations in Hauser Reservoir. These netting surveys have been conducted annually since 1986 and are the best indicators of fish population changes that may be caused by project operations. Normal operational life-span of a gillnet used for standardized sampling is typically 2-5 years.

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

Purchase three gillnets for standardized fisheries population surveys on two Missouri River reservoirs (Holter and Hauser).

III. Methods; description of how Project objectives will be accomplished.
Gillnets will be purchased prior to standardized field sampling in spring 2026.

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

Will purchase as soon as funds are available in 2026.

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

Nathan Jaksha – FWP Fisheries Biologist – Project Leader

VI. Project budget must include amounts for the following:

\$2601 for nets
\$149 for shipping - est

*Quotes for gillnets, including shipping, are attached to this proposal. In past years, other proposed purchases from Duluth Nets have been ordered together to save shipping costs

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.

No ground-breaking activity. Not applicable.

Summarize here how you will complete requirements for Cultural Resource Management:

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.

No water rights. Not applicable

Summarize here how you will comply with Montana water rights laws, policies and guidelines:

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.