

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND  
RECREATION PROJECT  
APPLICATION FORM FY2019**

**Project Name:** Craig Fishing Access Site Campground Host Area

**Reservoir or River Segment:** Missouri River, Below Holter to Ulm     **County:** Lewis & Clark County

**Site Name:** Craig Fishing Access Site

**Applicant Name and Agency:** Vicki Robinson, Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
**Position:** Fishing Access Program Manager  
**Address:** 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT, 59405  
**Telephone #:** 406-454-5854     **E-mail:** vrobinson@mt.gov

**Project Sponsor:**

A Project Sponsor is required to apply to the River Fund. Project sponsors serve as active members of Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups, and include representatives of the U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; local government; Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Chouteau, Lewis and Clark, or Cascade Counties; NorthWestern Energy and the Bureau of Reclamation. Visit [www.missourimadison.com](http://www.missourimadison.com) for a list of current Regional Working Group members.

**Project Sponsor Name:** Vicki Robinson  
**Agency and Position:** Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Fishing Access Site Program Manager  
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Complete the financial section below by providing total project cost, contributions by applicant and cooperators, request for NorthWestern Energy match of agency funds (see detail on page 2 of this application), 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.

**Financial Support**

<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<u>\$ 52,314</u>
<b>Applicant Contributions:</b>	\$ 750 (in-kind & monetary)
<b>Other Contributions - Please list by source:</b>	
Montana Shed Company donating delivery fee	\$ 100
<b>NorthWestern Energy Match Request:</b>	<u>\$ 188</u>
<b>River Fund Grant Request:</b>	<u>\$ 51,276</u>
<b>Proposed Project Implementation Period:</b>	Spring 2019

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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?** No
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?** No

3. **Project Description:**

Craig fishing access site is one of our busiest sites in region 4. It is heavily used by outfitters and is a popular place for camping. We struggle with non-compliance on paid camping sites, length of stay restrictions, dogs off leash, number of vehicles/motorized equipment in each site and parking violations. This is a constant battle each year and the only solutions will be to have someone staying on site during the summer months. Our plan is to put in a campground host pad that will include electric, water and sewer hook ups. A couple years ago the city of Craig updated their sewer lines in the city limits. This gives us the perfect opportunity to put in this full hook up campground host pad. Electric/sewer and water are all within a 50-foot radius. This host pad will not take away any parking spaces or existing camping spots on site. Another aspect of this project will include paving 3 more single vehicle parking spaces next to the existing spots and paving the first camping spot. The first campsite was always overlooked because it was just grass and small. It is currently used by people in tents but needs to be defined better. This will make a big difference at the site since parking and camping is at a premium. The campground host site will include a paved pad that will accommodate a large RV, truck and a boat. We want the host to be able to have plenty of space to set up camp for their stay. We will also set up a small storage building that will hold supplies, a push mower and a trimmer. The campground host will be responsible for checking campers in to make sure fees are paid in full and that they stay for the time allotted. The will also perform light maintenance at Craig FAS and Wolf Creek FAS. This will include picking up trash, re-stocking latrines, trimming, light mowing and monitoring the campground. The host will be able to make sure campers obey the rules and regulations of the site. This will include making sure campers stay in the allotted time allowed, stop campers from "holding" spaces and maintain "quiet hours" to ensure everyone has a pleasant stay. The FAS program will contribute, annually, for the campground host stipends. We will also reimburse for mileage when they go back and forth between Craig and Wolf Creek Bridge. We have not come up with the exact amount of the stipend at the time of this application. The details for the campground host program will be outlined this winter.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:**

Fish, Wildlife and Parks Design and Construction division is required to obtain clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before any project is started. That letter of approval will be on file and available to NorthWestern Energy. FWP must also do a search the Montana Natural Historical Preservation (MNHP) database to find any species of concern. No work will be started until FWP receives a letter of approval.

**Scoring Criteria**

- 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.

This project will fall under facility upgrade and improvements category to assist our staff with compliance at one of the busiest sites we manage. The site is known for non-compliant campers, parking violations, dogs off leash, noisy campers, etc. There have been attempted break-ins on our iron

ranger station. Violators took a drill to try to break the padlock and steal the registration envelopes filled with camping fees. By having a full hook up campground host pad we will be able to cut down on vandalism, theft, noncompliance campers, parking violators and many more issues. The host will also be able to do light cleaning and restocking over the weekends when FAS staff are not working. This will be a huge help at this site and Wolf Creek. The FAS program will commit to take on the extra fees for water, electric use and volunteer stipends. By having someone on site during the summer, it will take a huge load off of the maintenance staff. They will be able to work on projects that are a higher priority and give more attention to sites that need it.

- 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 Montana Shed company has agreed to waive the normal delivery fee for the 6x8 shed that we will purchase from them. This is a donation of \$100 from the company. We have ordered a couple different styles of sheds from them and are very grateful for their donation.

- 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.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – COMPLIANCE – STOP CONFLICT – SURVEYS – REDUCE VANDELISM...**

This project will make a significant difference in the overall safety in the campground and boat launch/parking area. People are always just parking wherever they can squeeze in without any remorse for others who may be inconvenienced. Some things the host will help with is eliminating “holding” campsites, not paying for sites, staying too long and stopping dogs from roaming around all over. We will be providing more single vehicle parking spaces and upgrade 1 smaller campsite. This will give more people the opportunity to visit the site. The host will be a contact for any emergencies, answer questions about the area and help direct parking traffic. We have no room to expand the site, but we will be able to make the area run more efficient and safe for all users.

- 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.

This project is needed because we are not able to expand the site to accommodate more users. We are land locked in a small space. The site has been developed to make sure that every bit of space is used to benefit everyone. We are pleased to be able to put in 3 more single vehicle parking spaces. It's a small number, but overall, it will have a huge impact on the site. Due to the pure volume of users, we need someone on site to patrol, perform light maintenance and restock, ensure each person follows the camping and site regulations and more. This site is heavily used, and people do not always behave in a manner that is appropriate for everyone. We have issues with people holding sites, staying too long, not paying camp fees, leaving sites a mess and much more. This campground host will be on site to stop all of this and make Craig a better place for everyone to enjoy. This site has hundreds of returning users each year and it has become a battle for some folks to be able to just camp and not come in conflict with people that are violating site rules. This makes the visit less than ideal and we need to do something to stop this behavior. The best solution for this site is by having a campground host pad. We must make the site full hook up to bring in dependable and motivated hosts.

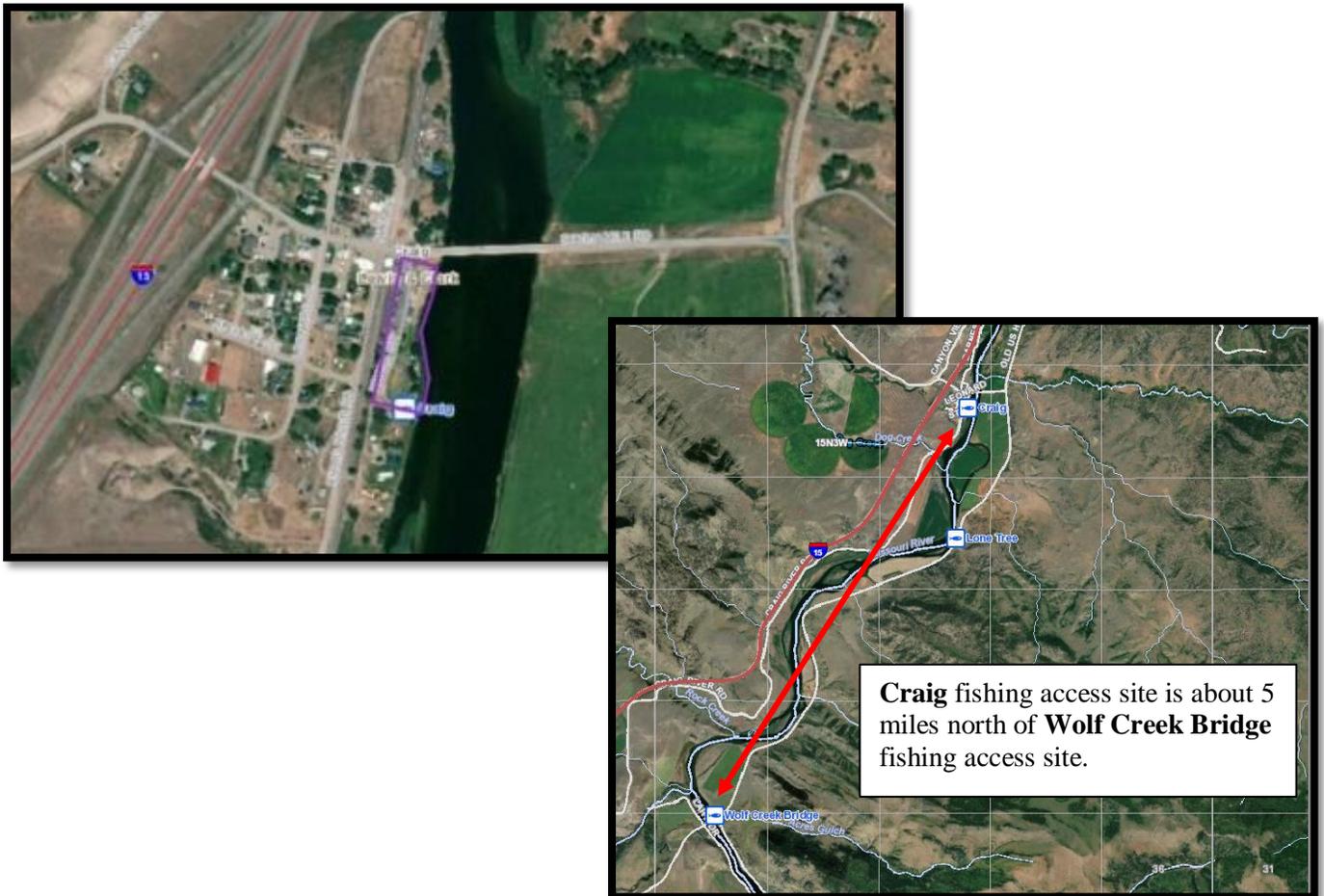
5.5 **Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected.** Well-designed projects reduce occurrences of budgetary overages, design changes, and additional complications. Discuss the current design phase for this project and include cost estimates.

Design and construction staff have already put to paper the design of the host pad and other improvements to the site. Estimates for the work are included with the site plan below.

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.

The campground host will be able to perform light maintenance more quickly than our staff will be able to. They will be able to monitor floaters coming in and out of the water. They will be able to educate folks on pack in and pack out methods...not throw it in the river. They can stop vandalism before it happens. They will be able to deal with the loose dog issue that constantly occurs on site. With a host on site and water available, we will be able to plant new trees and shrubs on site. This is normally difficult to do since our staff has to carry water everywhere and only visits sites a couple times a week. By having the host there, we can plan natural screenings and more shade trees. This will provide more natural shelter for wildlife. We will also be able to gather more information from users to help with long term and short-term management plans. That information will be so valuable for future projects.

6. See attached maps, photos, and cost estimate.





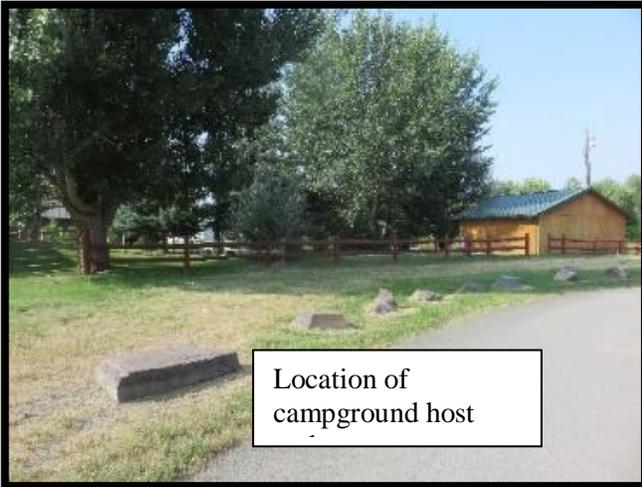
**Preliminary Concept Site Plan** North

DRAWN BY: CHECKED BY:	DATE: DATE:	APPROVED BY: APPROVED BY:	DATE: DATE:	<b>MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE &amp; PARKS</b>	<b>Preliminary Concept Site Plan</b> Craig Fishing Access Site - Proposed Host Pad	SHEET: <b>1 of 1</b>
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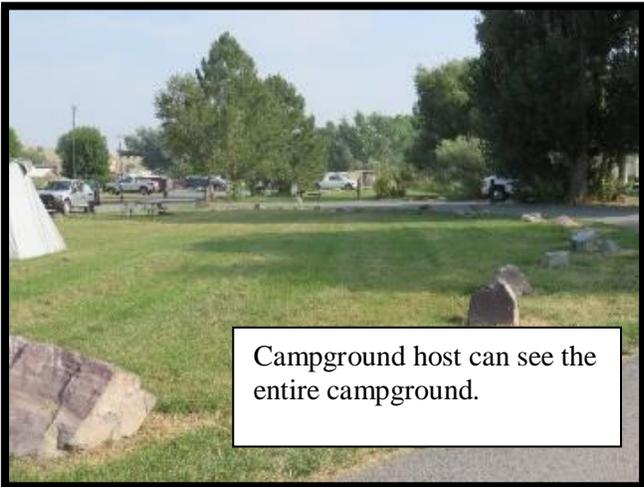
<b>COST BREAKDOWN</b>	
Asphalt Paved Areas	\$25,000
Concrete Pad	\$2,500
Electrical Service	\$3,500
Sanitary Sewer	\$6,500
Potable Water	\$10,000
Picnic Table	\$600
Fire Ring	\$250
Wheel Stops	\$300
Permits, etc.	\$1,500
Storage Shed	\$2,164
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$52,314</b>



6x8 storage shed  
 Our specs will install a steel door and deadbolt lock. It will be placed on a gravel pad.



Location of campground host



Campground host can see the entire campground.