

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

Project Name: _____ Rainbow Point Boat Ramp Improvement

Reservoir or River Segment: _____ Hebgen Lake _____ County(ies): _____ Gallatin _____

Site Name (or legal location if no site name): _____ Rainbow Point _____

Applicant Name __ Brian Thompson _____
Agency and Position _____ USFS, Hebgen Ranger District – Recreation Manager _____
Address _____ 330 Gallatin Road West Yellowstone, MT 59758
Telephone # _____ 406-823-6971 _____ E-mail brianthompson@fs.fed.us

Project Sponsor:

A Project Sponsor is required in order to submit an application 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 for a list of current Regional Working Group members.

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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

Total Project Cost: \$ 75,000

Applicant Contributions: \$ 7,000

Other Contributions - Please list by source:

\$ _____

NorthWestern Energy Match Request: \$ 7,000

River Fund Grant Request: \$ 61,000

Proposed Project Implementation Period: 4/1/19 – 8/30/20

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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 X No

If yes, please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.

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? X Yes ___ No

3. **Project Description:**

The current boat ramp at Rainbow Point Campground has several problems. Due to its advanced age, the boat ramp has silted in and settled to an angle that makes it hard to launch boats even during high water and impossible during low water. The United States Forest Service is proposing to remove and dispose of the old concrete boat ramp and replace it with a new, monolithic, concrete boat ramp. The new boat ramp will be 20' x 80' and will require de-watering to pour. The location of the new ramp will be moved to a more suitable site with deeper water allowing for a steeper angled ramp. Such a site has been identified 50 yards to the west. This new location will allow the Forest Service to use the same parking lot, and while the courtesy dock will need to be relocated, it will not need to be replaced. This project would be completed during low water months, normally April or May and will closely mirror the boat ramp reconstruction project done at Lonesomehurst Campground in 2011.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** NEPA was previously completed and approved for this project so no new cultural review is necessary.

Scoring Criteria

5.1 Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site or an existing Project 2188 license site.

Boating and water-based recreation visitation numbers are increasing at Hebgen Lake. Currently Lonesomehurst Boat Ramp is the only ramp usable over the duration of the Rec Season on the south shore of the lake. This creates a bottle neck at one location from lots of visitors wishing to access the lake. A second ramp, properly designed so as to be usable all summer, would help the Forest Service with resource management as well as improved customer service. This project would be a considerable facility upgrade.

5.2 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations.

At this time there are no other agencies teamed with the Forest Service for this project.

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).

This project will provide numerous benefits to the recreating public. First, it will increase recreational use for the project area and will change the quality of the visitor's experience for the better. Secondly, by having two fully operational boat ramps on the south side of the lake, visitors will be spread out over a larger area. This will help avoid overcrowding at Lonesomehurst boat ramp during heavy use periods. Such high volume times, typically

during holiday weekends, result in long wait times, parking issues, and sometimes conflict among users.

5.4 Project responds to a clearly identified need.

As Gallatin County grows in population and visitation, we must find ways to continue to grow recreational opportunities and access in a manner that protects our natural resources. Of particular note has been the increase in fishing visitation and boating utilization at Hebgen Lake. As the lake has grown in popularity we have received a steady stream of complaints from visitors that the private ramps on the north shore of the lake are too expensive (\$10.00 a launch) and the Lonesomehurst Boat Ramp is too crowded. The Rainbow Point Ramp is often used when lake levels allow, but for much of the summer it simply has too shallow of a draft to launch motorized boats. By improving this ramp we will be immediately improving the recreational experience of our customers while at the same time give relief to the over-utilized boat ramp and day use area at Lonesomehurst.

5.5 Project design options have been considered, estimated, and a preferred design selected.

This project has been reviewed by the Engineering Department at the Supervisors Office and designed by certified civil engineers. Currently we are using the 2011 Boat Ramp replacement at Lonesomehurst as a template. The projects budget was comprised of cost estimates for de-watering, current concrete costs, and labor. Total project costs are estimated at \$70,000. We are requesting \$75,000 to allow for price increases on materials and allow for some wiggle room. As always, if the project comes in under budget the remainder of the funds will be returned to River Fund per the agreement.

5.6 Project supports or protects other resources and is consistent with or supports resource plans in the Project Area.

This project will greatly increase boating access at Hebgen Lake. It will keep congestion down at other boat ramps, which will help keep trucks from parking in unauthorized areas. Overall, this project is about improving access to a resource that the general public loves to visit.

6. See attached map(s) showing the location of the proposed project

