

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

**Project Name:** Ulm Bridge Clean-up/Parking lot improvements

**Reservoir or River Segment:** Great Falls Area    **County:** Cascade

**Site Name:** Ulm Bridge Fishing Access Site

**Applicant Name and Agency:** Vicki Robinson, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**Position:** Fishing Access Site Program Manager

**Address:** 4600 Giant Springs Road

**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:** Montana 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**

**Total Project Cost:** \$ 9,950

**Applicant Contributions:** \$ 3,050

**Other Contributions - Please list by source:**

**Volunteer Fire Department** Volunteer Service for training purposes (10 hours)

**NorthWestern Energy Match Request:** \$ 763

**River Fund Grant Request:** \$ 6,137

**Proposed Project Implementation Period:** 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:**

Ulm Bridge Fishing Access Site has land on both sides of Milligan Road. Both areas have access to the Missouri River. The south side of the road is an area that attracted unwanted “dumping” of landscaping material, animal carcasses, concrete and other trash. We have since installed a gate on each end to stop vehicles from driving behind the trees, out of view from the road, and dumping unwanted materials. Currently there are many large chunks of concrete with rebar laying off the access road. This is an eye sore for anyone visiting the site and does not offer a very safe space to recreate. During the spring of 2018 a massive cottonwood had fallen across the road. We do not have large enough equipment to remove the down tree and the other materials from the site. It will require a lift to remove the tree, and a large dump truck and/or trailer to carry the items off site. This area also needs to do some restoration work that will include trimming overgrown trees/brush, mowing and re-seeding for better habitat conditions. The summer of 2018 this fishing access site had flood damage on the main road area with the boat ramp. Large ruts have been cut, gravel removed, and the road chopped up in many places. In total, this grant project will be for road repair, revegetation, material clean-up, tree/brush removal.

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 of 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.

Our budget for this site is considerably low compared to other sites along the Missouri River. We can provide basic maintenance here, but this project’s needs are above our normal workload for staff hours, equipment used, and materials needed. This site, as well as others, had flood damage in the summer of 2018. We lost gravel all over and had many areas in the road cut out. We need to grade the entire road and parking areas and then add a couple inches of gravel over the whole area. This site is used for boating/fishing season, waterfowl season and offers restricted hunting season opportunities. This fishing access site surrounds a 288-acre conservation easement. This site is in the Town of Ulm and is close enough to Great Falls that it serves are large population. Since this site is close to town, we notice that many people that visit the area are not always in 4x4 trucks. The road is not ideal for small cars. To meet the needs of the visitors, we need to bring the road back to a condition that is suitable for all types of vehicles. Flood damage at other sites has required us to buy materials and do work that was needed immediately. We can wait until spring to do this project.

- 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.

Over the past few years, we have been working with the local volunteer fire department to clean up down trees and brush at various sites in Cascade County. We contact them before we start to burn so they do some training exercises before and after. They also monitor the fire after it has been put out. This has been a great partnership for all of us involved. They get some training in a controlled environment and we clean up our sites. The area that needs cleaned up at Ulm Bridge has many obstacles that will provide great training for the local fire department. This partnership doesn't involve any transfer of funds, but provides hands on training for the local fire fighters.

- 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.

This site offers over 160 acres of natural habitat to hunt, fish, boat, swim, hike, wildlife view and many other recreation opportunities. It also surrounds a conservation easement of 288 acres. This summer we noticed a lot of people using the site to go swimming. Families let their children and dogs cool off in the Missouri River. The site offers plenty of parking space for all types of vehicles. This project needs to address the areas that were damaged by the floods this year. By adding more gravel, grading the entire area, and posting better signage, we will improve the area for folks who are driving small cars and help direct people to appropriate parking spots. The location of this sites is close to Great Falls and draws in city residents who may not have a 4x4 truck. This project can wait until Spring to complete, but we will need to fix it before summer kicks in. After the parking areas and road is improved we will post signage to help direct people with truck and trailers to park and those will single vehicles. Currently, people just park in random spots and the parking area is unorganized.

The Wildlife division acquired 288 acres for a conservation easement that is surrounded by the fishing access site. This easement will ensure that the natural habitat will be left so that it benefits future wildlife habitat. This area opens opportunities for our FAS users. With the new non-traditional users coming to the site, we need to ensure that the area is safe and well maintained. We also need to keep the area graded at a level appropriate for law enforcement and/or emergency services vehicles. Sites that are in or near populated areas require more upkeep than ones that are isolated and in rural locations.

- 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.

The area to the West of Milligan Road is where the large cottonwood tree is partially blocking the road. We do not have the equipment to clean that area up properly and it is something that would be too time consuming for our staff to complete. We can so some of the work, but the bulk of it will need to be done as a training exercise for the local fire department and a hired contractor. Since this part of the project is about \$5,000 it is something that we would just have to leave as it is. The way it is now is an eyesore and makes the site seem unkept and dangerous during dry weather. We usually have at least 2 or 3 fires a year at various sites. This debris pile could cause a huge

fire and do a lot of damage. We spend an average of 2 weeks a year just cleaning up debris and piling it up to burn in the fall at various sites in Cascade County. This takes 3 or 4 staff to do this project each time. This has been our practice for the past 4 years and we've only done the debris that is already on the ground. This does not include anything that has fallen after 2014. Our local fire department has applauded our efforts to clean up certain sites over the last 4 years because they know it hasn't been done in the past. We have agreed to work with them when we burn so that they can use the opportunity for training sessions.

We had many sites in Cascade County that have significant damage due to flooding. This site was not as bad as others, but it still requires more funding than is normally set annually. Our staff will do all the road grading and placement of the gravel. We have the equipment and expertise to do the job well. The tree work will require help from other resources. This project does not require any engineering plans. We can start the work as soon as weather permits. This site does not normally require regular grading and addition of gravel like some other sites. The area is flat, easy to get to and used mostly by locals. In the past 5 years we have only had to add a small amount of gravel to a new parking area that was put in for the conservation easement area. This project will bring the site back to normal and will not need much upkeep after the area is graded and gravel added. The damage done to the site was the result of the flood.

**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.**

We will have gravel delivered to the site by a hired contractor. Gravel prices and fuel costs may fluctuate from year to year. FWP will strive to cover any expenses over the estimated costs. If the tree work is well over the \$5,000, we will do what we can with that amount and re-evaluate the project to see if it could continue to another grant year. Our staff will do all the grading and placement of the gravel. We will use our own equipment to do most of the job. We may need to rent a larger grader if ours will not be sufficient. This cost will be paid for by FWP. The area with the down cottonwood and the concrete chunks with rebar will be done by a separate contractor. The job is straight forward and will not require design work. Any re-seeding will be done by FAS staff.

**Project Cost Estimate (rounded up)**

Tree Work/Debris Clean Up	\$5,000
Gravel Delivered (140 cu yds)	\$1,700
Staff Hours	\$1,700 (FWP in-kind)
Fuel/misc. materials	\$ 150 (FWP in-kind)
Seed	\$ 200
Overhead (14.5%)	\$1,200 (FWP in-kind)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9 950</b>

**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.**

One of the key benefits for this project will be the improvement of public access to the main parking area, which is used by most of the users. By adding gravel to the entire roadway and parking area, we will be stopping water that would normally be pushed down the boat ramp and/or shoreline. We will also stop water from puddling up and causing large ruts in the road when vehicle traffic is present. These ruts make it difficult for small vehicles to pass without jolting their car. With the addition of gravel, water will be able to drain down through gravel and into the soil.

We will clear out any cuts in the road and re-seed areas that need it. This damage was caused by flooding and will not become a regular maintenance project. We will do some re-seeding along the banks to help stop erosion and weeds from coming up. This is one of those sites if we keep it looking good, people will take care of it.

5. See attached maps and photos.



