

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND  
RECREATION PROJECT  
APPLICATION FORM FY2018**

Project Name: Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Energy Efficient Parking Lot Lighting

Reservoir or River Segment: Great Falls Area County(ies): Cascade

Site Name (or legal location if no site name): Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center

Applicant Name and Agency: Andrea Tavegia, US Forest Service

Position (if applicable) Center Manager

Address 4201 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405

Telephone # 406-727-8733 E-mail andreabtavegia@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](http://www.missourimadison.com) for a list of current Regional Working Group members.

Project Sponsor Name Andrea Tavegia

Agency and Position US Forest Service, Center 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: \$ 32,362

Applicant Contributions: \$ 3,000

Other Contributions - Please list by source:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NorthWestern Energy Match Request: \$ 3,000

River Fund Grant Request: \$ 26,362

Proposed Project Implementation Period: Fall 2017 or Spring/Summer 2018

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND  
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APPLICATION FORM FY2017**

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 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center was built in 1998 using the latest affordable technology, materials, and designs. Subsequent additions and renovations strived to maintain the same level of quality. When the current parking lot was installed around 2002, standard parking lot lighting was installed to maintain safe conditions for our visitors during early and late business hours and special events as well as providing some level of security for the building and grounds. Over time, these lights have begun to fail. Although the Interpretive Center staff has tried to keep up with required maintenance on these lights, specialized equipment and certified electricians are required for the current maintenance activities that are necessary to bring all lights back to working conditions. Currently, only about 25% of the lights across the parking lot function properly.

In addition to replacing nonfunctioning light heads, we have a strong desire to upgrade the parking lot lighting system to LED lighting in order to save energy while providing safe spaces for visitors and events. Replacing 30 light pole heads with LED heads will provide a brighter light while reducing energy consumption at one of the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest's top energy-consuming facilities. As a public facility, it is extremely important to be a leader in providing services in the "greenest" way possible. Upgrading our parking lot lights is one large step in leading by example while providing for public safety of a popular destination in Great Falls.

While the project as presented will replace the entire head on all of the light poles, an alternative approach is to install a retrofit kit to convert current heads to LED heads. This alternative reduces the overall cost of the project by \$7,920 to \$24,442, but combines old and new equipment which may cause more maintenance issues sooner in the future than replacing the entirety of the light pole heads.

4. **Cultural Resource Management:** Project will be submitted to Mark Bodily, Forest Archaeologist for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. No ground disturbance will take place, all work will be on paved surfaces at the administrative site of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center.

5. **Scoring Criteria**

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

Large facilities like the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center are expensive to maintain. One of the most important things to consider when maintaining such a facility is public safety. Upgrading the parking lot lighting to LED lights will provide a safer environment during early and late business hours (low natural lighting), special events, and other activities that take place during low light. In addition to providing for public safety, and upgrade to LED lighting saves energy, saving the tax payer money that can be used for other programs such as public outreach.

5.2 Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations.

No outside partners currently exist for this project. The Forest Service can currently commit \$3,000 to the project in cash. Other contributions from the Forest Service include the cost of contract personnel to set up the work contract and maintenance staff to monitor the contracted work. The value of these expenses is estimated at \$2,000.

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).

The Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center currently sees just over 51,000 visitors per year. Each of these visitors uses the parking lot in some fashion. Each visitor also enjoys a spectacular view of the Missouri River, including a view of Black Eagle Dam. Although our typical form of recreation is a little unconventional (a visit to an interpretive center museum, including interpretive programs, educational films, and interactions with interpretive rangers), we also have hiking trails, including access to the River's Edge Trail. Our facility provides the public with opportunities for education, resource interaction, and recreational fitness.

5.4 Project responds to a clearly identified need.

The need for this project is deeply rooted in providing for public safety and security of the resources located in and around the Interpretive Center. With only about 25% of the existing lights functioning, public safety and site security is threatened to an extent. Replacing these light heads would remedy that situation. In addition, LED lighting is virtually maintenance free for a much longer period of time than conventional lighting, so years of functionality should follow installation of such energy efficient lighting.

If funding is not provided for this project, progressive light repair and replacement will continue to occur in stages as local unit funding allows.

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

The cost estimate for parts, labor, and equipment rental was provided by AT Klemens, a local electrical contractor in the Great Falls area. AT Klemens technicians have served the Interpretive Center with a number of projects, not least of which includes repairs to existing parking lot lighting. The preferred design/plan is for complete light head replacement with LED heads, estimated to cost \$32,362. An alternative design/plan would retrofit existing light heads with LED lighting, at a total cost of \$24,442. In both proposals, the existing poles will remain.

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

The US Government is always striving to be more efficient with its use of the tax payer's money. The US Forest Service is no exception. By investing in green fixtures that save energy, we plan to save the tax payer money from paying more for simple utilities like electricity. It is also important for us to not only provide access to our nation's public lands, but to provide safe access, which includes a safe parking lot. From the Interpretive Center's parking lot, visitors can access a number of trail, including the River's Edge trail. Visitors can also access neighboring Giant Springs State Park and gain information about visiting other sites along the Missouri River such as the dams, including the Great Falls of the Missouri.

6. Attach map(s) showing the location of the proposed project, drawings and design work related to the project, and photos (as available) at the end of the application.



7. Permitting and Planning Acknowledgement:

By submitting this application, and with an award of grant funds, applicant agrees that all permitting and planning requirements, such as NEPA and MEPA and cultural resource compliance, will be completed *prior to expenditures of awarded funds*. Furthermore, all design, layout, and contractual requirements will be completed in a timely manner.