

Contact: Jon Jourdonnais  
PPL Montana  
Director – Hydro Licensing & Compliance  
406-533-3443

### **Missouri-Madison recreation trust announces 2006 award recipients**

PPL Montana and the Missouri-Madison River Fund announce the award of funding totaling \$586,295 for qualifying public recreation projects along the Madison and Missouri Rivers. These funds are a combination of contributions by PPL Montana and matching grants from the Missouri-Madison River Fund, a \$6.9 million trust fund for public recreation, created through the collaborative efforts of PPL Montana; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; US Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Lewis & Clark, Cascade and Chouteau counties; and numerous other public and private partners.

A list of 2006 award recipients, project descriptions, and award amounts can be found at [www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp](http://www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp) under the tab for 2006 River Fund awards. These project awards, together with contributions by applicants and other partners, will enable completion of 16 projects totaling \$1,164,545 to support public recreation in the Missouri-Madison project area.

Created as a public-private partnership to meet public recreation needs along the Madison and Missouri rivers, the River Fund now supports on-going efforts to protect and enhance this recreation resource in a project area extending from Hebgen Reservoir downstream to Fort Benton, excluding the Toston and Canyon Ferry hydroelectric projects and the river segment between them. River Fund awards for qualifying projects will continue on an annual basis, with grant awards in December of subsequent years. For more information on projects that may qualify for River Fund grants, see the 2006 River Fund application form at the website shown above.

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PPL Montana has cooperated with other agency and private partners in creating this Fund to support its responsibilities for public recreation on nine reservoirs under the Missouri-Madison Project 2188 License, issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2000. These reservoirs are Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, and five in the Great Falls area – Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan, and Morony. While PPL Montana has contributed a total of \$10 million for development of 32 recreation projects under the Missouri-Madison Project License, a total of \$16.5 million in public recreation projects have been completed to date using PPL Montana funds of \$7 million. PPL Montana will contribute \$200,000 in 2006 towards the total award amount.

PPL Montana's funding to support the River Fund is part of an overall \$23 million commitment for recreational and other wildlife, fisheries, habitats and water quality river stewardship projects along a 524-mile portion of the Madison-Missouri River corridor.

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PPL Montana has offices in Billings, Butte and Helena. With about 500 employees, PPL Montana operates the coal-fired Colstrip and Corette power plants and 11 hydroelectric facilities along the Missouri, Flathead, Clark Fork and Madison rivers and Rosebud Creek. PPL EnergyPlus, another PPL subsidiary, operates a trading floor in Butte that markets and sells power in the wholesale energy market. More information is available at [www.pplmontana.com](http://www.pplmontana.com).