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Missouri-Madison recreation trust announces 2007 award recipients

PPL Montana and the Missouri-Madison River Fund announce the award of funding totaling \$510,872 for qualifying public recreation projects along the Madison and Missouri Rivers. These funds are a combination of contributions by PPL Montana and grants from the Missouri-Madison River Fund, a \$7.1 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 award recipients for 2008 projects, project descriptions, and award amounts can be found at www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp under the tab for 2007 River Fund awards. These project awards, together with contributions totaling \$612,750 from applicants and other partners, will enable completion of 8 projects in 2008 totaling \$1,108,622 to support public recreation in the Missouri-Madison project area. PPL Montana will contribute \$209,327 in 2008 towards the total award amount.

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.

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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 include Hebgen, Madison, Hauser, Holter, and five in the Great Falls area – Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan, and Morony. 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.