

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND  
RECREATION PROJECT**

**APPLICATION FORM 2008**

Project Name: Windy Point Boat Launch

Reservoir or River Segment: Madison River County(ies): Madison County

Site Name and/or Legal Location: Windy Point on the Madison River, T.10 S, R.1 E, Section 18

Applicant Name: Bureau of Land Management, Susan James

Position (if applicable): Outdoor Recreation Planner

Address: P.O. Box 765, Ennis, Montana, 59729

Telephone # (406) 682-4082

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**Project Sponsors:**

If the applicant is not a representative of the U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; or Madison, Gallatin, Broadwater, Chouteau, Lewis and Clark, or Cascade Counties, the applicant will need a project sponsor. Sponsors can include any of the above or PPL Montana or the Bureau of Reclamation. Project sponsors serve on Missouri-Madison Regional Working Groups. See page 1-9 of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan for a list of 2007 members of the Regional Working Groups ([www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp](http://www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp)).

Project Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Financial Support</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$ <u>180,000</u>
Applicant Contributions:	\$ <u>80,000</u>
Other Contributions (Please list by source):	
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

PPL Montana Match Request: \$ 20,000

River Fund Request: \$ 80,000

Proposed Project Period: 2009-2010

Please note: Document all in-kind support and contributed services from project partners under Scoring Criterion #1 on page 3.

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.

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**Project Description:**

The BLM, Dillon Field Office is seeking supplemental funding from the River Fund to develop the fishing access site at Windy Point on the Madison River upstream of Palisades Recreation Area and downstream of Lyons Bridge FAS. Windy Point is a well used undeveloped boat launch and parking area without any existing facilities. Proposed improvements include a new parking area, a short gravel access road, a concrete boat ramp, precast vault toilet, boat tie-off area, picnic table, and resting benches. Information signs and vehicle barriers will be installed where necessary. The existing access road and ramp will be physically blocked and reclaimed.

The proposed development is expected to reduce recreational impacts, improve health and potentially unsafe conditions for users, and enhance recreation experiences at this site and along the Madison River.

BLM has completed all activity level recreation area planning and environmental work for this project. Please see the attached site plan and photographs.

**Scoring Criteria**

1. *Project involves collaboration with other agencies or organizations.*

PPL Montana, FWP, SW Montana Grazing Association, Madison County, Special Recreation Permit holders, and Shuttle Operators all collaborate on recreation and resource management throughout the river corridor including Windy Point. Collaboration includes collecting and sharing visitor use data, maintaining recreation sites, managing Special Recreation Permits and commercial use fees, and managing noxious weeds.

BLM and FWP share maintenance responsibilities at fishing access sites along the upper Madison River and cooperatively administer a Special Recreation Permit Program with nearly 200 Outfitters. Fees from the SRP program may be used for projects such as Windy Point that directly benefit commercial users and provide fair return to the public for use of public lands and related waters. Funds generated from the SRP program help manage existing use at Windy Point and will be used to maintain any new facilities in the future.

BLM manages noxious weeds along the Madison River in conjunction with the SW Montana Grazing Association and the Madison County weed program. Ongoing and future control efforts conducted at Windy Point include some hand pulling, herbicide treatment, and noxious weed information and education.

2. *Project responds to a clearly identified need.*

The undeveloped launch at Windy Point is a popular with locals and commercial outfitters who conduct evening/short floats or who are trying to disperse themselves out along the river. BLM engineers visited Windy Point in 2007 and determined that the access road and boat launch should be upgraded to meet minimum safety standards or be closed to launching boats. The approach to the launch is a narrow, single lane road, rutted and sloping toward the steep river bank. Drivers are required to back the full length of the road or attempt to turn around half

way (see attached aerial photo). To launch, floaters must “jack knife” their trailer over a steep bank into the river (see attached photographs).

Item 3 below describes additional need for development at this site to accommodate increasing use and demand for access to the river.

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 Madison River is recognized as the most heavily fished body of water in Montana. The world-class trout fishery and outstanding scenery contribute to the area’s growing popularity. Fish, Wildlife & Parks estimated over 106,000 angler days on the upper Madison between Ennis Lake and Hebgen Dam in 2007 and nearly 200 commercial outfitters make their living off the Madison River fishery. Public access to the river is limited as a result most recreational users are dependent upon the use of public lands and publicly owned recreation sites. This demand on public recreation sites is resulting in a growing concern for river resources and the health and safety of the public. Accumulating human waste and litter, a dangerous access road and launch, and increasing use of this site all demonstrate a need for some level of development. A toilet, information kiosk, road, and parking area will greatly improve our ability to manage resource impacts and improve unsafe conditions at Windy Point. They will also help us meet our obligations to partners, the public, and local businesses who depend upon public access like Windy Point.

Proposed improvements at Windy Point are consistent with the vision of the CRMP including goals that provide for safe and well-managed recreation sites, improve our ability to mitigate conflicts between user groups and landowners, and protect and promote responsible use of public lands and waters.

4. *Project is for operation and maintenance of an existing recreation site.*

Windy Point is a well used boat launch and parking area without any existing facilities. The addition of facilities such a toilet, a safer access road, parking and boat launch are necessary to keep the site open to the public and meet the demands of existing use. On-going operations and maintenance of the site can easily be addressed using existing BLM staff, campground hosts, and BLM/FWP partnered labor.

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

The proposed development at Windy Point will help disperse recreational use along this heavily used section of river. The addition of facilities will reduce impacts caused by vehicle travel, eliminate human waste and other sanitation issues, provide safer access to and from Highway 287, and improve recreational experiences and opportunities river-wide.

The BLM eliminated livestock grazing from the adjacent Windy Point pasture (26 acres) while planning for the development of this site. It was determined that this will reduce potential conflicts with recreational uses and better protect the riparian area and sensitive plant species located within the pasture.

This project is expected to benefit other resources by eliminating loss of riparian vegetation from grazing and potential sediment transport into the river from boats launching and taking out on unimproved surfaces.

This project is in accordance with the BLM Record of Decision and Approved Dillon Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated February 2006. Recreation Goal 2 of the RMP states: "Develop and maintain appropriate recreation facilities, balancing public demand, protection of Public Land resources and fiscal responsibility." This project is also in concert with the shared values of Madison County's Revised Madison Valley Growth Management Action Plan (2007) by providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, access to public lands, and contributing to a healthy economy.

Windy Point - existing





DRAWING SHOWS NEW SITE PLAN OVERLAID ONTO THE EXISTING SITE PLAN.

CONTOURS SHOWN ARE EXISTING GROUND.

SEE INDIVIDUAL DRAWINGS FOR DETAILS OF EACH SITE PLAN-EXISTING GROUND DRAWING AND GRADING PLAN DRAWING.

THIS DRAWING FOR INTERNAL PURPOSE'S ONLY.

SURVEY CONTROL POINT	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEVATION
TP-100	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.00
TP-200	10,273.57	10,000.00	113.48
TP-300	9,774.80	9,749.34	85.65
TP-400	9,924.35	9,750.27	92.96