

MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND
RECREATION PROJECT

APPLICATION FORM 2009

Project Name: Lonesomehurst Boat Ramp Improvement

Reservoir or River Segment: Hebgen Reservoir County(ies): Gallatin

Site Name and/or Legal Location: Lonesomehurst Campground , south side of Hebgen Lake, 11 miles Northwest of West Yellowstone, MT

Applicant Name Gallatin National Forest, Hebgen Lake Ranger District

Position (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail Address _____

Project Sponsors:

A submitted application will need a Project Sponsor. Project sponsors serve on 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; PPL Montana and the Bureau of Reclamation. See page 1-9 of the Comprehensive Recreation Plan for a list of 2009 members of the Regional Working Groups (www.apleco.com/mmcrp.asp).

Project Sponsor Name Robert Davies

Position (if applicable) Natural Resource Specialist

Address PO Box 520, West Yellowstone, MT

Telephone # 406 823-6971

E-mail Address rdavies@fs.fed.us

| | <u>Financial Support</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Total Project Cost: | \$ <u>36,000</u> |
| Applicant Contributions: | \$ <u>18,000</u> |
| Other Contributions (Please list by source): | |
| In 2007, \$9000 River Fund dollars was awarded for this project. 100% Design is accomplished. | \$ _____ |
| The \$9,000 River Fund money with an additional \$9,000 FS money was carried over leaving a balance of \$18,000 currently available. | \$ _____ |

PPL Montana Match Request: \$ 9,000

River Fund Request: \$ 9,000

Proposed Project Period: Sept 15 – Oct 31, 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. If "Yes," please identify which years the application was submitted and, if the project was previously funded, list the amount funded by year.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is a second submission for the same River Fund project submitted in 2006 and awarded in 2007. The initial total cost was \$18,000 with a 50% match by the Forest Service. After the Forest Service's survey and design work was accomplished the final plan was significantly more costly than what was originally planned. The original proposal was under designed and inaccurately budgeted for. The engineering staff over designed the boat ramp compared to what the recreation managers were thinking at that time. Upon careful review of the current design (100% complete at this time) the Forest service feels the design is very good and appropriate for the conditions at this site. One other boat ramp of the same design has been constructed Hyalite Lake near Bozeman, MT, with similar conditions as Lonesomehurst, is very reliable, safe, and durable.

This project will replace a non-functioned boat ramp and will involve:

- Reducing the grade of the top 1/3 of the ramp by removing fill material
- Replacing concrete planks
- Re-arranging rip-rap
- Filling gaps between planks of both new and old ramp with course gravel

1. Project Partners:

The project partners are the Forest Service and the River Fund. The Forest Service has surveyed the site and gathered data for assist with the design. The Forest Service has completed the design and the project is contract-ready.

2. Project Need:

There are two public boat launch facilities on Hebgen Reservoir. The facility at Rainbow Point serves the Grayling Arm and portions of the north shore. The Lonesomehurst boat ramp is the only boat ramp (public or private) boat ramp that serves the west shore of Hebgen Reservoir. The facility currently consists of two ramps and one dock. The dock is associated with the newer ramp. The Forest Service constructed the new ramp and dock in 2002. The old ramp and dock wore out and was oriented perpendicular to the prevailing wind, which made launching difficult. The old dock was disposed of but the old ramp remains. The contour of the reservoir bottom will only allow the new ramp to be used for those periods when the reservoir is within two feet of full pool. In other words, the ramp is only useable from approximately June 1 to July 30 each year. We have extended the ramp further out, but the elevation change is not steep enough and before launching the boat, many vehicle tail pipes are under water. There are numerous incidents of boaters having to pull one another's vehicle off the ramp because their vehicle becomes stalled. Many boaters try to use the old ramp but because of its broken down condition such usage is not safe. Other boaters launch from a non-designated "natural ramp" area in the riparian zone near the old ramp. The purpose of this proposal is to refurbish the old ramp so boat launching can safely take place from May through October.

3. Public Benefit: Relationship of project to the Comprehensive Recreation Plan – Issues/Goals.

The existing ramp is only usable for only 2 months of the boating season. The result is congestion, user dissatisfaction and safety issues when boaters try to launch their boat and their vehicle becomes stalled. Tempers flare, and the result is undesirable recreation experiences. This is the only ramp area on the west shore of Hebgen Reservoir. Public safety for recreational users in the project area is very important. The existing situation increases the exposure to accidents by users of the facility by stepping directly into the water to hook up tow chains or straps to other vehicles in to order to pull their vehicle and trailer out. Responsible recreation/promote responsible behavior Even though the new ramp is not functional for most vehicles for a good share of the season, people still attempt to use

it, or the old ramp, or now some users have begun to use a non-designated ramp site. The result is degradation of the shoreline. Repairing of the old ramp will curtail the use of the non-designated area.

4. Long-term Cost Provisions

This project involves the repair of an existing facility. Once completed, maintenance needs will be the responsibility of the Forest Service. 5. Relation to resource values and existing plans. The project is located in the Management Area (MA) 5 of the Gallatin National Forest Plan. One of the recreation standards for this MA is to “Provide public access such as trails or boat landings to lakes and rivers.” Completion of the project will curtail the use of a non-designated site and avoid future shoreline damage.

This project is located on lands administered by the Gallatin National Forest. The District Ranger, responsible for the area, has decided the proposal is categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EIS or EA. This decision is based upon the fact this project involves improvement of a recreation facility that has been used for boat launching for over 40 years and experience has shown there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal:

1. The project area is not recognized as critical habitat for T&E or sensitive species.
2. As a boat-launch facility, the area is within the flood plain of the South Fork of the Madison River. There is little to no effect on this flood plain because the facility is also located within the flooded area of Hebgen Reservoir.
3. The site is not within a roadless or research natural area.
4. The site is not on or near Native American religious or cultural sites nor are there any archeological or historic properties within the project area.

Public announcement was made of this project during the Advisory Group Meeting on August 2, 2006 in West Yellowstone. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. Nobody opposed the proposal and there were several who supported the project. Numerous letters of support are attached to this application.

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

The users of this site have no choice during moderate and low water conditions but to launch their boats off to the side of the developed boat ramps. This use has impacted lakeshore vegetation in isolated areas and negatively impacted lakeshore habitat. These user created areas and have create erosion and sediment delivery into to the Reservoir. Repair of this boat ramp will meet users needs and help prevent unauthorized use of adjacent areas for launching boats.



Old ramp is too steep, gaps are unsafe, and rip-rap is not functioning

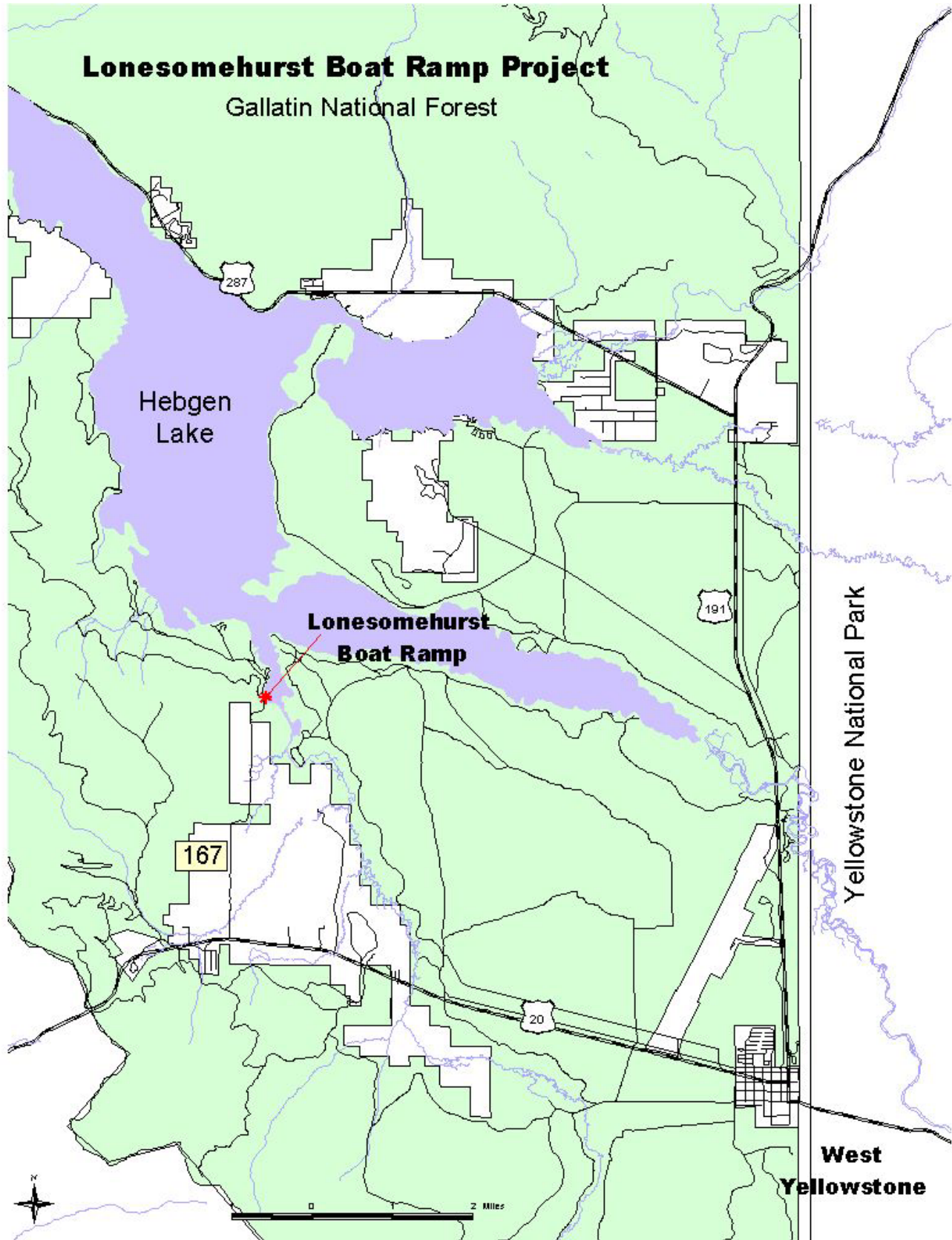


Old ramp is unsafe and unsightly. Users have created there own launch (upper left)



Old step ramp in relation to newer shallow ramp

Site Map – Lonesomehurst Boat Ramp



Design, specifications, and plans are complete.

