

**MISSOURI-MADISON RIVER FUND
RECREATION PROJECT
APPLICATION FORM 2009**

Project Name: Spring Creek Day Use Development

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

Site Name and/or Legal Location: Day Use area 1/4 mile from Spring Creek Campground,
West side of Hebgen Lake, 18 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
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	<u>Financial Support</u>
Total Project Cost:	\$ <u>14,000</u>
Applicant Contributions:	\$ <u>2,200</u>
Other Contributions (Please list by source):	
Hebgen Lake Fly Fishers (In-Kind)	\$ <u>1,800</u>
.	\$ _____
PPL Montana Match Request:	\$ <u>2,200</u>
River Fund Request:	\$ <u>7,800</u>
Proposed Project Period:	<u>June 1 – July 31, 2010</u>

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? No. 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:

The project includes improvement of the parking area, construct an access trail for launching small craft, install picnic tables, construct a footpath, and provide signage. This area has been impacted from motor vehicles and was recently closed. The desired outcome is to provide a quality day use area for picnicking, launching non-motorized boats, fishing, sight seeing, wildlife viewing and provide recreation information to the public.

1. Collaboration with other agencies or organizations.

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks are supportive of this project because it improves fishing access on this important water body and will protect important amphibian species that breed near the site. An active organized group of fly fisherman, the Hebgen Lake Fly Fishers, has been enthusiastic about participating and planning in recreation projects around Hebgen Lake. Several years ago this site proposed for development into a day use area was severely impacted by dispersed campers and motor vehicles. In 2008 the area was closed off to camping and motor vehicles. The Hebgen Lake Fly Fishers have identified this site as an important launching site for small craft such as float tubes, canoes, kayaks and small boats that can be hand carried. This area is protected waters from prevailing winds and large waves that can whip up quickly on Hebgen Reservoir, making this site very desirable for fisherman that do not use motor boats.

The Hebgen Lake Fly Fishers are very ambitious about providing labor associated with this project, such as installing picnic tables, signs, and construction a foot path at the Spring Creek day use area. They will provide labor and help with the final design of picnic table locations, signs, and location of a foot path.

2. Project Need.

There is a primitive boat ramp that was hardened of with rock and gravel in the Spring Creek Campground, approximately ¼ mile from this project site. Camping has increased over the years to the point that occupancy of cars, truck, and RV's make it difficult to use this nearby boat ramp. Many fishermen come to this area just for the day and an increasing number of them prefer to use non-motorized small craft. The development of this day use area will help provide for more diversity of use rather than only accommodating campers. The improvements will allow safe easy hand launching of small craft with additional day use features.

3. Project benefit to public recreation in the Project Area - and how it addresses goals of the Missouri-Madison Comprehensive Recreation Plan (CRP).

This site has been damaged from over use of motor vehicles yet an important opportunity for diversity of recreation use is lost when the area was closed. This project protects resources while benefiting important recreational activities. This project will promote diversity of recreation use and enhance the experience for non-motorized fishing enthusiasts.

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

This site, once constructed would require some annual maintenance such as trash collection, picnic table painting, and sign maintenance. Public use has been on the

increase, and motor vehicle use is controlled and reduced from what it used to be at this site, maintenance effort and cost would be relatively simple and in-expensive. The number of users on this side of the lake is high and the Forest Service is already managing maintenance of the existing use right now. The Forest Service feels they could easily absorb long term maintenance of this site.

5. Resource Protection

An important boreal toad breeding area is near this site. By keeping motor vehicles off the lake shore, and controlling use, both foot traffic and motor vehicle traffic, potential impacts to this important amphibian I reduced. The long term plan at this site is to add an interpretive sign that informs the public about a fenced off area protected from human impacts. Using this site to as an opportunity to promote conservation education will help visitors understand their vulnerability and help protect these important species.

Site Plan – Spring Creek Day Use Area



