



**E. Incentive Points Categories:** Check the box for each category that applies to your partnership project and include an explanation in the project description (Section F.). Qualifying applications will receive bonus points on their evaluation score.

Includes a veteran's and/or military family organization. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

Americas Great Outdoors – <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/> - Contributes to USACE efforts to accomplish USACE action items identified in AGO report: List action item #: **1.3b. expand capacity to build on and promote partnerships and programs on public lands that connect people to the outdoors.**

National Recreation Strategic Plan- <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/strategy.cfm> – Contributes to USACE efforts to accomplish goals and objectives: List objective #: **2.1 increase use of partnerships, both internal and external, with states, counties, communities, private and non-profit organizations, and businesses, to provide recreation services to the public .**

---

**F. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:**

Your project will be evaluated on the following categories: **Sustainability, Partnership Value, Recreation Benefit, Environmental Stewardship Benefit, Communication and Education Value, and Innovativeness.** Please address each in your description. Also address incentive point categories you have identified in Section E. If the project involves a SCA intern/crew please include the number of SCA volunteers that will be involved and describe what they will be doing.

**Description:**

- Background

Payne's Creek Multi-Purpose Trail was built thanks to the FY10 handshake partnership program. The Hartwell Lake Office partnered with the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) and the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) to design and construct the 7.2 mile main loop of the trail system. This construction comprised the first phase of an envisioned multi-phase project. The Payne's Creek Trail has been met with overwhelming praise and popularity from trail riders and served as the host site for the Georgia State Single Track Championships September 23-24, 2011. Increased use throughout the year has justified an opportunity to expand the trail system with the construction of additional loops and restroom facilities. The staff at Hartwell Lake proposes a challenge handshake partnership with the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) to expand the opportunities and access to this recreational activity. It is our belief the project can better accomplish the mission of the Corps of Engineers and demonstrate value:

- Opportunity

Two visionary documents completed in early 2011 have changed the Corps' outlook on recreation; they are America's Great Outdoors initiative (Feb 2011) and the National Recreation Strategic Plan (Apr 2011). These documents provide long term guidance to recreation programs while calling for a grassroots approach to protecting our lands and waters and connecting all Americans with their natural heritage and recreational opportunities. With leadership support and encouragement of these initiatives, the Corps at Hartwell Lake is determined to make every effort to fulfill the goals provided therein. This Challenge Partnership Handshake Agreement contributes to Corps efforts to accomplish our partnering potential as identified by those goals and objectives.

#### - Sustainability

The project would be considered a high value - low impact recreational opportunity that has no negative effect on the surrounding natural resources, and with proper maintenance would have an infinite lifespan. IMBA has received national acclaim for their efforts in eco-friendly, sustainable construction practices of facilities and trails. SORBA, acting as IMBA's subsidiary, will continue these practices on this project. The installation of a pre-constructed waterless bathroom benefits the Corps by providing an amenity otherwise unavailable to park users, therefore, further enhancing visitors experience and satisfaction levels.

#### - Partnership Value

The FY10 handshake partnership agreement enhanced a growing relationship between the Corps and IMBA-SORBA. The partner has done an outstanding job upholding their portion of the partnership through volunteer trail maintenance, trail enhancement activities and design consultation. Opportunities, such as the Georgia State Single Track Championships, will continue to present themselves more frequently with the expansion of the Payne's Creek Trail System. The FY10 Handshake Program successfully accomplished its goals by spawning other partnerships within their organization. The Athens Chapter of SORBA took a vested interest in the Payne's Creek Trail as they have expanded from the original Challenge Partnership Agreement to partner on the trail and became a cooperating association to help manage and promote the trail throughout the region. Discussions of future expansion of the trail have been met with great anticipation by the partner and additional handshake funds would show our intention and commitment to the future of this relationship.

#### - Recreational Benefit

Hartwell provides a wide variety of opportunities and facilities for camping, picnicking and recreational boaters. However, very few facilities exist that cater to non-motorized / low impact trail use. These new facilities will not only provide increased opportunities for hikers, and bikers, but will also provide benefits for other users, such as fishermen/women, bird and wildlife watchers, and health and fitness enthusiasts. Since there is a notable absence of these opportunities in the region, the Corps at Hartwell Lake anticipates that nearby Payne's Creek Campground (USACE) will become a camping destination by providing suitable facilities to meet the needs of those who wish to participate in these types of unique outdoor recreation activities.

#### - Environmental Stewardship Benefit

In an effort to achieve balance and synergy between human development and natural systems, the development of organized recreation facilities in this area will help in the management and conservation of natural resources that have been put at risk from improper usage of the area and to mitigate the degradation that has occurred here due to unauthorized and unorganized activities in the past.

#### - Communication and Educational Value

SORBA prides itself on their extensive efforts in mountain biking advocacy and education. The organization sponsors the Trails for Kids programs which teach youth about the opportunities and benefits of getting outdoors to enjoy these recreational activities. Through the Cooperative Agreement SORBA has signed with Hartwell Lake, Corps fundamentals of environmental education are highlighted and instructional and educational events are already being discussed. IMBA-SORBA has also produced educational material for the sustainable development and construction of trails, often considered the foremost authority in mountain bike trail design.

#### - Innovativeness

There are no agencies in the area and very few agencies nationwide that provide such unique opportunities on federal property. There are even fewer Corps of Engineers projects in the area with such fully functional, multipurpose trails. This handshake agreement provides opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to once again, lead the way in the provision of unique and quality public recreation activities at the federal level.

- Product

The Payne's Creek Multipurpose Trail project is designed to enhance the mountain biking recreational activities on the upper portion of Hartwell Lake and also increase opportunities for low impact usage such as bank fishing, hiking and bird watching and will encourage the local user groups to partner with the Corps of Engineers to accomplish this. The handshake monies would be used to foster the partnership between the two organizations and complete an additional 3 mile loop trail, several cut-through loops on the main 7.2 mile loop and the construction of a waterless restroom/changing facility located at the trailhead. To ensure the Corps does not significantly increase the financial burden associated with this facility, the partner has agreed to contribute to the O&M of both the trail and the restroom, as written in the agreement.

**The Corps will:**

- Work in cooperation with SORBA/IMBA to expand the existing facilities associated with the Paynes Creek Multi-Purpose Trail.
- Update and maintain the Paynes Creek Trail once construction is complete.
- Be responsible for installing and maintaining all trail signage.
- Provide campsites within the Paynes Creek Campground to trail work volunteers free of charge for more than one days' worth of work (dependant on availability, season, etc.).

**The Partner(s) will:**

- Work in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Hartwell Lake Office to expand the existing facilities associated with the Paynes Creek Multi-Purpose Trail.
- Consult with Corps employees through planning meetings.
- Provide trail design and layout.
- Provide volunteer work to flag and clear trail.
- Continue to provide volunteers to update and maintain the Paynes Creek Trail once construction is complete.

**Handshake Application Financial Work Sheet**

Partner Organization 1: Southern Off Road Bicycle Association, Athens Chapter

POC Name: David Turpin

Address: 651 Jud Cole Rd.

City: Bowersville

State: GA Zip Code: 30516

Telephone: -7064363743

---

Partner Organization 2:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

---

Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

---

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

|                            | Local Corps Office | Handshake Funds | SCA        | Partner 1       | Partner 2  | Partner 3  | Total           |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| In-Kind Services           | \$10,000           | N/A             | \$0        | \$7,000         | \$0        | \$0        | \$17,000        |
| Travel                     | \$0                | N/A             | \$0        | \$1,000         | \$0        | \$0        | \$1,000         |
| Materials and Supplies     | \$3,000            | \$17,000        | N/A        | \$0             | \$0        | \$0        | \$20,000        |
| Equipment Use              | \$0                | \$13,000        | N/A        | \$3,500         | \$0        | \$0        | \$16,500        |
| Funds Contributed          | N/A                | N/A             | N/A        | \$0             | \$0        | \$0        | \$0             |
| Personal Property          | N/A                | N/A             | N/A        | \$0             | \$0        | \$0        | \$0             |
| Volunteer                  | N/A                | N/A             | \$0        | \$10,000        | \$0        | \$0        | \$10,000        |
| SCA Intern/Crew            | \$0                | \$0             | N/A        | \$0             | \$0        | \$0        | \$0             |
| Other (explain below)      | \$0                | \$0             | N/A        | \$0             | \$0        | \$0        | \$0             |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$13,000</b>    | <b>\$30,000</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$21,500</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$64,500</b> |
| <b>Share of Total Cost</b> | 20%                | 47%             | 0%         | 33%             | 0%         | 0%         | 100.0%          |

Explanations: The handshake funds would be used to fund a private contractor to grub, cut and clear the actual trail and used to purchase a pre-fabbed restroom facility. The partner portion would cover volunteer and in-kind service along with purchased or rental machinery to finish the project, and volunteer and in-kind service for future O&M on both the trail and restroom. The Corps will use the O&M contractor to install the restroom facility and help with the provision of supplies, services and materials.



Existing 7.2 mile trail

Proposed 2.9 mile trail

Placement of restroom facility

**Legend:**

- Completed Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Boundary Line

2024 ft

Paynes Creek Rd © 2011 Google Image U.S. Geological Survey

© 2009 Google

# Payne's Creek Multipurpose Trail Project

