U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2013
Handshake Program Application

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Fort Peck Lake**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Fort Peck Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Education Program**
Corps POC Name:**Patricia Gilbert**
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A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Is the seed money going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained by the Corps at 100% expense? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)? * ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP? ** ☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**

4. If no, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (example: Sept 10)

If " No" to either question 1 or 2 the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps' challenge partnership authority.

***** If " No" to question 3 and the date provided in answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of your proposed challenge partnership your activity can not be authorized.***

B. Handshake Funding Program Request (maximum $30,000): $30,000

C. Cooperating Association Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has entered into a Cooperative Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional $5000**.** You must include a copy of the signed agreement with your proposal. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

D. Incentive Points Category: Check the box if your Lake/Project qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score for submitting partnership success stories/GETS. Also include an explanation of the GETS submittal and the date of submission below the check box.

☐ Partnership Success Stories/Good Enough to Share Submittals: Facilities that provided at least one partnership success story from previous activities may qualify for bonus points. Please check box if you have submitted a GETS or Partnership Success Story in Fiscal Year 2012

E. <u>Describe your partnership and the proposed project</u>:
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.

Description:
The Fort Peck Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Education Program proposes a combined challenge partnership with the Valley County Weed District (VCWD) and the Montana Department of Agriculture (MTDA) to 1) purchase and install Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education signs and 2) to upgrade and maintain an existing Information Building on project lands to be used as an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Inspection and Education Station. This partnership supports several other national AIS prevention efforts of which the Corps is a partner.

Background:
Eurasian Watermilfoil, a state listed invasive and noxious species, was discovered in Fort Peck Lake in 2010. Since that time, the State of Montana and Corps have taken a proactive approach to prevent new species infestations while preventing the transport of AIS to other bodies of water. In May of 2012 MTDA designated Fort Peck Lake and the Missouri River as a Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Area, requiring mandatory watercraft inspections for AIS.

Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and flowering rush have become established in Montana. These plants are highly competitive and have a negative impact on water quality, fisheries, native plants, waterworks, power generation and irrigation. The increase in Eurasian Watermilfoil biomass in 2012 on Fort Peck Lake alone has greatly impacted the lake's recreational and environmental resources. Conservative estimates indicate that this species has spread to approximately 70% of Fort Peck's shoreline's littoral zone impacting roughly 1,060 miles of shoreline to varying degrees.

Invasive aquatic species may be transported by hitching a ride on animals, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles; as well as scuba, fishing and hunting equipment. Prevention is the best known strategy to manage aquatic invasive species and watercraft inspections/education are the only prevention methods currently available. Inspections within the state have prevented the potential introduction of several AIS species within the last year, clearly showing that they can assist with the transport/introduction of aquatic invasive species.

Why Fort Peck?:
Efforts to prevent the introduction of species such as Zebra/Quagga mussels will benefit all downstream interests. While currently there are no known populations of these invasive mussels in Montana, there have been several watercraft stopped at inspection stations found to contain zebra mussels attached to boats or trailers. Fort Peck's position as the first reservoir project on the Missouri River system makes it an important area to focus prevention efforts. Species like Zebra/Quagga mussels, E. Watermilfoil, and other invasive plant species naturally disperse with the water current downstream. Infestations established at Fort Peck Lake have the potential to spread downstream to previously un-infested river segments and Corps projects; preventing an introduction at Fort Peck has the added benefit of preventing potential introductions downstream.

The Partners:
VCWD has purchased a wash station and will provide routine cleaning services for the facility. MTDA will provide the labor for trained operators that will perform inspections on boats and trailers entering and leaving the lake from April through September annually. COE will provide the building (water and electric included) and personnel to provide any maintenance to the facility. Future costs will consist mainly of labor (MTDA), building maintenance (COE), equipment upkeep, and cleaning of facility (VCWD).

The Corps, utilizing Handshake Award funding, will rehab the building by replacing existing windows, painting the interior and exterior of the facility, purchasing and installing a new roof, and developing and installing signage (roadside direction signs, 1 large billboard, and educational signs to be posted at project boat ramps).

If boats meet established criteria, the boat and trailer will be decontaminated with 140 degree water to remove any invasive species or material that could harbor them. Decontamination protocols are consistent with the national guidelines to prevent spread of AIS. The location of the proposed inspection station is along the major highway accessing Fort Peck Lake. This area is also ideal for handling large volumes of traffic therefore decreasing traffic hazards related to congestion from inspections.

Sustainability:
By using an existing structure for the decontamination station and education center the project will be sustainable; in both the financial and environmental context. It avoids costly construction costs by using an existing structure, provides environmental education and outreach, and will help protect the project against potential future clean up and mitigation costs associated with Zebra/Quagga mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and other AIS species. The decontamination equipment should last for a minimum of ten (10) years, with proper maintenance (VCWD) it should last much longer. Once the project is complete the Corps' costs should be minimal; minor labor and material costs for the structure's routine upkeep needs. Primary labor costs and the decontamination equipment itself will be provided by the partners (MTDA and VCWD respectively). The Corps' Volunteer program is expected to help man the station and provide educational materials on Aquatic Invasive Species issues and prevention measures. The expected value of the Corps' volunteer program is $8,544 in labor.

Partnership Value:
Without this partnership with local and state agencies, an inspection/decontamination/education station would be impossible. Currently the Corps of Engineers has limited authority to enforce inspection/decontamination regulations. By partnering with MTDA we will be able to utilize their enforcement authority to protect this shared resource. Additionally, MTDA will be providing over 90% of the total labor (30k) for the project and nearly 40% of the project's total cost. The partnership's use of VCWD's decontamination equipment (valued at $10k) equates to 100% of the needed equipment and its associated maintenance. When combined with handshake funds the overall cost to the project office is just 2% of the total cost.

Recreation Benefit:
As a valuable resource to the local, regional, and state tourism industry (a 2.8 billion dollar state industry); efforts at protecting the integrity and availability of recreational experiences at Fort Peck Lake has a direct positive benefit to all recreational users. When aquatic invasive species colonize a site they can severely limit the recreational experience available to the public. This education and decontamination center will provide the visiting public with the necessary information to identity these invasive species, provide a means of reporting suspected sightings, and protect the resource though inspections and decontaminations.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:
This project will have a profound positive impact on our water resources at Fort Peck Lake. In the 2012 season there were over 23,175 watercraft inspections throughout the state. Of the inspected watercraft, 104 were contaminated with aquatic invasive species: 61 were contaminated with Eurasian watermilfoil (currently a huge issue at Fort Peck Lake), 7 with zebra/quagga mussels, one with mud snails, 17 with Curly-leaf Pondweed and one with flowering rush. Each of these species has the potential to severely impact our water resource ecosystems, recreation, and/or hydropower systems. An additional inspection station, in partnership with MTDA and VCWD, located so close to a major recreation destination will provide an excellent opportunity to educate the public on

the potential impacts of these species while simultaneously providing easy access to a full inspection and, if needed, decontamination facility.

Communication and Education Value:
Not only will the inspection and decontamination facility convey our stewardship mission messages to the general public through normal interactions at the station, it will also allow visitors to learn about these species and their impacts through interpretive literature, panels, and additional signage posted around the project's boat ramps and recreational facilities. Potential additional outreach efforts could include programs designed to teach watercraft owners the proper way to inspect their boats for AIS. Interpretive literature on water safety, fishing regulations, hiking opportunities, historical sites, and other general information could also be available at the education/inspection center.

Innovativeness:
This inspection/decontamination/education station will be the first of its kind on Omaha District project lands. By partnering with the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Valley County Weed District this project will create a regional atmosphere of cooperation on AIS issues and prevention. Other inspection stations in the region are located on major interstate borders and roads. The nearest consistently manned inspection station is approximately 100 miles to the east on the North Dakota/Montana border. This project's location on the highway linking Glasgow (nearest substational population) to Fort Peck, so close several major boat launches, will be unique in that it provides easy access to inspection and decontamination facilities for Fort Peck Lake recreational users (in-state users are highly unlikely to encounter an inpection station in route to Fort Peck Lake, this station would help capture those users who may normally go uninspected).

The Corps will:
Assist in the provision of materials and supplies, provide maintenance of the facility, provide labor to install education signs, and will provide volunteer labor from the Corps' Volunteer Program to assist with outreach and interpretation at the facility.

The Partner(s) will:
The Montana Department of Agriculture will provide the labor for trained operators who will perform inspections and decontaminations during the normal recreation season (April to September).

The Valley County Weed District will provide the decontamination equipment, maintenance on the equipment, and cleaning services for the building.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Fort Peck Lake Project
Work Project Title: Fort Peck Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention And Education Program
POC Name: Patricia Gilbert
Address: PO BOX 208 City: Fort Peck State: MT Zip Code: 59223
Telephone: 4065263411
Location on Project:Fort Peck, Mt

Partner Organization 1: Valley County Weed District
POC Name: Rick Stellflug
Address: 501 Court Square, Box 13 City: Glasgow State: MT Zip Code: 59230
Telephone: 4062286237

Partner Organization 2: Montana Department of Agriculture
POC Name: Dave Burch
Address: 303 N. Roberts City: Helena State: MT Zip Code: 59620
Telephone: 4064443140

Partner Organization 3:
POC Name:
Address: City: State: Zip Code:
Telephone:

Proposed start date of work: Oct-12
Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership:Rehab of exisiting struture to be used as a Aquatic Invasvie Species Decontamination and Education Center.
Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	$1,000	N/A	$1,500	$29,840	$0	$32,340
Travel	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	#VALUE!
Materials and Supplies	$500	$30,000	$1,500	$0	$0	$32,000
Equipment Use	$0	$0	$10,000	$0	$0	$10,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	$0	$0	$0	$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	$0	$0	$0	$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	$0	$0	$0	$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	$1,500	$0	$0	$1,500
Other (explain below)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total	**$1,500**	**$30,000**	**$14,500**	**$29,840**	**$0**	**$75,840**
Share of Total Cost	2.0%	39.6%	19.1%	39.3%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: