

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Bussey Point Recreation Area**

Corps POC Name:**Chrissy Westerberg**

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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): \$25,000

C. Cooperative Agreement 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

Description:

In July, 2012, J. Strom Thurmond Project submitted a Partnership Success Story/Good Enough to Share article:

Equestrian volunteers entered into a Cost Share Agreement in 2005 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, J. Strom Thurmond Project, to develop four large campsites with equestrian amenities at Bussey Point in Lincoln County, Georgia. The selected areas for development were previously primitive campsites. Horseback riders were requesting an area for camping that was accessible by trucks with large horse trailers. Being acquainted with volunteers of the Georgia Horse Council (now the CSRA Equestrian Club) through their efforts in the upkeep of the Bussey Point trails, Corps personnel approved the group's request regarding the proposed campground. Prior to the formal Cost Share Agreement, the Georgia Horse Council, through verbal agreement with the Corps, maintained the existing six miles of horse trails within Bussey Point. In addition, and with guidance from Corps personnel, the Georgia Horse Council marked and cleared six additional miles of trails. This provided the area with a total of twelve miles of trails through the forested area. It also added numerous miles of natural surfaced roads. Volunteers from the organization erected directional and mile markers along the trail. As a result of their efforts, maps denoting the trails are available both in print and online. A formal Cost Share Agreement was signed by both partners to establish the camping area. The Corps, in cooperation with Georgia Horse Council volunteers, installed a water hand pump, primitive restroom, four individual campsites with gravel/crosstie impact areas, picnic tables, fire rings and highline areas for tethering horses. After completion of the equestrian sites in February 2006, the partnership with the Corps has been successful, with the CSRA Equestrians continuing to maintain the trails of Bussey Point on a regular basis and keeping them open for all riders and other users to enjoy.

E. 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.

Description:

Our proposed Bussey Point Recreation Area handshake agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Boy Scouts of America, Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia, and Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Equestrian Club to improve the existing trails, parking, signage and ten campsites in the Bussey Point Area will better serve scout troops, bird watchers, campers, equestrians, geocachers, hunters and hikers. This partnership will provide safe, quality outdoor recreation opportunities for the public in light of current budget realities addressed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Strategic Plan. The agreement increases use of partnerships as a means of sustaining levels of public service. Current campsites lack facilities to properly accommodate trailers (RV or horse trailers) and equestrian campers. Existing trails require better signage for the safety of recreation area users and emergency response services. Increasing use of volunteers to assist in stewardship will accomplish work which includes trail repairs, signage, improved trailhead parking, and improvement of existing campsites. These improvements will reduce hazards, increase user satisfaction, and reduce reoccurring maintenance costs.

The Bussey Point Recreation Area is a multi-use recreation area on a peninsula consisting of 2,545 forested acres located in Lincoln County, Georgia. The large forested area has 32 miles of shoreline along J. Strom Thurmond Lake. The area is enjoyed by equestrians, hikers, fishermen, boaters, hunters, scout troops, campers, bird watchers and geocachers. Managed hunts are allowed 3-4 times a year for the enjoyment of hunters, including special needs hunters and primitive weapon users. Although the area is quite large, only 15 acres of Bussey Point Recreation Area have been developed into a Class C designated campground. An existing boat ramp used by both

campers and day users is in very close proximity, which adds to the popularity of this particular area of J. Strom Thurmond Lake. Over the last decade, 12 miles of trails in the wilderness area were developed and are now maintained through a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the CSRA Equestrian Club's volunteer group. Seven years ago, the CSRA Equestrian Club (formerly the Georgia Horse Council) partnered with J. Strom Thurmond Lake through a cost-share agreement to establish four equestrian campsites. Since being built, demand for these four campsites has grown, because they can accommodate larger trailers while offering horse-specific equipment. More often than not, equestrian campers are turned away from the park because the equestrian sites are occupied. Limited occupancy of the other ten campsites in the campground is a direct result of inadequate access, along with lack of potable water and equestrian amenities. The CSRA Equestrian Club volunteers have logged over 3,500 hours of service with the Corps of Engineers at Lake Thurmond. Included in their volunteer services, club members conducted a survey of users in the Bussey Point Recreation Area, resulting in the current proposal.

The Bussey Point Recreation Area campground and trail project includes improvements to the Bussey Point Recreation Trail, trailhead improvements, installation of a well for potable water, improvement of ingress/egress at the ten campsites, and the addition of equestrian amenities at these campsites. Funds from this handshake agreement will also be utilized to erect an interpretive kiosk to educate the public about conservation efforts and provide safety precautions. Directional trail signs will be added as needed to decrease the number of lost trail users and to facilitate rescues performed by park rangers, local law enforcement and emergency agencies not familiar with the area. A portion of the Handshake funds will also be used to enlarge an existing gravel parking lot in order to increase the number of vehicles that can be accommodated, while allowing for the required turning radius of the larger trucks and trailers. The existing wildlife check station located in the current parking area limits parking and will be relocated from the middle of the proposed parking area to create additional parking.

Improvements to the Bussey Point Campground will provide easier access for all users. Bussey Point Campground sites will be equine-friendly, promoting use by riders who have previously opted to camp elsewhere due to limited site availability at Bussey Point Recreation Area. Addressing customer survey concerns will enhance the overall visitation and visitor enjoyment in Bussey Point Recreation Area. The goals and missions of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative and USACE will be furthered by enhancing camping, hiking, horseback riding, geocaching and nature viewing experiences. Future development may include the construction of a group shelter and the addition of electricity to the campsites.

Sustainability:

The foundation of this project will be built upon environmental, economic and social stability. Design and improvement to the Bussey Recreation Area Campground, trail, trailhead amenities and parking area will utilize the topography of the area to minimize impact. The anticipated operative life span for the Bussey Point Recreation Area project is 30 years. The recreational opportunities this project will promote include camping, geocaching, hiking, birdwatching, hunting, mountain biking and horseback riding. The project will increase visitation, providing a boost to the surrounding communities in Columbia, Lincoln and McDuffie Counties in Georgia and increase their overall economic sustainability. These unique recreational opportunities will enhance the visitor's overall experience and, thereby, increase the social sustainability of the area as a whole. All facilities and structures addressed in this proposal will be constructed with longevity in mind while minimizing maintenance requirements.

Partnership Value:

The volunteers of the CSRA Equestrian Club have proven to be an enormous asset in their ongoing partnership with the Corps of Engineers. The CSRA Equestrian Club performs maintenance on 12 miles of existing trail

within Bussey Point Recreation Area. The partner also identified a need and partnered with USACE for the installation of the four existing equestrian campsites. The partner, working with Backcountry Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia, has now identified a need for trailhead amenities, parking improvements, sign improvements and campground improvements. With this common realization, the CSRA Equestrian Club and the Corps are prepared to fully utilize this Handshake Partnership funding to accomplish these goals. The local Boy Scouts of America have also expressed their readiness to provide extensive service to make these improvements a reality. The Boy Scouting program for the region already utilizes the Bussey Point Area for hiking and camping activities. Scout leaders in the area recognize that improvements to the Bussey Point Area will not only serve the equestrian and Scout groups, but it will also provide recreation opportunities for multiple user groups such as bird watchers, geocachers and hunters.

Recreational Benefit and Opportunity:

J. Strom Thurmond Project provides a wide variety of opportunities and facilities for camping, picnicking and boating. However, very few facilities exist that cater to non-motorized trail use. These new facilities will not only provide increased opportunities for hikers and horseback riders, but will also benefit other users, such as fishermen, boaters, hunters, scout troops, campers, bird watchers and geocachers. The improved area will serve the needs of those who wish to participate in these types of unique outdoor recreational activities. The end result will be increased enjoyment by many groups sharing a diverse interest in outdoor experience, thus directly supporting America's Great Outdoors and recreational initiatives of the Corps of Engineers.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

The Bussey Point Project will provide a diverse user group with a broad variety of outdoor experiences through exposure to the native ecosystems and associated wildlife species that occur within these areas. Interpretive materials provided at the new kiosk location will provide users with an enhanced educational experience, which helps to heighten the overall recreational experience and foster a better understanding of their natural communities. This will also provide natural resource managers with an opportunity to incorporate information related to stewardship goals, management strategies, and general guidelines designed for the protection of sensitive areas including wetlands, rare species habitats, and wildlife openings.

Communication and Education Value

Bussey Point Recreation Area is unique in that it brings numerous user groups to a common area. These groups each have similar attachments to the area, yet they utilize the natural resources in different manners. The interpretive trail signage, combined with the trailhead kiosk, will educate users about the competing stresses on the Bussey Point environment while imparting conservation information germane to the different user groups (hikers, equestrians, geocachers, hunters and nature enthusiasts). Local area educators have expressed an interest in improvements to facilities in this area and increased educational opportunities through direct, hands-on experiences. The proposed project is a great way for the different user groups to share information about their understanding of the environment and the best ways to protect it for future generations.

Innovativeness:

The Bussey Point site is innovative in that it offers a great variety of activities in one area, ranging from managed primitive weapon hunts and hiking activities to equestrian trails, while offering camping facilities to all groups. No other Corps of Engineers lake project incorporates such a variety of activities. This project is also innovative in that campsites offering amenities for horses are very limited in Georgia and South Carolina, especially outside the very northern parts of both states. There is a very high number of equestrian users in the Central Savannah

River Area. Therefore, encouraging equestrian activities and increasing visitation to Bussey Point Recreation Area at J. Strom Lake Thurmond will help stimulate the local and state economy.

The Corps will:

- Work in cooperation with the CSRA Equestrian Club and Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia to improve the trailhead parking area and campsites of Bussey Point
- Maintain trailhead and campsite facilities once project is completed
- Arrange for limited timber removal as part of an existing timber salvage contract
- Relocate the wildlife check station to the edge of the proposed trailhead parking area
- Landscape campsites #1-10 to accommodate larger trucks and trailers.
- Contract drilling of a well and install new hand-operated pump
- Contract for heavy equipment and labor

The Partner(s) will:

- Work with the US Army Corps of Engineers, J. Strom Thurmond Project Office, to assist in improvements at the Bussey Point trailhead and camp areas
- Build and install informational bulletin board/kiosk at trail head
- Relocate the wildlife check station game gantries to the edge of the large trailhead parking area
- Install new high lines near the campsites so that horses may be tethered
- Contract new road with culvert connecting campsites to the trailhead area
- Consult with Corps employees through planning meetings
- Purchase and install solar lighting in campgrounds and at the campground restrooms
- Provide and install improved trail markings that will correspond to maps on the bulletin board/kiosk at trailhead
- Continue to provide volunteers to update and maintain horse trails
- Perform bush hog tractor work to clear one mile stretch of roadway for overflow parking near campsites #11-14
- Provide assistance in labor for improvements

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: J. Strom Thurmond Dam And Lake

Work Project Title: Bussey Point Recreation Area

POC Name: Chrissy Westerberg

Address: 510 Clarks Hill Highway City: Clarks Hill State: SC Zip Code: 29821

Telephone: 8643331121

Location on Project: Bussey Point Recreation Area, Lincoln County, Ga

Partner Organization 1: CSRA Equestrian Club

POC Name: Linda Antopolsky

Address: 5356 Magnolia Drive City: Evans State: GA Zip Code: 30809

Telephone: 7067994578

Partner Organization 2: Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia

POC Name: Tina Mattox

Address: P.O. Box 812 City: Farmington State: GA Zip Code: 30638

Telephone: 7063190239

Partner Organization 3: Boy Scouts of America - Troop 10

POC Name: Fred Ricketson

Address: 714 Carriage Hill Place City: Martinez State: GA Zip Code: 30907

Telephone: 7067551446

Proposed start date of work: May-13

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: If selected for receipt of \$25,000 in Handshake Funds, the Corps would use these monies to contract for supplies, heavy equipment and skilled labor. Partners in this handshake agreement will perform in-kind services such as realigning the roadway entering the parking lot, purchasing and installing solar lighting in the campground areas, installing solar lighting at the campground restroom, installing an educational bulletin board /kiosk at the trail head, and campsite amenity modifications.

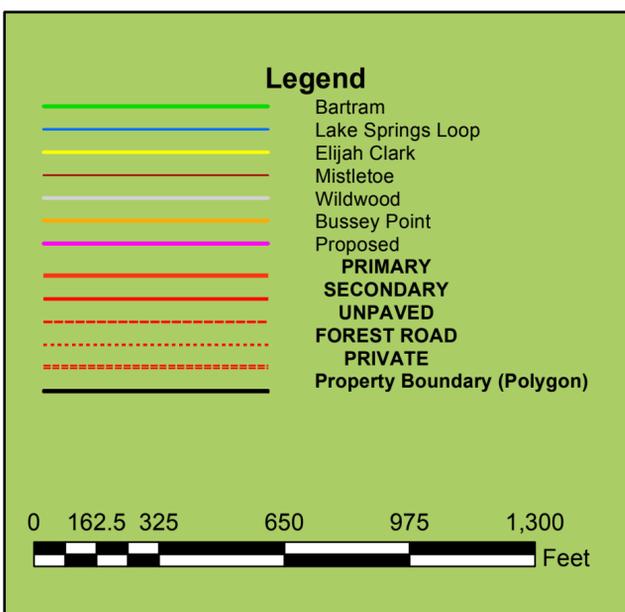
Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	CSRA Equestrian Club	Back Country Horsemen	Boy Scouts	Total
Salaries	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$11,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$26,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$7,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$7,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$4,000	\$25,000	\$19,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$56,000
Share of Total Cost	7.1%	44.6%	33.9%	7.1%	7.1%	100%

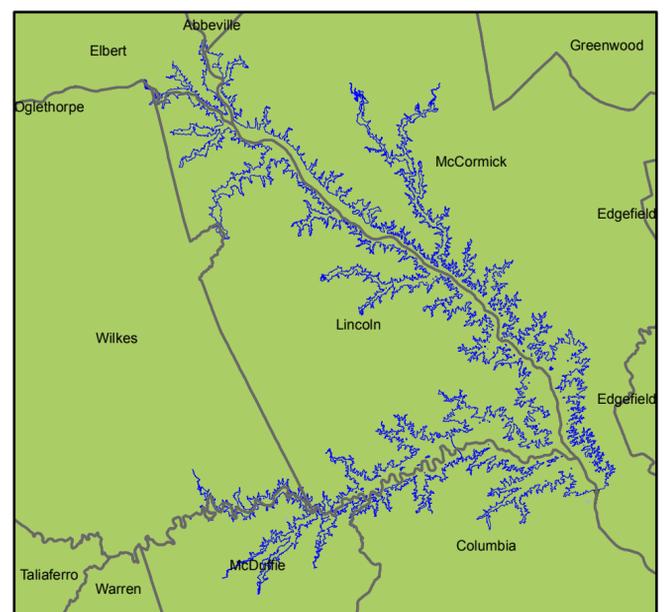
Explanations: The estimated cost of this proposed project is \$56,000. The CSRA Equestrian Club has committed to provide \$19,000 in materials, labor and in-kind services to this effort. The Boy Scouts of America have committed to provide \$4,000 in labor and in-kind services to to the Bussey Point project. The Back Country Horsemen of Middle and South Georgia have also committed to provide \$4,000 in labor and in-kind services to to this effort. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide \$4,000 in materials to the successful completion of this common goal.



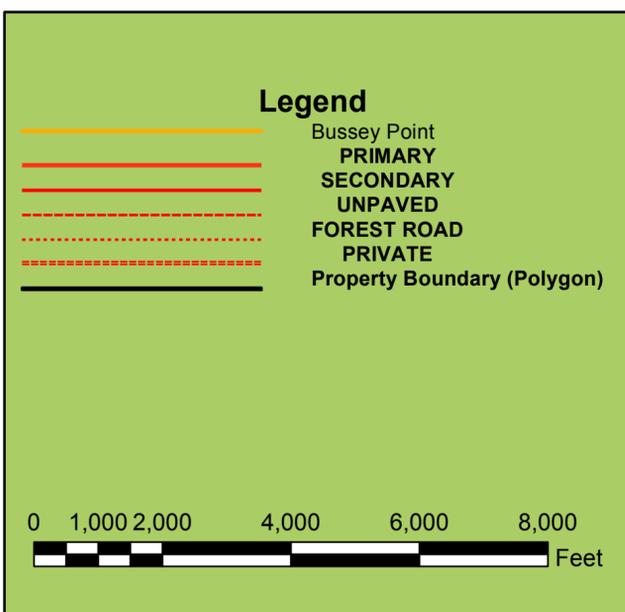
Bussey Point Recreational Area



Bussey Point Recreation Area
J. Strom Thurmond Lake Project
Lincoln County Georgia



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