

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2009 Handshake Program Application

Eligibility checklist to qualify per ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12.

1. Is the seed money going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained by the Corps at 100% expense on the day the agreement is signed? **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: Feb 09)

If the answer to either question 1 or 2 is No, the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps Challenge Partnership program. If the answered to question 3 is No, and the date provided in the answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of the proposed challenge partnership, the activity cannot be considered under this program. Reference application instructions for further clarification.

Highlight a box and press F1 if you need online help to complete any item.

Corps Lake/Project Name: **Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Fish Hatchery Stream Access and Restoration**
Corps POC Name: **Ken Bausch**
Street Address: Warm Springs Dam- 3333 Skaggs Springs Rd.
City, state and zip code: **Geyserville, CA 95441**
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Partner Organization 1: CA Department of Fish and Game
Partner Authorized Official: David Moore
Phone: (707) 766 - 8380 ext.

Partner Organization 2: Friends of Lake Sonoma
Partner Authorized Official: Dave Harmeson
Phone: (707) 542 - 4244 ext.

Partner Organization 3: Sotoyome Resource Conservation District
Partner Authorized Official: Kara Heckert, Executive Director
Phone: (707) 569 - 1448 ext. 104

Categorize Use: (may check more than one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpretation/Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation Facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Center |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Other/ Miscellaneous |

Handshake Funding Amount Requested (\$10,000 Limit): \$10,000

Description of the Handshake partnership and the project to be accomplished:

The Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma is located in northern California approximately 70 miles north of San Francisco. Project purposes are flood control, water supply and recreation to the residents of Sonoma and Marin Counties. There are over 100 boat-in campsites and over 40 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. In FY 07 the project hosted 1,930,780 visitor hours. This proposal is based on the recommendations and targeted improvements as stated in the Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) for the Milt Brandt Visitor Center and Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, dated January 2006. The Don Clausen Fish Hatchery was built to raise salmon and steelhead to replace spawning habitat lost when Warm Springs Dam was constructed. Today the hatchery is the centerpiece of a multi-agency experimental effort, the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program, to re-establish endangered wild coho salmon to the Russian River Watershed. The Hatchery is the center of significant winter-time activity for regional schools, visitors and biologists engaged in restoring native fisheries. Approximately 7,000 steelhead migrate to the hatchery each year. The Milt Brandt Visitor Center was designed to interpret the natural and cultural resources of project lands and staff work in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game to provide interpretive services to thousands of visitors and school children during the salmon and steelhead spawning season..

Below is an excerpt from the IMP addressing the proposed project area:

"Natural Stream and Riparian Areas

Visitors walk close to stream and to a stepped release area for classroom-raised fish. In the upper portion of the stream, a place to measure stream flow and take stream water samples is armored to prevent bank erosion. Interpretation helps visitors estimate stream flow. This area has been designed in part to create a ceremonial, special – and safe – place for the Classroom Aquarium Education Project to culminate their fish-raising experiences".

Current facilities are not ADA compliant and do not allow for direct access to the riparian areas located behind the fish hatchery. No interpretive signage exists and there are few areas for group visits to the stream and fish ladder areas. A stepped platform was recently installed to accommodate the fingerling release of steelhead grown in local classrooms engaged in the Classroom Aquarium Education Project, but the platform is not connected by a trail that accommodates all the needs of visitors.

Proposed Changes:

1. Year 1- In-stream and stream bank restoration to improve stream structures and remove non-native vegetation. Upland areas will be planted with native vegetation for habitat improvement
2. Year 1- Building of 700 feet of wheelchair accessible streamside trail with integrated viewing platforms to allow visitors & students to view annual fish runs.
3. Year 1 - Reinforce the fish ladder bridge decking and replace rotting fence alongside the ladder.
4. Year 2- Use of the stream restoration for local showcase and demonstration
5. Year 2- Continue removal of invasive blackberry and replant with native riparian vegetation.
6. Year 2 -Interpretive signage on the trail, fish ladder and bridge.

It is recognized that completion of this project will span two years as construction can only take place after the spawning season. This limits construction and other modifications to a 6-month window.

1. Sustainability: The estimated life span of these improvements is 15-20 years. The trail and stream restoration improvements benefit the Corps by fulfilling Corps of Engineers Environmental and Stewardship Principles. The accessibility of the trail will fulfill the Corps' responsibility to allow visitors with mobility impairments an opportunity to view live threatened species in a way that closely resembles their natural habitat, - something they cannot do now. The local landowner demonstration of the project will showcase the Corps as an active participant in the environmental restoration of Russian River Watershed habitats. The in-stream restoration will provide a more realistic environment for returning steelhead while they proceed to the hatchery. The recently released Biological Opinion calls for restoration of Dry Creek as a preferred alternative to restoring endangered fish in the watershed, and this demonstration project will be a wonderful way for local landowners to see how restoration looks and is implemented.

2. Partnership Value: The scope of this project involves three (3) key partners with regard to funding, resources and in-kind services. The California Fish & Game operate the fish hatchery and have committed to in-kind support with their Fish Habitat Specialist for stream restoration design and consultation services and their Interpretive Specialist services valued at \$8,000. The Friends of Lake Sonoma are longtime partners at Lake Sonoma and have committed \$ 5,000 in funds to build out the trail and stream restoration. The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) will provide overall project management of the in-stream and native plant restoration. The RCD is coordinating submittal for additional funding via the Prop. 50- California River Parkways Grant Program of approx. \$182,000. Altogether- the partnerships reflect the multi-faceted approach to this project. It also demonstrates the local commitment to the Corps' efforts at Warm Springs Dam. Further- the staff at Warm Springs is in the process of re-building community involvement and the success of this project will go a long way in building future trust and commitment.

3. Environmental Stewardship Value: Completing this project will transform a man-made water corridor encroached with non-native plants into a demonstration project with state-of-the-art stream restoration features. The stream banks will have native plant species appropriate for the habitat. The existing lawn area is hot in the summer and muddy in the winter. This proposal includes planting native oaks, madrone and manzanita to create shade and habitat structure for birds and small mammals. Additionally, it's envisioned that local schools will want to assist with planting. Finally, the restoration demonstration for local Dry Creek Landowners will show common features, structures and written information on how our restoration project was implemented. This demonstration will serve as a guide to implementing similar restoration efforts on their own lands. Visitors gain a better understanding of riparian restoration and how it's accomplished.

4. Communication and Education Value: This project addresses the Interpretation and Outreach Program Goals in three ways: 1) Environmental Education- The new wider trail access will allow the 3500 school children that visit during the spawning season to see the returning steelhead in the stream from a safe and accommodating vantage. The viewing platforms will be large enough to gather the groups for interpretive programs during all types of weather. The trail will integrate the existing stepped platform that is used to release fingerlings the children raise in the classroom and completes their program of learning about the fish, stewardship and the relation of the dam to the greater Russian River Watershed. 2) Incorporate Corps Missions and Accomplishments- The hatchery is a success story with an average of 7,000 returning steelhead

each year. The trail and associated interpretive signage will relate the construction of Warm Springs Dam to the Russian River Watershed and the central role of the hatchery to managing threatened and endangered species. The stream restoration features provides the public a first-hand look at how local landowners, both public and private, can work together to create better environments for local species. 3) Enhance Visitor Experience and Enjoyment- This project fills the accessibility and education gap that now exists. Visitors clamor to have more direct exposure to the large steelhead returning to the hatchery. Current staffing does not allow for direct interpretive programming for every visitor, so the new interpretive panels will help answer many of their basic questions while interpreting the Corps' role in the Russian River Watershed.

5. Recreation Benefit: The existing layout does not meet current ADA standards for trails, group use and resting/viewing opportunities. The new wheelchair accessible trail will be 6 feet wide-large enough for wheelchairs, visitors of all ages and physical abilities, and group use. Two viewing platforms that accommodate groups and provide resting/viewing of live native fish. The trail will be built where visitors want to go - eliminating the walk thru wet, muddy grass to see the live fish returning to the hatchery. The improved habitat will increase the diversity of birds and add another recreational dimension to visitors enjoyment. The area will accommodate future special events- particularly those that center around the fish and watershed education.

6. Innovativeness of the Partnership: The Don Clausen Fish Hatchery is the only mitigation hatchery on the Russian River. Further- it was selected as the location for the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program that captures wild coho in Russian River tributaries, spawns them and raises fingerlings for release to native streams. This program is destined to create new vibrant native and wild fisheries as the coho return to naturally spawn in the streams where they were released. No other program like this exists in Northern California. This project will highlight the Corps' role in the work of this hatchery and tie water resources, fish management and riparian restoration together in one place. It will also allow visitors direct viewing access that they have requested, and demonstrate to landowners that public/private partnerships work to create positive change in a highly altered habitat where fish, water supply and agriculture co-exist.

The Corps will:

Provide labor for coordination of all partner efforts. In addition, the Corps will fund and manage the California Department of Forestry work crews, as necessary, construction of the new trail and viewing platforms, painting of the fish ladder rails and bridge repair. The Corps will coordinate the interpretive components and educational materials. Corps will use Handshake funds to purchase trail construction materials and use on-site equipment operators to place rocks or other construction materials that require heavy equipment for the in-stream restoration.

The Partner(s) will:

The California Department of Fish and Game will donate in-kind services for all stream restoration design and provide continued consultation as necessary. CA DFG will also provide in-kind consultation services for developing interpretive and educational materials. The Friends of Lake Sonoma will contribute \$5000 toward materials of the new access trail. Finally, the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District will submit funding proposals to the Proposition 50- California River Parkways Grant Program for approx. \$182,000 for in-stream restoration design and construction, native plant

design, invasive vegetation removal and interpretive signage. The RCD will also serve in a project management capacity for the stream restoration, invasive plant removal and native planting components.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma

Work Project Title: Fish Hatchery Stream Access And Restoration

POC Name: Ken Bausch

Address: 3333 Skaggs Springs Rd. City: Geyserville State: CA Zip Code: 95441

Telephone: 7074314531

Location on Project: Fish Crowder, Access Stream, Fish Ladder And Adjacent Upland Area

Partner Organization 1: CA Department of Fish and Game

POC Name: David Moore

Address: 54 Grant Ave. City: Petaluma State: CA Zip Code: 94952

Telephone: 7077661369

Partner Organization 2: Friends of Lake Sonoma

POC Name: Dave Harmeson, President

Address: P.O. Box 214 City: Healdsburg State: CA Zip Code: 95448

Telephone: 7075424244

Partner Organization 3: Sotoyome Resource Conservation District

POC Name: Kara Heckert, Executive Director

Address: P.O, Box 11526 City: Santa Rosa State: CA Zip Code: 95406

Telephone: 7075691448

Proposed start date of work: Jun-08

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Construct 700 feet of wheelchair accessible trail with viewing platforms along fish hatchery access stream. Demonstration site for local landowners on stream restoration techniques and guidelines. Install interpretive panels relating endangered species, fish hatchery and role of the Corps of Engineers in the Russian River Watershed. Plan adjacent lawn area with native trees and plants to improve local habitat. Remove non-native and invasive plant species in stream-replant with native riparian vegetation. This is considered a two-year project, but this proposal reflects work to be accomplished in FY09.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$41,000	\$41,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$600
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$64,744	\$74,744
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,600	\$3,600
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer Efforts	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$8,000	\$0	\$17,305	\$25,305
Other (explain below)	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$32,500
Total	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$152,249	\$182,749
Share of Total Cost	4.1%	5.5%	4.4%	2.7%	83.3%	100%

Explanations: **Other Expenses as follows:** \$7,500 for inmate crews for non-native plant removal; \$25,000 for interpretive panels.

Photos of Existing Conditions:

Existing trail is too narrow and does not accommodate large groups or required wheelchair turnaround. The stream can't be seen from the trail. Lawn area (left) is unusable due to lack of shade. Lack of trees and native shrubs limits available habitat for native birds, insects and small mammals.



The existing man-made corridor (right) is barren of native stream features such as gravel beds, second-story cover and vegetation. Stream banks are choked with non-native blackberries.

Examples of in-stream structures that provide cover, shade and deep pools.



Preliminary design sketch for stream enhancement
PLAN VIEW

