

Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2011 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Philpott Lake, Wilmington District

2. Handshake Project Name: Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central

3. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
The purpose of this partnership was to build a facility that would meet the needs of the local fishing tournaments. The end result was a large mooring dock, launch dock, picnic shelter with water and electricity, a second vault toilet and ADA sidewalks between all of the amenities.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	\$25,000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$105,322
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	Total Value of Contributions
1 Franklin County	\$50,000
2 BASS Federation	\$250
3 VFW	\$250
4 DAV	\$250
5 Anglers Choice	\$250
6	\$

4. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback

Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.

A. Comments About Handshake Program: This is a great program to highlight the need for the local community to engage in assisting our efforts to provide recreation in the area. We have done a lot of presentations throughout the community, helping them understand that the local economy is infused by \$15-20 Million by the recreation provided at Philpott Lake. This program is helping them to realize that relatively small local investment can provide huge return-on-investment.

B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement: This agreement demonstrates the reality of local return-on-investment very well. Through amazingly fortuitous timing, six months after the ribbon-cutting on this new facility, the three counties surrounding Philpott

Lake were offered the opportunity to host the FLW Northern Conference College Fishing Championship. This opportunity would not have materialized without a facility such as the one we had just built cooperatively. The estimated economic benefit from this tournament to the community was \$500,000. It was not lost on the local movers-and-shakers that they had just realized a ten-fold return-on-investment in six months! This tremendous success has everyone looking for the next opportunity for us to work together.

C. Recommendations: We need a change in our partnership language that allows better cooperation with State-level government. This project demonstrates that very well. The one true disappointment in this partnership, and one that ended up costing our office a lot of money, is the legal language barriers that kept us from bringing the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries into the partnership. They had offered to match the County's \$50,000 investment with a whopping 3:1 investment of \$150,000. Our original plan was to provide only a mooring dock, hard-pack ADA walkways, and a picnic shelter with the \$50,000 County investment, \$25,000 Handshake Partnership agreement, which we estimated would require an additional \$35,000 from our local office. When the State entered the project, we stepped up plans to include a launch dock, a second vault toilet, water and electricity to the shelter, enhanced parking, and concrete ADA sidewalks, all of which we knew we would need, but had planned to add through future partnerships. Both Corps and State lawyers worked very hard to overcome sovereignty and indemnification issues. But, in the end, we were left shaking hands with the State, vowing to find ways to work with each other on future projects.

5. Handshake Summary:

Please also include a separate one-page newspaper type article describing the project and the benefit to the Corps of Engineers and to the public as a result of this partnership project. Examples can be found on the gateway under [Handshake Success Stories](#).

Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central Partnership

This partnership, made possible by the Corps of Engineers Handshake Partnership program, provided a facility that meets the needs of our area fishing tournaments, which are an important part of both the local culture and the regional economy. Before this project, Twin Ridge Park had a double boat ramp, a courtesy dock and a vault toilet. It also had a capped water well and plenty of room for parking, the remnants of a marina that had burned down at this site in 2001. This site was chosen for two reasons: it was the most under-utilized park on the lake and it was geographically at the center of the lake.

The promise of Handshake Partnership funding was enough to entice partners to the table. Our very first telephone call, to the Director of Commerce and Leisure Services, ended with the question, "Would \$50,000 give you a good start?" We brought BASS, DAV, VFW and Anglers Choice (local boat retailer and tournament coordinator) to the table to assure that our plans would meet the needs of the tournament boaters as well as the needs of our large population of retired and disabled military veterans.

This project became a priority to the Philpott Lake management team when it became clear that tournaments were leaving Philpott Lake for lack of such a facility. The Board of Supervisors of Franklin County joined their Director of Commerce and Leisure Services in appreciating the need to do something to keep from losing these tournaments. With their support, the partnership came together quickly, planned the project, successfully negotiated the proposal process, and built a facility that has become the pride of tournament coordinators in the area.

The success of the project came largely through the local appreciation of the economic benefit of having Philpott Lake in the region. The local area benefits by \$15-20 Million per year from the visitation to the lake, and local leaders are quick to act when a need is clearly identified to protect or increase that visitation, tempered with the appreciation that the pristine beauty of the lake is highly cherished and a major drawing card to the area. A local dock builder was successful in bidding to provide the docks for the project, such that the entire \$50,000 County investment was immediately pumped right back into the County's economy.

Within six months of the completion of this tournament facility, the tri-county area was given the opportunity to host a large FLW tournament that brought an estimated \$500,000 to the local economy. Their minimum facility requirements would not have been met without this new facility. The fact that the County's \$50,000 investment brought back a ten-fold return-on-investment within six months has left local leaders looking for the next opportunity to work the Corps of Engineers and other partners on Philpott Lake.



Handshake Partners (left to right) Marc Thomas, DAV Commander; Nick Loganadon, Anglers Choice owner; Rick Huff, Franklin County Administrator; LtCOL Charlie Pelham, SAW Deputy Commander; Doug Stewart VFW Commander; Mike Bryant, BASS Federation State President



New Picnic Shelter for Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central Handshake Partnership



Forming ADA Sidewalks for Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central Handshake Partnership



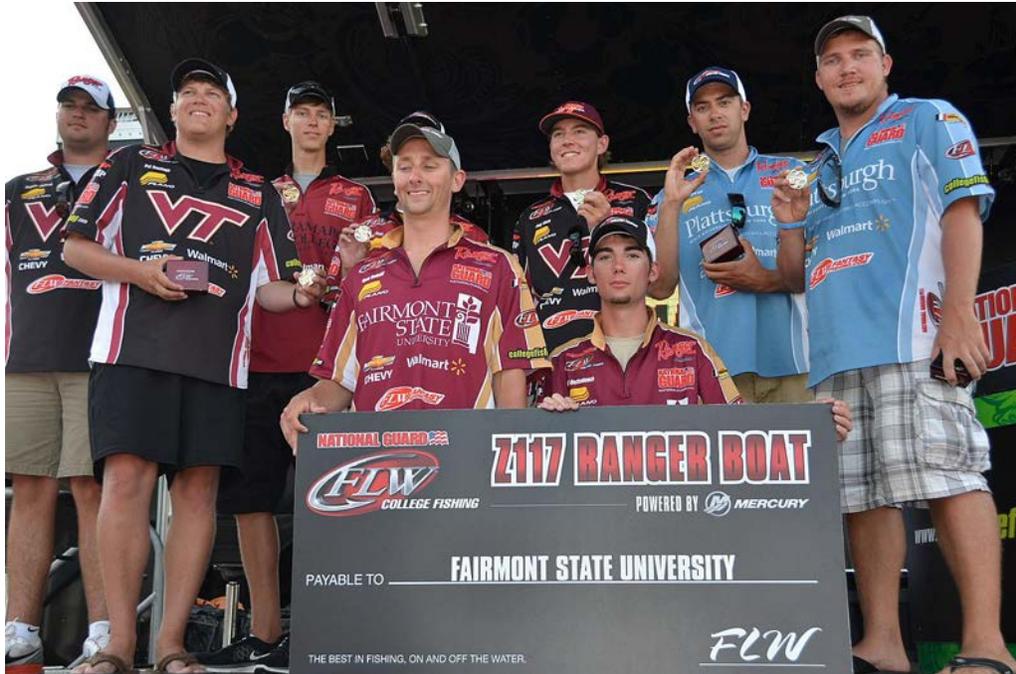
Launch Dock Bulkhead for Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central Handshake Partnership



Aerial Photo of Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central Handshake Partnership
(before launch dock placed on boat ramp)



Satellite image of Twin Ridge Fishing Tournament Central finished Handshake Partnership



Winners of 2012 FLW Northern Conference College Fishing Tournament



Morning Flag Ceremony - 2012 FLW Northern Conference College Fishing Tournament