

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2011
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/Project Name:**Blakely Mountain Dam/Lake Ouachita**

Handshake Proposal Title:**Lake Ouachita Vista Trail**

Corps POC Name:**Richard Stokes**

Telephone:(**501**) **767 - 2108** ext. **3006**

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A. Eligibility checklist:

1. Is the funding going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained at 100% federal 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 \$25,000): 25,000

C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus: Challenge Partnerships that include an organization (cooperating associations, friends groups) with which your project/district has recently (after January 1, 2009) entered into a Cooperating Association 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).

Date of Cooperating Association Agreement: (must be after January 1, 2009 to be eligible).

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

Utilizes an existing National Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - National Partner MOU's are posted on the NRM Gateway <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/list.html>). Local and regional chapters of national partner organizations are eligible. Groups must be an intended signatory to the agreement in order to qualify for the bonus points.

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

Presidents Challenge - Active Lifestyle Program: Project provides specific opportunities for children and their families to get outdoors and participate in activities in order to receive a Presidents Active Lifestyle Award. http://www.presidentschallenge.org/the_challenge/active_lifestyle.aspx

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. Also address incentive point categories you have identified in Section D.

Description:

Project Description:

Proposal is to support construction of additional sixteen-mile segment of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail, beginning at the Crystal Springs Recreation Area to Brady Mountain Road. In 2005, a group of volunteers began working on an initiative to construct a hiking/biking trail along the southern corridor of Lake Ouachita, connecting all the recreation areas on the southern portion of the lake with each other. Through the guidance of the Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee and Friends of Lake Ouachita, the volunteers, known as "Trail Dogs" have constructed 26 miles of the proposed 44 mile trail so far. The newly proposed section will be the sixth leg of the trail. Through a multiple partnership with various Federal, State and Local agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, five Arkansas State agencies, three Montgomery County organizations, and the Lake Ouachita Resort Owners Association, this hiking/biking trail has been constructed and is being maintained. Portions of the completed trail have been designed as a Barrier-Free trail area, with education/interpretative signage along this portion of the trail. In order to accommodate a year-round trail surface, another portion of the trail has been elevated above the lake surface, allowing visitors to walk through the area to observe the natural lake environment through-out the various seasons.

Additional Trail:

The newly proposed sixteen mile segment of trail will be of a natural surface, three feet in width, with directional signs, two bridges measuring 75 feet in length, an additional bridge measuring 20 feet in length and two maintained trailhead parking lots designed for 7 to 10 vehicles. The trail can be used for bicycling, hiking, jogging, and educational/interpretive programs. The Lake Ouachita Vista Trail has been designed in accordance with U.S. Forest Service Trail Specifications. All parking areas will consist of a six-inch cover of gravel. This proposed section of trail will extend through a beautiful old growth hardwood forest. In preparation for trail construction, the U.S. Forest Service has completed the required Environmental Assessment and there were no significant findings in the area to prevent the trail's construction. Monies awarded through the Handshake Agreement will go to purchasing materials and supplies, to include directional signs, trailhead kiosk, benches, and foot bridges. The "Trail Dogs" will work as the primary trail construction crew, with assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Ouachita and the U.S. Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest. Project owned or rented equipment will be utilized. There will be information and directional signs located along the trail to provide directions for visitors to ensure they do not get lost.

Sustainability- Trail design and construction will adhere to U.S. Forest Service guidelines using sustainable principles. The lifespan of the trail is unlimited. The lifespan of the wooden sign posts and kiosk will eventually need to be replaced due to degradation.

Partnership value- The volunteers contribute 4980 hours of service through their labor. Lasting working partnerships have been formed with other agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas State Parks as a result of this trail development and construction.

Environmental Stewardship Value- The trail provides the visiting public with opportunities to view, study, and appreciate woodland forests, wildlife, lakes and streams. The low impact trail design will ensure the trail has a minimal footprint to the surrounding land, wildlife, and vegetation.

Communication and Education Value- Educational materials will be displayed at the trailhead kiosk. The trail can be utilized for public outreach/interpretive programs; the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail has an official website dedicated to educating the public. The Trail Dogs work closely with Mountain Pine High School Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) Lab students in incorporation of various technology enhancement projects for the benefit of fellow High School students for interactive environmental resources and technology in their environmental lab.

Recreational Benefit- This trail supports the "Children in Nature" initiative by giving families a safe, enjoyable place to bring their children for exercise in the outdoors. The project will also improve the recreational experience for mountain bikers, trail runners, and hikers. This section of trail is routed through a beautiful hardwood forest offering many opportunities to observe wildlife.

Innovativeness- This project offers environmental, physical, and recreational benefits to the visiting public. To enhance awareness and get students onto the trail, the "Trail Dogs" partnered with Mountain Pine School EAST lab students to develop a virtual reality GIS map that, when completed, will allow website visitors to virtually "walk" the trail and click on a bird or wildlife to hear it's call and see its habitat.

The following items will be purchased in part by handshake funds in order to complete the project:

- 1) 75 tons of gravel for the trailhead
- 2) Large Kiosk with double posts for trailhead with locking device
- 3) 60 Small directional/marker signs
- 4) 2 (75'X32") foot bridges
- 5) 1 (20'X32") foot bridge
- 6) Concrete for kiosk posts

The Corps will:

The following equipment and labor will be provided by the Corps of Engineers

- 1) Use of a Mini excavator
- 2) Use of a Mini skid-steer
- 3) An ATV to carry material to and from trail
- 4) Hand tools
- 5) Labor of Heavy Equipment Operator

The Partner(s) will:

Provide the following equipment and labor:

- 1) Trail construction and maintenance: safety gear, fire rakes, small hand tools, leaf blowers, axes, chain saws, shovels, etc.
- 2) Bridge erection/construction
- 3) Mapping: GIS/GPS units, computers

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Blakely Mountain Dam/Lake Ouachita

Work Project Title: Lake Ouachita Vista Trail

POC Name: Richard Stokes

Address: 1201 Blakely Dam Rd.

City: Royal

State: AR Zip Code: 71968

Telephone: 501-767-2108

Location on Project: From Crystal Springs Recreation Area To Brady Mountain Road

Partner Organization 1: Lake Ouachita Citizen's Focus Committee

POC Name: Arnie Habig

Address: 1201 Blakely Dam Road

City: Royal

State: AR Zip Code: 71968

Telephone: 501-767-2101

Partner Organization 2: Friends of Lake Ouachita

POC Name: Dave Doty

Address: 1201 Blakely Dam Road

City: Royal

State: AR Zip Code: 71968

Telephone: 501-767-2101

Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone:

Proposed start date of work: Jan-11

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Construct the sixth leg of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail from Crystal Springs recreation area to Brady Mountain Road for a total of 16 miles in length for this segment of the trail.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Total
Salaries	\$10,000	N/A	\$0	\$10,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,500	\$22,500	\$0	\$28,000
Equipment Use	\$5,500	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$10,000
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$1,000	\$1,000
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$30,000	\$30,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$20,000	\$20,000
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$36,000	\$36,000
Total	\$21,000	\$25,000	\$132,000	\$178,000
Share of Total Cost	11.8%	14%	74.2%	100%

Explanations: Partner 2 is a 501.c.3. entity which actively supports the Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee in their on-project activities. They have secured private funds and are developing grant proposals totaling \$36,000 from Arkansas Dept of Transportation-National Trail Grant and from a foundation dedicated to getting young people into the outdoors.

LAKE OUACHITA VISTA TRAIL

