

## Handshake Partnership Program Report - FY 2011 Recipients

**1. Name of Corps Project/Lake:** Hickory Ridge Camp

**2. Handshake Project Name:** Lake Red Rock

**3. What has been accomplished?** Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:  
The Hickory Ridge Camp continues to be restored into a beautiful hickory and oak forest. While improvements such as invasive species removal, access road improvement, volunteer pad development, and potable water were being completed with the handshake funds, guest enjoyed camping in this wilderness environment.

	<b>Total</b>
<b>Handshake Program Funding Amount</b>	\$25,000
<b>Local Corps Office Funds</b> (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	\$9,000
<b>Partner's Contributions</b> (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
<b>Partners Name</b>	<b>Total Value of Contributions</b>
1 Red Rock Lake Association	\$38,554
2 INHF	\$300,000
3	\$
4	\$
5	\$
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:** The program is well communicated and very much appreciated by our lake project. It gives us an opportunity to reach out to partners and have a chance to assist in getting funds for the projeject.

**B. Comments About Challenge Partnership Agreement:** No comments

**C. Recommendations:** Great program - thanks!

**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.

## Hickory Ridge Camp Handshake Award



In 2011, the Corps partnered with the Red Rock Lake Association (RRLA), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) to create the first paddle-in primitive camp at Lake Red Rock in Iowa. The handshake grant helped us with the development of the volunteer pad, a potable water spigot, roadway access and planning for a youth camp. Our partners assisted in the development of the water trail, organizing work days, cleaning up the area and promoting this great new amenity!

### Before

Hickory Ridge was a beautiful oak and hickory forest that had been turned into a timeshare campground about thirty-five years ago. The timeshare had since gone under and the property was falling apart. This property is adjacent to Corps lands, was an environmental eyesore and was in the flood pool. The land was purchased by the INHF and then through real estate instruments, turned over to the Corps for management. The effort began at that time to create a paddle-in camp known as Hickory Ridge Camp.



**During**

The IDNR and RRLA worked jointly to fund the development of the Red Rock Water Trail. Hickory Ridge would be one of the six stopping points designated on the water trail and the only overnight location. Work also began to lessen the number of invasive species in the area, knock back the poison ivy, and begin to build the camp pads and kayak landing. This took lots of hands, donations from local companies for chippers and a few fun campfires.



## After

Thanks to the Handshake Partnership Program, together we transformed this eyesore into an active recreational area, improved the environment and strengthened partnerships. Hickory Ridge has four camp pads that can be reserved and four that are first come. It has provided a unique experience for the paddling community. The paddling community has loved it some much that they are proposing additional paddle-in camp locations for Lake Red Rock's Master Plan update. We will begin having a volunteer on site starting in 2014. Hickory Ridge was even featured on Iowa Public Television's "Iowa Outdoors" program ([www.iptv.org](http://www.iptv.org) episode #303) shown in July 2013! Thanks to the Handshake Program and our partners for help-

