

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2016  
Handshake Program Application**

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/River Project Name: **DeGray Lake**

District / Division: **Vicksburg District/ Mississippi Valley Division**

Handshake Proposal Title: **DeGray Lake Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail**

Corps POC Name: **Renea Guin, Natural Resource Specialist**

Telephone: **(870) 246 - 5501 ext. 64010**

E-Mail: **Martha.R.Guin@usace.army.mil**

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**A. Checklist:**

1. Will the Handshake funds be spent on Corps facilities and resources that are being fully maintained by the Corps?      **X Yes**  **No**
  2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)?      **X Yes**  **No**
  3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved lake project OMP?      **X Yes**  **No**
  4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project?      **X Yes**  **No**
  5. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2015 or review a 2015 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway?      **X Yes**  **No**
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**B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$30,000): \$30,000**

**C. Cooperating Association Agreement Bonus:** Challenge Partnerships that include a Cooperating Association with which your project/district has entered into a Cooperating Association Agreement are eligible to compete for an additional \$5000. Do NOT include a copy of that agreement with this application. A copy may be requested if not already provided to the Partnership Team. (Reference Chapter 9 of ER and EP 1130-2-500 for information on cooperating associations).

This application qualifies for the Cooperating Association Bonus funding.

**D. Incentive Points Category:** Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score. The first category is for the partner contribution meeting or exceeding 70% of total project costs. A summary of the partners' contribution to the Handshake Project should be included in the financial worksheet below. The second category is for Lake or River Projects that have never been chosen as Handshake recipients.

Partner contribution total is 70% or greater (100 points).

This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (100 points).

## **E. Describe your partnership and the proposed project:**

### **Summary Statement:**

DeGray Lake respectfully requests the funding to establish a Challenge Partnership Handshake Project in the amount of \$30,000 and would like to compete for the Cooperative Agreement Bonus of \$5000. The partnership with Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful (KDLB), Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina, Arkansas Game & Fish, Clark County and other partners will continue to construct and maintain a watchable wildlife interpretive trail of approximately 1.9 miles at our Lower Lake Area. The multi-use trail focuses on the varied wildlife and natural resources within the area and will provide those visitors with disabilities an accessible path and include a natural surface path, providing a get-out-doors experience for all.

KDLB has received a grant to construct part of this trail and has already completed the .9 miles of the accessible path named the Sunset Trail. This request is to be used to add an additional one mile of natural surface trail, an observation deck, interpretive signage, wildlife and wildflower food plots for mammals and insects to our Lower Lake Area.

Like many other Corps of Engineers projects, DeGray Lake offers unique natural resource features that support mission essential tasks; moreover, these resources are of great importance to special interest groups such as bird watchers, school research groups, photographers, and all outdoor enthusiasts. One such group is the residents of the Arkadelphia Human Development Center; this group is within close proximity to the area and has pledged to utilize this trail system for the overall health of their patrons.

Special events and activities are being held at the Lower Lake Area involving hiking, running, disc golf, canoeing and tubing. Visitors to DeGray Lake's visitor center routinely inquire about trail systems located in the vicinity of the project; this will allow for a perfect opportunity to provide convenient access for a fun recreational experience.

### **Longevity / Sustainability description:**

Annually, some 30,000 outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the Lower Lake Area each year with that number increasing in recent years, especially since the Corps has provided improvements and new recreational features. In 2011 a eighteen hole disc golf course was established and in 2013 a one mile fitness trail with four fitness stops containing three exercise stations at each stop was added. Various groups such as: churches, schools, family reunions, birthday parties, etc. utilize these facilities. If funding is granted along with matching funds that have been pledged by Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful, a natural surface trail with drainage system will be placed along the trail route to abate any unfavorable conditions. It is estimated that if these improvements are made, some 45,000 visitors will utilize the resource annually.

The completed asphalt trail is estimated to last fifteen plus years with maintenance provided by the Corps, KDLB, JROTC, Human Development Center, DLT Events and other volunteer groups. Long term costs would include mowing, tree trimming/removal, litter pickup, and sign maintenance. These costs will be mitigated using volunteers as much as possible with at least three groups already committed to this endeavor.

### **Partnership Value:**

Because of the improvements to our Lower Lake Area many outdoor enthusiasts are discovering the area. This area is very close to the Interstate access, DeGray Lake and the Scenic Highway 7 byway to Hot Springs. These thoroughfares introduce individuals to the area looking for a nice place to rest, relax and enjoy. Caddo Valley and Arkadelphia Communities benefit greatly from the tourists that visit DeGray Lake, so we can look forward to future partnerships in this arena. Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful has pledged matching funds that will significantly enhance the project success and sustainability. KDLB has dedicated their time and efforts to creating beautification projects and programs that support our natural resources on DeGray Lake. KDLB has created accessible projects in the past and are looking toward an accessible fishing pier location at our Spillway Area in the future. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has provided KDLB with a grant for partial completion of the accessible portion of the DeGray Lake Watchable Wildlife Trail and has pledged assistance with additional funding for the rest of the accessible portion of the trail. Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina has been instrumental in providing equipment and labor for laying the foundation of the accessible portion of the

trail along with Clark County Road Department. These partners will also aid KDLB in finishing the trail system. The Lower Lake Area has become a go to spot for many visitors and without the dedication and cooperation of our partnerships this could not have been possible.

### **Recreational Benefit:**

The Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail will provide recreational benefit to a variety of outdoor enthusiasts, nature lovers, middle and high school earth science classes, college and university field camps and to mobility impaired individuals. The area will provide research benefits for individuals to study local ecology, local flora and fauna of the lower Ouachita Mountain region.

The observation deck will provide an area for photographers, fishermen, and an overall relaxing place for visitors to rest along the trail. In addition, both types of trail systems will provide a location for DeGray visitors to walk, hike, bike, run and ultimately enjoy the unique natural resource to include forestry, birds, wildlife and the aesthetic value of the "foot hills of the Ouachita Mountains" ultimately increase sustainability. This trail will provide an avenue for individuals to aid in promoting a healthier more physically fit lifestyle. The trail will also be a great opportunity to conduct nature hikes for the DeGray Lake 'Every Kid In the Park' Federal initiative.

The trail is located in the immediate vicinity of the Lower Lake Recreation Area that offers a comfort station, drinking fountain, parking lot, pavilions, boat launch ramp to access the lower Caddo River, security lighting and security patrol by ranger and contract law enforcement personnel. The trail is conveniently located within two miles of Caddo Valley, Arkansas and Scenic 7 Byway and I-30.

### **Environmental Stewardship Benefit:**

The DeGray Lake Watchable Wildlife Trail System will provide access to natural resource areas otherwise not accessible. The project will help to improve knowledge of our outdoors by providing a platform where schools and other groups can utilize to teach stewardship. As stewards of public lands, the Corps of Engineers at DeGray Lake is dedicated to providing a quality outdoor recreational experience with the safety of our visitors held as its highest concern.

The Lower Lake Area is a protected Waterfowl Wildlife Refuge, a no hunting area, providing sanctuary for many species of birds and all wildlife. In support of the Presidential Memorandum creating a Federal strategy to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators, we plan to increase opportunities for wildlife diversity by incorporating wildlife food plots, wildflower food plots, and sustainable forestry management practices throughout the trail system.

The trail route is conducive to a few areas of soil erosion, the trail and drainage system will decrease environmental flooding and erosion issues. Stewardship reduces siltation in our reservoirs, maintaining their water storage for hydropower, navigation, and water supply. It also contributes to the variety and abundance of our fish and wildlife, and to the attractiveness of our lands and waters.

Stewardship also increases the benefits that our customers derive from these natural resources. Wisely managed lands and waters contribute to the purity of our air and water, the fertility of our soil and the natural control of flooding along our rivers and streams.

### **Communication & Education Value:**

The Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail will offer the Corps of Engineers interpretive staff a venue to tell the Corps Story as it relates to management of water resources, specifically in respect to flood damage reduction, hydropower, water supply, navigation, environmental stewardship, emergency response, recreation and overall value to our nation. Numerous cultural resource sites in this area provides great historical value. Interpretive programs on the Caddo Indian heritage and the Trail of Tears will be paramount in the Corps interpretive programming for this trail.

The Lower Lake area also provides a great opportunity to discuss information on our hydropower resources and an opportunity to promote the Corps Mission. The Lower Lake pumpback capability was the first of its kind within the Corps of Engineers. Water from the Lower Lake can be pumped back into the main lake for use in generating electricity in times of low water levels in the main lake.

The public will gain an overall understanding in the natural resource environment that may not otherwise have been provided elsewhere. Through programs, we can bring awareness to cultural resources, wildlife flora/fauna issues and many other topics vital to maintaining the natural resources of DeGray Lake.

**Innovativeness:**

The Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail will provide approximately one mile of accessible trail, an observation deck and approximately one mile of natural surface trail. This accessible trail will be the first of its kind for DeGray Lake. This trail system will offer the ability for those that want to get outdoors a unique place of interest and great opportunity for our customers. The addition of this portion of the trail will benefit the DeGray Lake trail system by providing a quality outdoor experience for a variety of clientele. KDLB has been very innovative and resourceful in utilizing local businesses, volunteers and limited resources to accomplish the goals formed by the partnership.

**Concluding statement:**

Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful realizes that healthy lifestyles bring enjoyment to life more abundantly, sets an example by which others can follow and participants serve as a role model for today's youth. This is very important due to the rising rates in youth obesity. Overall this trail system will provide the perfect opportunity for all types of recreation users. Providing a multi-use trail for our stakeholders not only enhances healthy lifestyles but provides for learning opportunities to aid families in getting involved and getting outdoors.

The Corps will provide limited local funding, manpower, equipment, subject matter expertise and logistical support to accomplish the watchable wildlife trail partnering project. Specifically, the Corps will provide gravel from a borrow area for use as the base material for the accessible portion of the trail. Additionally, the Corps will help maintain the trail route. Volunteers will be utilized whenever possible in maintenance of the trail. The DeGray Lake interpretive staff will provide guided talks and tours highlighting mission essential tasks, safety, environmental stewardship, forestry, fish and wildlife, and tell the Corps story.

KDLB will be providing matching funds and coordinating and managing the construction of the trail, parking lot, signage, observation deck, and natural surface trail. The natural surface trail construction consultation will be provided by DLT Events. The Clark County Road Department will be instrumental in providing the dump trucks and drivers in hauling base material for the trail. Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina will be providing equipment and labor in removing woody vegetation that is essentially blocking the pathway of the accessible portion of the trail and also control drainage problems by installing culverts and fill materials. Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina will also utilize their equipment in forming the base and preping for the asphalt portion of the trail. Asphalt Contractors, Inc will provide asphalt and labor at a reduced rate. Routine trail maintenance will be provided by JROTC and the Human Development Center, a special needs care facility, along with other interested volunteer groups.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: DeGray Lake

Work Project Title: DeGray Lake Watchable Wildlife Interpretive Trail

POC Name: Renea Guin

Address: 729 Channel Road City: Arkadelphia State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 5501 x64010

Location of Project: DeGray Lake Lower Lake Area

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Partner Organization 1: Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful

POC Name: Russ Johnson

Address: 26 Carmel Drive City: Little Rock State: AR Zip Code: 72212

Telephone: 501 - 256 - 4262 x

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Partner Organization 2: Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

POC Name: Kirsten Bartlow

Address: #2 Natural Resource Drive City: Little Rock State: AR Zip Code: 72205

Telephone: 501 - 223 - 6473 x

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Partner Organization 3: Iron Mountain Lodge & Marina

POC Name: David & Vickie Egleston

Address: 134 Iron Mountain Lodge & Marina City: Arkadelphia State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 4310 x

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Partner Organization 4: Arkadelphia Junior ROTC

POC Name: William Pettigrew

Address: 401 High School Drive City: Arkadelphia State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 7373 x221

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Partner Organization 5: Asphalt Contractors, Inc.

POC Name: Freddy Gunn

Address: 3217 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street City: Little Rock State: AR Zip Code: 72204

Telephone: 501 - 804 - 1160 x

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Partner Organization 6: Clark County Road Department

POC Name: Ron Daniell

Address: 501 Clay Street City: Arkadelphia State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 5847 x

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Partner Organization 7: Human Development Center

POC Name: Steve Farmer

Address: PO Box 70, slot 5540 City: Arkadelphia State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 8011 x

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Partner Organization 8: DLT Events, Inc.

POC Name: Fred Phillips

Address: 111 Evonshire Drive

City: Arkadelphia

State: AR Zip Code: 71923

Telephone: 870 - 246 - 6686 x

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Partner Organization 9:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 10:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 11:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 12:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 13:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 14:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 15:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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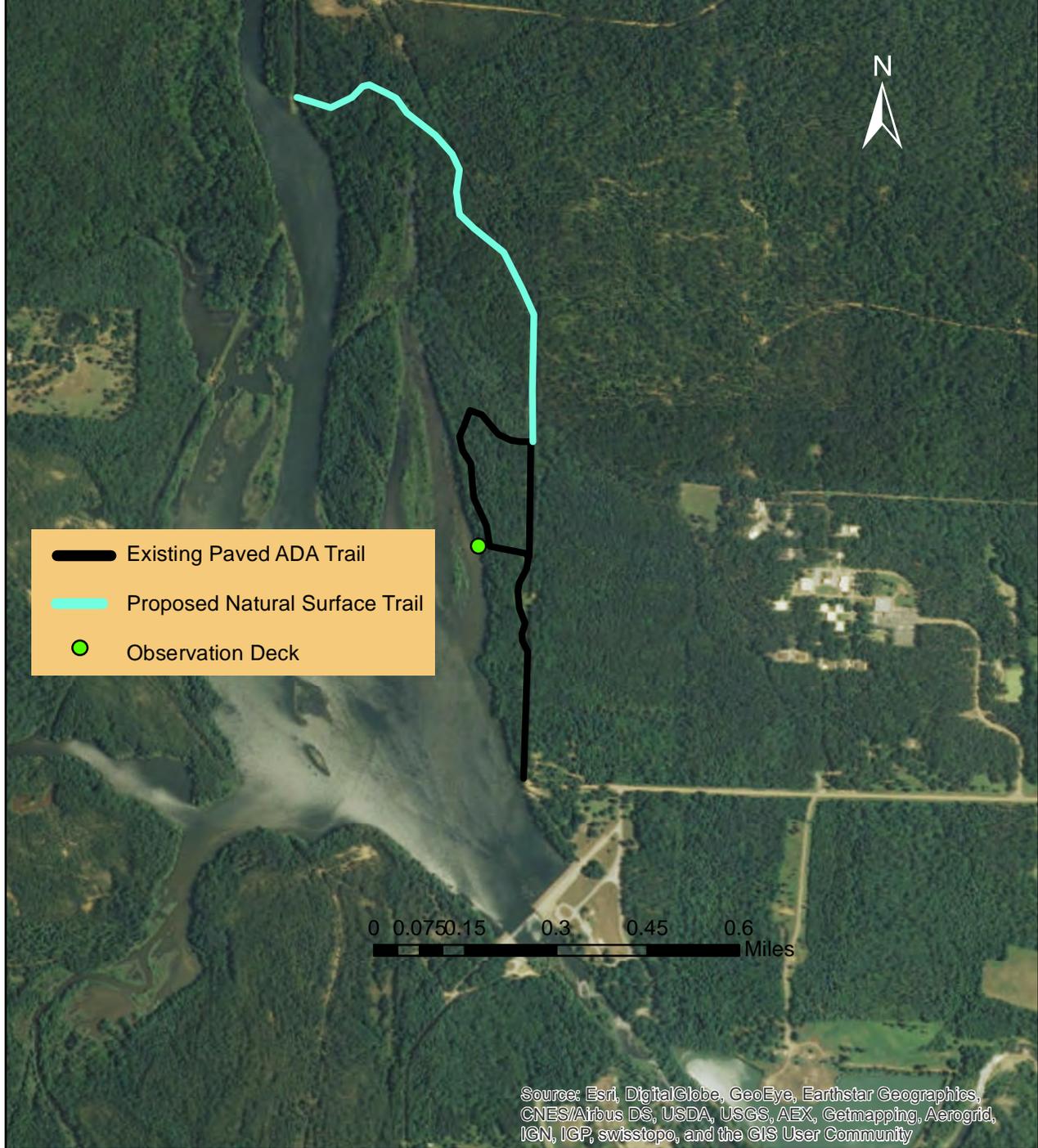
Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$6,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$4,200	\$0
Equipment Use	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,535	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$42,535</b>	<b>\$14,200</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	12.1%	16.3%	11.6%	19.8%	6.6%	5.8%

	Partner 5	Partner 6	Partner 7	Partner 8	Partner 9	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$12,000	\$37,370	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$37,370</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	5.6%	17.4%	2.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$59,200
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$49,370
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$42,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$214,605</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

**Explanations: Other** - In 2012 KDLB was awarded a grant from the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission for a portion of the accessible trail originally in the amount of \$34,000.00. Money was received in March of 2013; trail work began in the fall of 2013 with initial trail base work. An additional \$8535.00 was granted in 2014. Completion of the accessible portion of the trail was complete on July 26, 2014.





# DeGray Lake Sunset Trail



ASPHALT  
CONTRACTORS  
INCORPORATED  
Mabelvale, AR



THIS PROJECT  
MADE POSSIBLE BY



US Army Corps  
of Engineers













