

**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: **Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes Project**

District / Division:**Baltimore District / North Atlantic Division**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Shoreline Stabilization-Habitat Enhancement**

Corps POC Name:**Tammy Cleveland**

Telephone:(**570**) **835** - **125** ext.

E-Mail: **Tammy.Cleveland@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?  Yes  No
  2. Will the Challenge Partnership agreement be 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 lake project OMP?  Yes  No
  4. Have all of the NEPA requirements been considered for this project?  Yes  No
  5. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2015 or review a 2015 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway?  Yes  No
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**B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$30,000): 15,000**

**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:**

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.

**Summary Statement of Handshake Project:**

The Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes Project (THC) is a 12,000 acre multi-purpose project in north central Pennsylvania, within the Susquehanna River watershed. The project consists of three lakes which support visitation of approximately 300,000 people annually engaging in a variety of recreation activities including camping, fishing, boating, hiking and hunting. Funding from this program will be used to support lake shore stabilization projects that will stabilize 670' of shoreline combined on the Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes. This project will reduce erosion and resultant sedimentation, improve water quality and create shallow water habitat for a variety of aquatic species. Project staff will work with habitat managers from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PAFBC) to design and construct stone deflectors at Cowanesque and Hammond Lakes. Shell Corporation will provide funds to secure materials needed to accomplish the work.

**Longevity / Sustainability description:**

These two projects will be a continuation of a long term partnership with the PAFBC to establish healthy and sustainable fisheries in the Cowanesque and Hammond Lakes. Since 1999 the Corps has worked annually with the PAFBC on a series of habitat placement and shoreline stabilization projects. The PAFBC Cooperative Habitat Improvement Program (CHIP) will specifically be working with the Corps on this project and has been in existence for over twenty years. The project will stabilize shoreline that is heavily eroded at the Cowanesque Lake and replace failing gabion baskets at the Hammond Lake providing a long term solution to the deleterious effects of wave action and erosion on the shoreline and water quality. Stone deflectors are designed to require no additional maintenance after installation as they are constructed of natural materials. The life span of the deflectors is indefinite under normal conditions. The three other shoreline stabilization projects, two of which were completed in 2010 and one in 2013, have successfully mitigated the erosion issues in those locations and are showing no wear or evidence of failure.

**Partnership Value:**

Shell Corporation's \$20,000 contribution will be used to purchase 1,200 tons of stone to complete the project. PAFBC's CHIP will contribute in-kind labor and construction equipment valued at \$18,368, as well as \$6,000 for additional stone and related construction materials. PAFBC's labor and equipment will include eight hours of design services from one senior habitat manager and one habitat manager each. Additionally, PAFBC will provide ten days of construction services from two habitat managers and an equipment operator, who will utilize PAFBC's excavator, front end loader, and skid steer. THC will provide \$3,000 in salaries for project management coordination. If selected for Handshake Partnership funding, THC would utilize \$15,000 to procure supplies and materials to support the project, which include stone, gravel, geotextile fabric, grass seed and mulch. Handshake Partnership funding will ensure that the full 670 feet length can be completed to the PAFBC's design standard and may allow for additional shoreline to be stabilized. The dedication and expertise of the PAFBC Lake Habitat Division to THC fisheries enhancement, has been an invaluable resource. Securing this funding would signal the Corps' dedication to continuing this successful partnership. Shell Corporation is a new partner for THC and we are hopeful that this Shoreline Stabilization-Habitat Enhancement Project's success will spur further interest in enhancing the natural resources and recreational opportunities available to their company and employees in the area.

**Recreational Benefit:**

THC is a highly favored recreation fishery destination in the northern tier of Pennsylvania and southern tier of New York. Fishing is one of the prominent recreational activities at the lakes, which includes hosting approximately 30 formalized fishing tournaments each year. Completion of this work will enhance habitat, reduce sediment entering the lakes thus improving water quality, and provide safer access to the shoreline in locations that are popular for shoreline fishing. Additionally, activities such as kayaking and paddleboarding are increasing in popularity at THC. Once this project is completed, these areas will allow for easier access to the lakes for visitors engaging in these activities as well. Any enhancements to THC involving fishing and boating, will most

likely result in increased visitation by day users and increased recreation use fees. THC has the 4th and 46th highest fee generating recreation areas among the Corp's 2,822 recreation area inventory, which are Ives Run and Tompkins Recreation Area. These fees are mainly related to campground use. THC believes this project will assist with luring in more day use visitors as well as camper's. Increased visitation directly benefits the local economy, which receives over \$10 million in visitor spending due to THC being constructed and operated in Tioga County. In the last fiscal year, the projects sold over 100 annual passes. With WRRDA 2014 authorizing the Corps to participate in the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass Program and retain all pass fees to improve THC, this project creates an added benefit for the public to purchase these passes.

**Environmental Stewardship Benefit:**

These projects will have immediate positive environmental impacts by stabilizing eroded areas, thus reducing sediment loads entering the lakes. This in turn lessens the effect of harmful algae blooms and loss of water depth in shoreline areas which equates to loss of habitat. Any decrease in sedimentation not only improves the health of the lake but, also improves the health of the watershed all the way to the Chesapeake Bay. The stone deflectors will provide enhanced habitat for a variety of aquatic species. Our ongoing partnership with the PAFBC is driven by the goal of ensuring sustainable fisheries for years to come. Beyond the work we will do on this project, the commission's expertise is applied to annually evaluating the health of our fisheries, construction and placement of over 2,700 different artificial habitat structures since 1999, enforcement of fishing and boating laws, and stocking thousands of fish fingerlings each year.

**Communication & Education Value:**

Communication and education are integral components of this work. The projects will demonstrate the value of stabilizing the shoreline to our visitors as they will be able to visually compare these repaired sites to other eroded areas on the lake. Both locations are highly visible to our visitors; one location along one of our most popular camping loops and the other in a commonly used location for shoreline fishing and kayak launching. The PAFBC features our cooperative projects in their education and outreach efforts on their website and in presentations that reach audiences across the state of Pennsylvania. Previous habitat partnership efforts have been covered by local print and visual media as well as by statewide publications. THC will pursue media coverage for this project as well. Additionally, these types of projects are commonly covered by video productions done by our Baltimore District Corporate Communications office and shared on social media and Corps websites. This allows other Corps Districts and Divisions to learn about our habitat improvement projects and potentially apply them at their own projects. Additionally, aquatic habitat enhancement projects are documented and these maps are provided for use by fishermen. The maps are provided on a donation basis by one of our local bass clubs. The money raised from the sale of these maps is reinvested in materials to support construction of artificial habitat structures placed in the lakes.

**Innovativeness:**

Partnering with and utilizing a major industrial corporation, such as Shell, is a first among the North Atlantic Division lake projects that we are aware of. Shell Corporation's operational presence in Tioga County has greatly increased over the last few years, with the innovative hydraulic fracturing techniques allowing once inaccessible shale oil and natural gas deposits, to become available now to industry. In turn, they have actively sought opportunities to give back to the Commonwealth's natural resources, partnering with us on this project allows that. Moreover, if THC is awarded this Handshake Partnership grant, we will have effectively tied in significant resources from a private corporation (\$20,000), state agency (\$24,368) and HQUSACE (\$15,000), with local THC resources (\$3,000), to provide environmental protection, enhancing recreational opportunities in a sustainable fashion. That would be quite an accomplishment for NAD and a standard hard to surpass.

**Concluding statement:**

The Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes Project is part of the Baltimore District and is located in north central Pennsylvania. The primary purpose of the project is flood risk management as part of a network of dams and levees in the Susquehanna River Watershed. The project has been in operation for over 30 years and is seeing the effects of erosion in the watersheds and impoundments in the form of increased sedimentation. These projects will help limit erosion along the lake shoreline, protect high value recreation areas, improve water quality, provide safer and easier access for visitors, and enhance aquatic habitat. The US Army Corps of Engineers values its partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and would like to see another successful project

come to fruition with this funding. We are excited about bringing Shell Corporation on as a partner in our environmental stewardship efforts and want to make every effort to ensure the complete success of our inaugural undertaking with them.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes

Work Project Title: Shoreline Stabilization – Habitat Enhancement

POC Name: Tammy Cleveland

Address: 710 Ives Run Lane

City: Tioga

State: PA Zip Code: 16946

Telephone: 570 - 835 - 125 x

Location of Project: Bench Camp Shoreline, Cowanesque Lake & Ives Run Day Use Shoreline, Hammond Lake

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Partner Organization 1: PA Fish and Boat Commission

POC Name: Mike Swartz, Habitat Manager

Address: 450 Robinson Lane

City: Bellefonte

State: PA Zip Code: 16823

Telephone: 814 - 359 - 5235 x

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Partner Organization 2: Shell Corporation

POC Name: Amanda Peterson

Address: 2100 Georgetown Dr. Suite 400

City: Sewickley

State: PA Zip Code: 15143

Telephone: 724 - 933 - 4947 x

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Partner Organization 3:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 4:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 5:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 6:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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Partner Organization 8:

POC Name:  
Address: City: State: Zip Code:  
Telephone: - - 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	PA Fish & Boat Comm.	Shell Corporation	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$3,000	N/A	\$12,072	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$15,000	\$6,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$6,296	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$24,368</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	4.8%	24.1%	39.1%	32.1%	0.0%	0.0%

	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,072
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,296
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$62,368</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: Local Corps office – 40 hours – GS-11 salary, handshake funds - \$2,000 – erosion control and site vegetation materials, \$13,000 – stone and gravel, PAFBC - \$12,072 – senior habitat manager, habitat manager and equipment operator salaries, \$6,000 stone and gravel, \$6,296 equipment use and operator, Shell Corp. - \$20,000 stone and gravel.



Hammond Lake – Failing Gabion Baskets – Existing Shoreline



Hammond Lake – Stone Deflector Project Completed (2013)