

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **West Point Lake**
District / Division:**Mobile District/South Atlantic Division**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Water Willow and Fish Habitat Restoration**
Corps POC Name:**Kevin Parsons**
Telephone:(**706**) **645 - 2937** ext. **6112**
E-Mail: **Kevin.m.parsons@usace.army.mil**

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): \$6000

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 purpose of this project is to enhance the underwater structure, or lack thereof, by planting American Water-willow as well as adding artificial habitat and fish attractors to various locations around West Point Lake (WPL). Currently, WPL has limited structure for fish species to utilize. While there is moderate structure around the lake this can be improved upon greatly. The plan for WPL, with the help of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) and the Georgia BASS Nation (GBN), is to plant 25 American Water-willow sites. American Water-willow is a perennial non-invasive plant that is native to Georgia. Several sites have already been planted and around 70% have taken root and are doing well. The GA DNR has planted American Water-willow on several Georgia Power Lakes, which include Lake Oconee and Lake Jackson, and on Lake Richard B. Russell which is a Corp of Engineers lake. GA DNR has had great success on these bodies of water. The second part of this project is to build around 200 fish attractors out of bamboo, five gallon buckets, and concrete with the help of volunteers from Troup County High FFA Organization. Once the attractors are built, they will be taken by boat to designated locations that need structure added to them. Some of these areas are marked with buoys that read "Fish Attractor" on the side, while other areas need to be marked with new fish attractor buoys. Each area designated will support approximately three to five surface acres at depths around 20 to 30 feet.

Longevity / Sustainability description:

Once the American Water-willow is established, it will require little to no maintenance with a plant life expectancy of 10-15 years. It is a perennial, rooted plant that grows in shallow water usually from the shoreline out to about five feet deep. It provides great habitat for juvenile and adult fish of many species and can help stabilize shorelines. Once it is established it can spread to other areas from seed or by breaking loose and rooting elsewhere. This will help establish new areas of habitat. Once the America Water-willows are planted, they will be wired down to prevent them from being uprooted until they are established. The bamboo fish attractors usually last four to five years before the sites need to be replenished again.

Partnership Value:

This project provides an opportunity to continue partnerships with GA DNR, Georgia BASS Nation and local educational institutions. The GA DNR and BASS Nation have already contributed 480 volunteer hours while students have volunteered around 600 hours. The volunteer hours for fish habitat improvement add up to \$15,120 for 2015. These organizations have coordinated volunteers in planting the American Water-willow and building bamboo fish attractors over the last year and will continue to do so in years to come. With their help, we will increase volunteer participation by 25% and add 50 additional site locations within the next three years.

Recreational Benefit:

The enhancement of fish habitat will increase numbers of fish species and entice more anglers to utilize West Point Lake. The goal is to provide fishing opportunities to seasoned anglers as well as people new to fishing. This will interest more visitors to use campgrounds, boat ramps, and day use parks at West Point Lake. This project will also benefit the Take a Warrior Fishing event by providing areas where anglers can actually see good fish habitat instead of guessing. This event is relatively new, however, it has provided soldiers who were downrange the opportunity to make a connection with the outdoors and bond with their family members. This project will increase the Take A Warrior Fishing event participation by 50% within the next three years.

Environmental Stewardship Benefit:

By planting American Water-willow and building/placing bamboo fish attractors in the lake, much needed structure and habitat will be provided for several fish species including Largemouth, Spotted, and Striped bass, White and Black Crappie, Bluegill, and Sunfish. Also, deer will browse the leaves of American Water-willow,

while beaver and muskrat, will consume the rhizomes. Once established, American Water-willow will provide initial shoreline stabilization of around 100 feet per site.

Communication & Education Value:

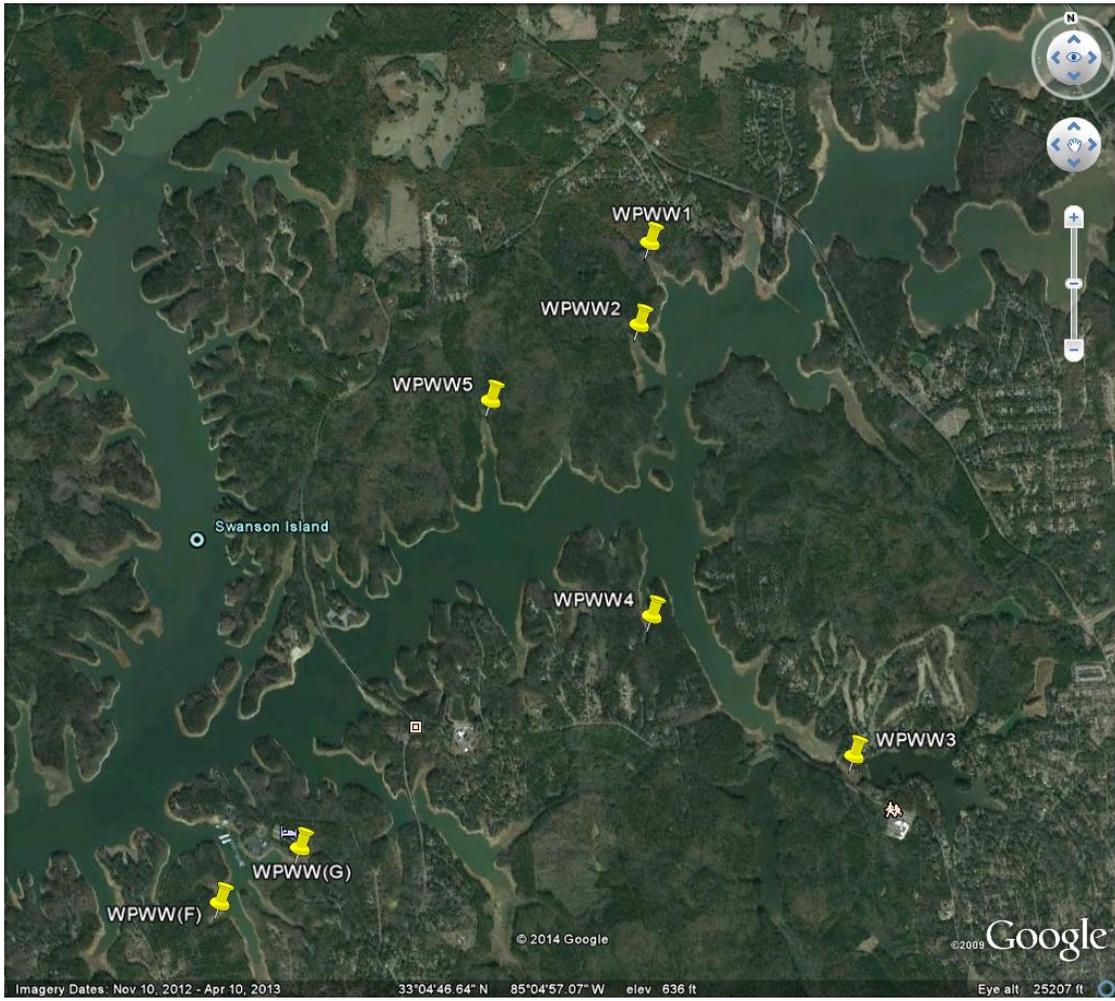
USACE is committed to teaming with others to strengthen STEM-related programs that inspire current and future generations of young people to pursue career in STEM fields. Local students from Troup County High School will volunteer for this project. In addition, a large number of Georgia BASS Nation's volunteers are comprised of high school students. This will provide students' the opportunity to experience the outdoors and work associated with natural resource management programs. This partnership will provide students the opportunity to interact one on one with USACE employees which may encourage them to consider careers related to natural resources and environmental stewardship. Also, we will partner with the Chattahoochee River Keepers to incorporate our American Water-willow sites in their floating classroom program.

Innovativeness:

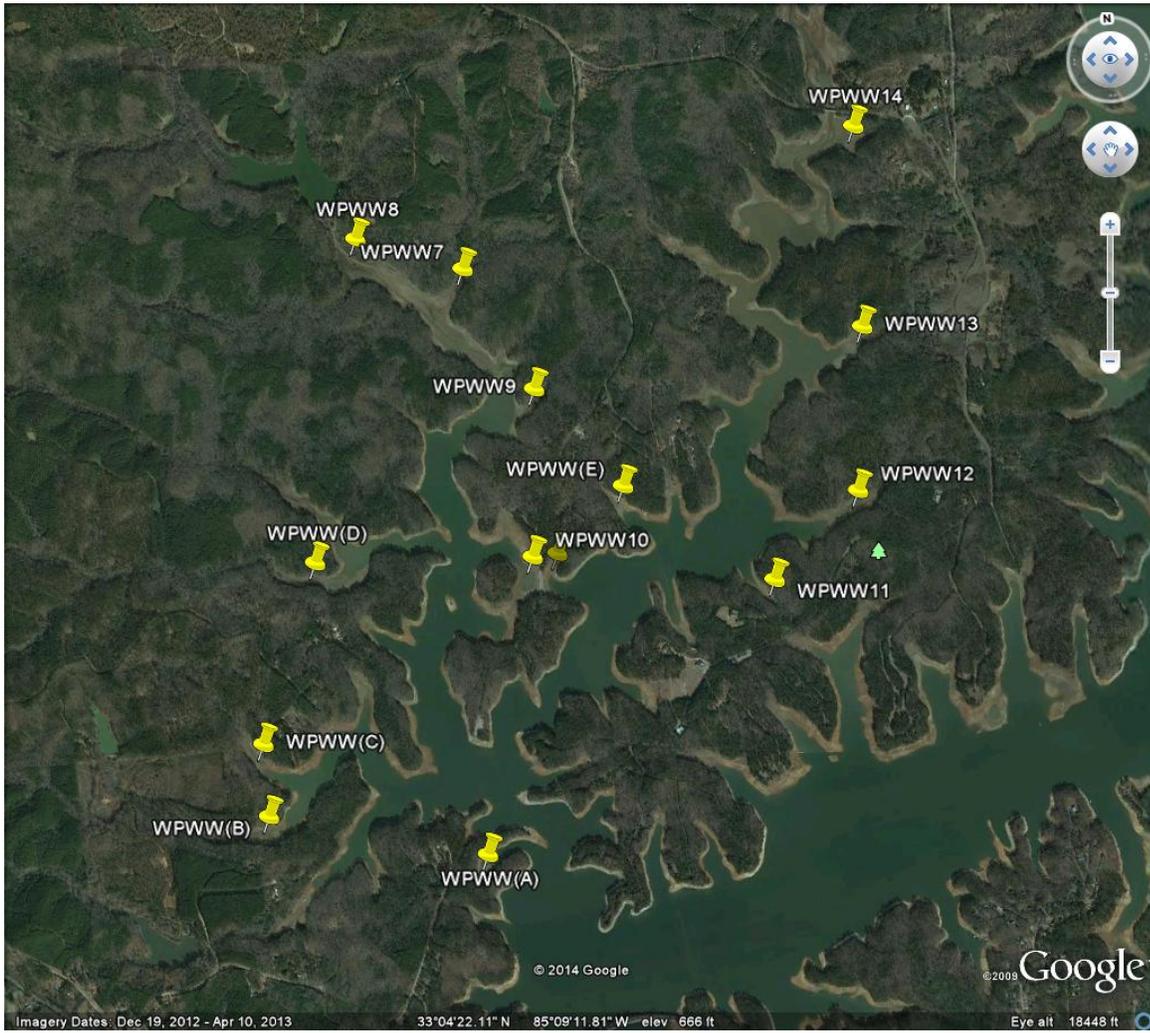
The GA DNR first planted American Water-willow in Lake Oconee in east Georgia nearly three years ago and had success in establishing the plant. Since contacting West Point Lake, around 45 sites have been planted now with 70% of those sites becoming established. The use of Water-willow, instead of traditional means of shoreline stabilization, serves a dual purpose by also providing fish habitat. Water-willow will also be more aesthetically pleasing than manmade structures such as riprap.

Concluding statement:

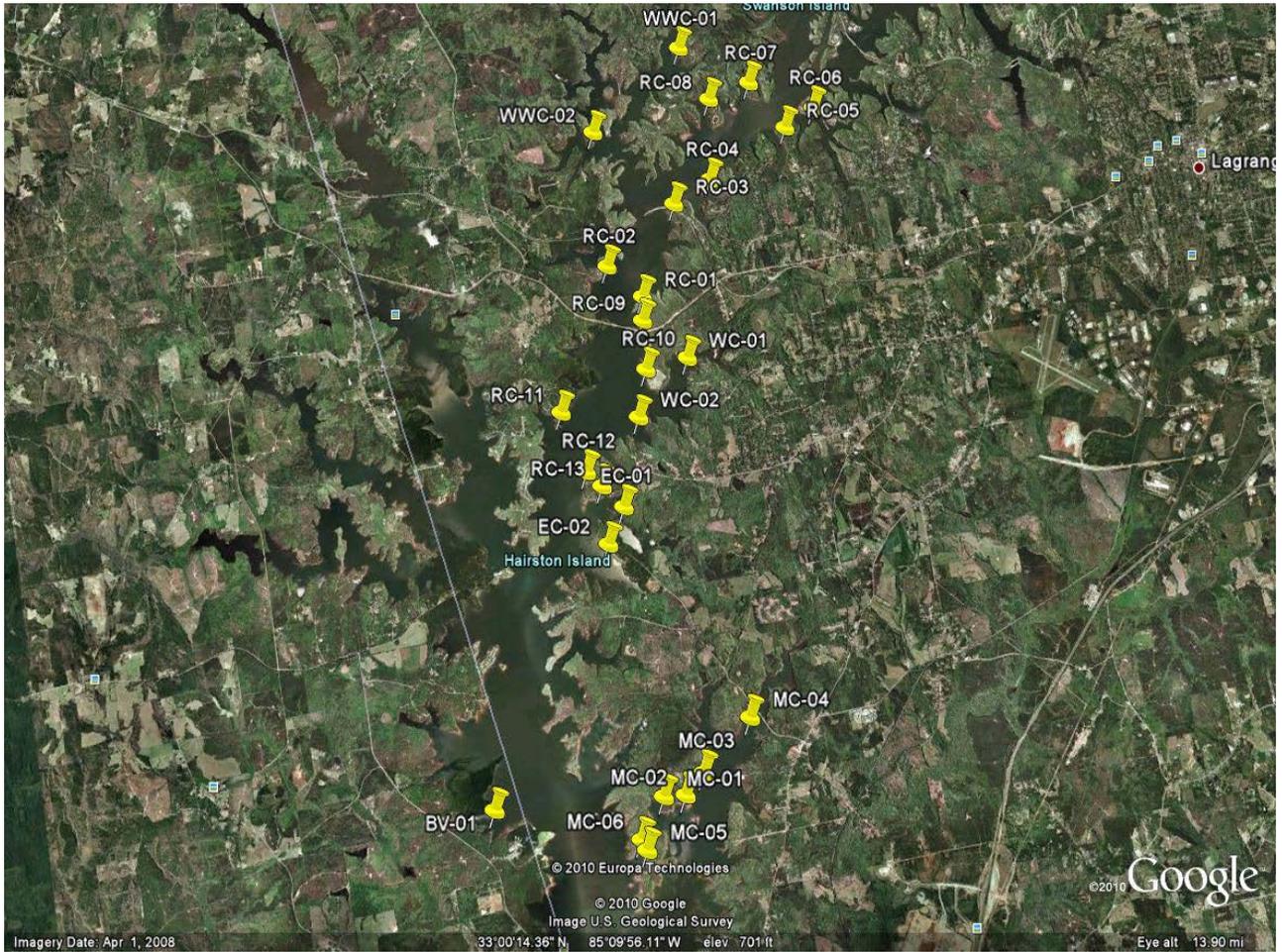
With the help of the Partnership Handshake, WPL and its partners will be able to enhance the fisheries while providing a viable location for the public to enjoy the outdoors and the sport of fishing. As a result, the local economy will benefit from anglers staying in local hotels, campgrounds, buying bait and tackle, groceries, fuel, purchasing fishing licenses, and eating at local restaurants. A 2007 study found that WPL attributes \$535 million each year to the region's economy and is the biggest tourist attraction in the area.



Water-willow planting sites



Water-willow planting sites



Location of bamboo fish attractors

West Point Lake Fish Attractor Coordinates

Fish Attractor	Latitude	Longitude	Comments
MC-01	N 32 57' 00.7"	W 85 10' 25.2"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-02	N 32 56' 59.1"	W 85 10' 08.9"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-03	N 32 57' 09.4"	W 85 09' 52.5"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-04	N 32 57' 34.7"	W 85 09' 10.9"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-05	N 32 56' 33.2"	W 85 10' 44.2"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
MC-06	N 32 56' 39.6"	W 85 10' 47.0"	Maple Cr., Large structure, natural materials.
BV-01	N 32 57' 12.6"	W 85 12' 32.5"	Burnt Village, Large structure, natural materials.
RC-01	N 33 01' 51.6"	W 85 09' 37.3"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-02	N 33 02' 14.2"	W 85 10' 00.9"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-03	N 33 02' 44.3"	W 85 09' 00.2"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-04	N 33 02' 54.8"	W 85 08' 28.4"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-05	N 33 03' 18.0"	W 85 07' 21.6"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-06	N 33 03' 27.0"	W 85 06' 56.3"	Main River, Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-07	N 33 03' 50.5"	W 85 07' 43.8"	Main River, Large structure, Unknown materials
RC-08	N 33 03' 45.0"	W 85 08' 17.9"	Smaller structure comprised of artificial materials.
WWC-01	N 33 04' 20.9"	W 85 08' 34.6"	Whitewater cr., Large structure, Unknown materials
WWC-02	N 33 03' 38.5"	W 85 09' 54.2"	Whitewater cr., Smaller structure, artificial materials.
RC-09	N 33 01' 37.2"	W 85 09' 40.44"	Between Pyne Rd. boat ramp and HWY 109.
RC-10	N 33 01' 7.56"	W 85 09' 44.28"	Out from 2nd dock at Pyne Rd park.
WC-01	N 33 01' 9.48"	W 85 09' 10.68"	Wilson Creek. South of beach at Pyne Rd park.
WC-02	N 33 00' 40.14"	W 85 09' 56.16"	Wilson Creek. Near island out from Pyne Rd Park.
RC-11	N 33 00' 52.02"	W 85 10' 55.26"	Out from shoals at Whitetail Ridge Campground
RC-12	N 33 00' 14.16"	W 85 10' 43.26"	Out from Glass Bridge Park.
RC-13	N 33 00' 3.96"	W 85 10' 33.12"	Out from Glass Bridge Park. Southern most part.
EC-01	N 32 59' 49.26"	W 85 10' 18.96"	In Rainbow Creek near Earl Cook Boat ramp.
EC-02	N 32 59' 29.58"	W 85 10' 35.46"	Out from Earl Cook Beach.
YJ-01	N 33 04' 30.82"	W 85 05' 06.63"	Main Channel of Yellowjacket Creek
YJ-02	N 33 05' 23.63"	W 85 03' 59.64"	Yellowjacket Creek and Dixie Creek Intersection



Georgia BASS Nation volunteers with American Water-willow seedlings.



Georgia BASS Nation volunteers planting Water-willow (top) and traveling to a planting site (bottom)



Water-willow planted in 2014 already established



Students from Troup County High School FFA constructing bamboo fish attractors.



Bamboo fish attractors that are ready to be dropped at designated locations at West Point Lake



Bamboo fish attractors as seen using sonar



Anglers participating in the Take A Warrior Fishing event at West Point Lake.

Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: West Point Project

Work Project Title: Water Willow and Fish Habitat Restoration

POC Name: Kevin Parsons

Address: 500 Resource Management Dr City: West Point State: GA Zip Code: 31833

Telephone: 706 - 645 - 2937 x6112

Location of Project: West Point Lake

Partner Organization 1: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

POC Name: Tony Beck

Address: 2123 US Hwy 278 SE City: Social Circle State: GA Zip Code: 30025

Telephone: 706 - 557 - 3346

Partner Organization 2: Georgia BASS Nation

POC Name: Tony Beck

Address: 2123 US Hwy 278 SE City: Social Circle State: GA Zip Code: 30025

Telephone: 706 - 614 - 1281

Partner Organization 3: Troup County High School FFA Organization

POC Name: Mike Riley

Address: 1920 Hamilton Rd City: LaGrange State: GA Zip Code: 30241

Telephone: 706 - 812 - 7957 x240

Partner Organization 4:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 5:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 6:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

Partner Organization 7:

POC Name:

Address: City: State: Zip Code:

Telephone: - - x

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	\$15,000	N/A	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$5,536	\$4,152	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$17,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	\$5,536	\$4,152	\$0
Share of Total Cost	49.0%	17.3%	5.8%	16.0%	12.0%	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
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	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	\$17,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,688
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,688
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: