

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2018
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Mississippi River Project Office**

District / Division: **Rock Island District, MVR**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Interpretive Signage Associated With Bald Eagle Perch Structure Restoration**

Corps POC Name: **Kyle Slifka**

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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? (not in outgranted parks) 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. I am aware the Challenge Partnership Agreement must be reviewed and Approved by District Office of Counsel before sending to HQUSACE. Yes No
 6. If the full funding amount requested is not available, could a portion of this Handshake Project be completed with partial funding? Yes No
 7. I am aware that all government funds must be spent in accordance with FAR, DFAR and AFAR contracting laws and regulations, and that Handshake funds cannot be provided to the partner(s). Yes No
 8. Did you participate in a Handshake Webinar in 2017 or review a 2017 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$20,000): \$11,000.00

C. Incentive Points Category: Check the appropriate box if your application qualifies to receive bonus points on the evaluation score.

This Lake/River Project has never received Handshake funding (200 points).

This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 04 to FY 08 program funds) (150 points).

This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 09 to FY 13 program funds) (100 points).

D. Describe your partnership and the proposed Handshake Partnership Project:

Project applications will be evaluated on the categories below. Please complete each section as appropriate.

Summary Statement:

Smith's Island, located adjacent to Lock and Dam 14, once held several of the best winter eagle perch trees in the country. The proximity to open water and clear field of view attracts hundreds of migratory bald eagles each year as well as approximately 10,000 visits from recreationalists from all over the globe. The site has the backdrop of numerous photos used in brochures, art exhibits and several different social media sites. This site draws thousands of out of town visitors that has significant off season impact to the local economy of several local towns and cities. A winter storm in 2017 damaged the trees creating a hazard for the public resulting in the removal of trees from the site. The Army Corps of Engineers was contacted by the Quad Cities Photography Club regarding a way to mitigate for the loss of this resource. After several meetings, it was decided that suitable tree species would be planted at the site, as well as the installation of 3 artificial eagle perch structures to serve as temporary roost sites until tree establishment. Interpretive signage is being sought through the Handshake Partnership Funds to provide information to visitors on bald eagles on the Mississippi River and explain the Corp's role in managing natural resources along the river.

Longevity / O&M description:

Total estimated project longevity is 120 years for the trees. Ideally, the trees will continue to provide suitable perching habitat after death. The Quad Cities Photography Club has agreed to water and maintain the trees until they are fully established. Artificial eagle perches will be constructed out of telephone poles that are designed to last 30-40 years. The Corps will conduct inspection and maintain the artificial eagle perches. Once the trees are established the telephone poles will be removed. Interpretive signage lifespan will be 15 years before needing an update this will be maintained by the Corps and Quad Cities Photography Club.

Partnership Value:

The Corps was contacted by the Quad Cities Photo Club regarding a way to mitigate for the loss of the eagle perch trees. After several meetings, it was decided that suitable tree species would be planted at the site, as well as the installation of three artificial eagle perch structures to serve as temporary roosting sites until tree establishment occurs. The partnership reached out to the local community for resource allocation to make this happen, and in doing so the partnership grew. Living Lands and Waters, a local nonprofit, heard about the issue and agreed to purchase, provide transport, and plant the trees onsite. Ten 4' - 6' trees will be planted consisting of elm, sycamore, cottonwood and oak, all species that will benefit native wildlife. The Quad Cities Photography Club will also assist in the tree planting. Mid American Energy heard about the loss of the trees, and agreed to provide all necessary material, design, construction and installation for the artificial perch structures. The Quad Cities Photography Club provided excellent coordination throughout the planning process and will supply volunteers to water and maintain the trees until establishment. The Corps will monitor the artificial perches and replace perching sticks when necessary to maintain a safe structure. Construction and installation of artificial eagle perch structures will be completed in mid-September 2017. Tree planting will commence towards the end of October, and the interpretive sign would be developed and installed by July of 2018 if funding is provided.

Recreational Benefit:

The roost trees brought in thousands of recreationalist each winter to observe eagles perching, feeding and loafing. By restoring habitat with artificial roosting trees recreationalist can continue to enjoy the wonders of the Mississippi River. Bird watchers, photographers, school groups and nature lovers will benefit from the completion of this project. Interpretive signage will provide information on bald eagles to the general public and educate them on the Army Corps mission to conserve natural resources.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

Project will contribute to the natural resource field by restoring key perching locations for wintering bald eagles on Corps Fee Title Land. This location is one of the best perching vistas for eagles right below Lock and Dam

14. The open water provides access to a food source throughout the coldest of the winter months. Proposed locations for trees, signage and artificial eagle perches is on Project Operations land that has previously been manipulated for the installation of the Lock and Dam 14, no cultural resources would be effected.

Communication & Education Value:

Interpretive signage will explain the Corps role in improving habitat along the Mississippi River and discuss why this area is so heavily occupied in the winter by bald eagles. Other topics include eagle facts as well as information regarding the partnership.

Innovativeness:

The partnership is a diverse group of stakeholders consisting of a federal agency, non profit organizations, photography club and a private entity all aiming at the goal of habitat restoration in the local area. Each partner envisions eagles utilizing the artificial perches and trees as a look out to spy a meal, or a group of school children enjoying the interpretive sign as an eagle grabs a fish right in front of their eyes. Little research exists regarding the use of artificial perches, but with the site location and density of eagles we are confident this will provide a suitable location for an eagle roost.

Conclusion:

This location attracts visitors young and old, from near and far, providing recreational user an amazing opportunity to experience the true Mississippi River and bald eagles up close and personal. Handshake funding would provide for the design, materials, and installation of an interpretive sign visible to the thousands of visitors each year explaining why bald eagles migrate to this area every winter, and the importance of the Corps involvement in conservation on the river.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields and to enter Partner names. You MUST enter partner names into the spreadsheet:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Living Lands and Water	Quad Cities Photography Club	Mid American Energy	Partner 4
Salaries	\$550	N/A	\$350	\$0	\$2,500	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$50	\$0	\$200	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$150	\$11,000	\$400	\$0	\$7,500	\$0
Equipment Use	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,400	\$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	\$580	\$7,725	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$850	\$11,000	\$1,380	\$7,725	\$14,600	\$0
Share of Total Cost	2.4%	30.9%	3.9%	21.7%	41.1%	0.0%
	33.3%					

	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	\$3,400
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,050
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,550
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,305
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,555
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: QC Photo Club 320 hours volunteer for planning, coordination, tree planting and maintaining and watering trees. 300 hours x \$24.14 = \$724.80

Photo 1: Eagle Tree

Photo 2: Recreationalists Viewing Eagles

Photo 3: Full Parking Lot of Eagle Viewers





