

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

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Oahe Project**  
District / Division: **Omaha District North West Division**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Oahe Single Track Mountain Bike Trails**  
Corps POC Name: **Phil Sheffield**  
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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): \$10,000**

**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:**

The Partners propose to develop the only official singletrack mountain bike trail system in the region. The project will include five miles of singletrack mountain bike trails, technical obstacles, a parking area, interpretive signage, and a public outreach campaign. It will diversify the available recreational opportunities for visitors and serve a significant resident population in central South Dakota.

**Longevity / O&M description:**

The proposed mountain bike trail system is expected to last well over 40 years. By using trail design principals from the International Mountain Bicycling Association the trail will be designed to last. The local Oahe Singletrack Mountain Biking Club (the Club) has experience with trail design, construction, and maintenance. As representatives of the mountain biking community they are extremely interested in seeing increased regional opportunities. The volunteer organization can be expected to remain engaged for years to come.

The trail network will be designed to avoid erosion and other potential impacts. Avoiding erosion should also help keep riders on the intended trail alignment and reduce trail “widening” by riders attempting to avoid ruts and ditches. The majority of the trail will be constructed of dirt (trail, banked turns, and obstacles) which can easily be maintained by the Club’s volunteer crew. Some advanced technical obstacles will be constructed of pressure treated ground-contact grade lumber which should have a life span of 20 years. By properly maintaining any wooden structures the overall lifespan of those obstacles should be much greater.

The Club will be responsible for maintaining the trail system. Volunteers under their supervision will conduct maintenance, clear debris, and clean up any trash deposited along the trail. Special event rides hosted by the partner may be used to generate funding needed for maintenance. Maintenance costs may also be funded from the Oahe Project’s Cooperative Association “Missouri River Tourism” and/or the project’s local friends group “Voices for Lake Oahe”.

There will be minimal or no operation and maintenance costs to the Corps for maintenance of the trail system.

**Partnership Value:**

While the specific value of this individual project (the trail system) is high, of greater value is the potential for future partnerships that these organizations may bring. The Oahe Project has been working to strategically increase their partnership capacity by engaging diverse organizations who have “reach” within the community. This opportunity is a direct result of those efforts and its success will provide other organizations incentive to partner with the Corps as well.

The Oahe Singletrack Mountain Biking Club (the Club) is a new and important partner for the Corps at the Oahe Project. They initiated conversations about trail development, generated community interest, and helped identify and solicit an additional partner to provide free equipment rentals. The Club will be responsible for providing the volunteer labor needed to construct and maintain the trail system. In the event that funding is needed for more intensive maintenance or future trail expansion, the Club will work with their membership to solicit the funds needed. The Club is providing over \$11,000 in volunteer labor.

Midwest Construction is a Pierre, South Dakota based construction company that has volunteered the use of its equipment and will be providing some required supplies. The savings in equipment rental and other supplies is estimated to be more than \$5,600.

South Dakota Missouri River Tourism Association (SD Tourism) is a Cooperating Association based at the Oahe Project's Visitor Center. As a tourism association they have direct access to many business leaders within South Dakota and have leveraged those contacts to create opportunities for the Project Office. The association publishes a tourism guide each year for distribution throughout South Dakota. They also maintain a website where the public can learn about recreational opportunities in the State. They have agreed to include the Mountain Bike Trail in their print media at no cost, an estimated value of \$4,000, and promote the completed trail on their website.

The Corps (Oahe Project) will be providing approximately \$8,000 dollars in professional engineering and topographic mapping work.

Handshake Program Funding will be used to fund construction of the trail head parking area, design and purchase appropriate signage, and purchase misc. supplies needed for trail construction.

The partners' combined portion of the total construction costs equals over 48%. When costs associated with marketing and interpretation are included the partners' portion equals over 54%.

### **Recreational Benefit:**

The project will significantly increase the recreational opportunities in the region. Currently there are no technical mountain biking trails within 200 miles of the project location. Most of the trails that do exist are located in the western end of the State, which leaves eastern and central South Dakota with very limited access to a quality trail. Mountain bikers seeking a singletrack experience are limited to either 1) the very flat and non-technical trails offered at Farm Island (a public recreation area near Pierre, South Dakota) or 2) creating and using unofficial trail networks. Unofficial trails are of particular concern as they are typically designed and built without consideration of erosion potential, safety, or legality (trespassing).

The South Dakota Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) specifically calls out the need to develop a more diverse recreational experience in the Pierre, South Dakota region. Within the SCORP, survey respondents noted that trail mountain biking was an activity they would like to participate in but that limited opportunities to ride technical trails prevented them from participating. A higher percentage of respondents in the Pierre, South Dakota region indicated that more mountain biking trails were needed.

Mountain Bikers will no doubt benefit from this project. As a multipurpose trail it will be open to hikers as well. It is anticipated that by providing a designated mountain biking trail system user conflict at other trails will decrease. The trails will be designed to serve users of various skill levels. By having off-chute trails that are more or less technical, those users who are still learning the sport will have the opportunity to participate and try new challenges as their skills increase.

### **Environmental Stewardship Value:**

Conservation of the land is a top concern. The trails will be designed and constructed using methods that have been proven to ensure minimal impact to the environment. By keeping the trails at less than a 10% grade whenever possible and avoiding erosional areas the environmental impact to the area should be minimal. The trails will also be a full bench when built on an incline, this manner of building trails requires that the tread be dug into the side of the hill rather than dirt packed along the edge to maintain a flat tread. Trails built in this manner have a much more solid base and have a longer lifespan with reduced maintenance.

Creating a space for mounting biking will reduce impacts associated with unofficial trails. Because there are very limited regional opportunities to participate in singletrack trail riding, users often construct unofficial trails

wherever the topography allows. These unofficial trails are often not designed to prevent erosion, have limited access to rescue services, and may be placed in areas designated for wildlife habitat. By creating quality space for this recreational user group, issues associated with unofficial trails should decrease.

Finally, having a designated trail area for mountain bikers creates an opportunity to focus specific messages at this user group. The trail head could include signage on 1) controlling the spread of invasive species by cleaning biking equipment and 2) the importance of riding on properly designed trails to mitigate potential environmental damage.

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

The trail will provide user specific interpretive opportunities. Creating a trail head specific to mountain bikers will allow the Corps to reach a previously uncontacted demographic group. Interpretation and educational information could focus on 1) the need to create and use properly designed trails or 2) the geologic processes that made the area an excellent location for mountain biking.

As a successful example of the Corps' partnership authorities, the trail project will be used to promote additional opportunities at the Project. A primary goal of the Oahe Project's partnership strategy is to increase capacity and resiliency by building a diverse network of potential partners. This effort is a big step in that direction in that it will link several key partners together who have access to additional organizations with diverse resources. The Oahe Project will use this example when speaking to other potential partners, during public engagement events, on social media, on the project's website, and in print media.

South Dakota Missouri River Tourism Association (SD Tourism) is a Cooperating Association based at the Oahe Project's Visitor Center. As a tourism association they have direct access to many business leaders within South Dakota and have leveraged those contacts to create opportunities for the Project Office. The association publishes a tourism guide each year for distribution throughout South Dakota. They also maintain a website where the public can learn about recreational opportunities in the State. They have agreed to include the Mountain Bike Trail in their print media at no cost.

### **Innovativeness:**

This trail will be the first of its kind in the region. Within eastern and central South Dakota there are very few, if any, publically accessible technical mountain biking trails. The closest comparable experience would be located nearly five hours away in the Black Hills of western South Dakota. This trail, properly developed and promoted, has the potential to serve a large resident population as well as becoming a destination for regional users.

The mountain bike trail project represents one of the first times the Project Office has actively utilized a growing partnership network to develop and promote a new recreation project. A primary goal of the Project's partnership strategy is to build partner capacity by building a diverse network of potential partners. The Oahe Project has been actively creating this network over the past ten years by engaging with individual or closely related organizations. By bringing together the Oahe Singletrack Mountain Bike Club, Midwest Construction, the South Dakota Missouri River Tourism Association, the Corps, and potentially the Voices for Lake Oahe; the partnership team has the resources available to make this project a true success.

### **Conclusion:**

If selected for the requested Handshake Program funding, the trail project will be able to fully build the proposed 5 mile trail network to include technical obstacles, trail head signage, promotional marketing, and a parking area.

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	Ohe Single Track Mountain Bike Club	Midwest Constructio n	SD Missouri River Tourism	Partner 4
Salaries	\$8,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$1,392	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,275	\$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	\$11,200	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$11,200</b>	<b>\$5,667</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	20.6%	25.7%	28.8%	14.6%	10.3%	0.0%
	46.3%					
	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
<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	\$8,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,392
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,275
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,200
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$38,867</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: SD Missouri River Tourism will place advertisements / articles within their Tourism Guide promoting the new mountain biking trail network.