

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

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

District / Division: **Mobile District**

Handshake Proposal Title: **Honey Bees and Pollinator Stewardship**

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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:

Pollinator stewardship centers on maintaining healthy pollinator communities and habitats. This partnership will provide and maintain two managed honeybee hives, one acre of pollinator gardens, and educational, interpretive, and environmental stewardship opportunities for the visiting public. Pollinators are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that many animals and human rely on for food and shelter. Each hive will contain approximately 30,000 active honeybees to assist in the pollination of the project's plant communities and the pollinator gardens will strengthen the project's native pollinators.

Longevity / O&M description:

This project will take place at the Carters Lake Visitor Center making it front and center to all visitors. Bee Keepers of Gilmer County have begun working with Park Rangers on beekeeping techniques and have suggested using Langstroth Hives for the honeybees. These hive bodies have a long life span and can last up to 20 years. Rangers and professional beekeepers will conduct operation and maintenance of the beehives. All the plants used in the pollinator gardens will be perennials, so after they are established they are expected to come back year after year. Rangers, project volunteers, and the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County will clean up existing pollinator areas and establish and maintain the gardens by annual mulching and weeding.

Partnership Value:

The Bee Keepers of Gilmer County will provide a priceless value, bringing over a 100 years of professional beekeeping and pollinator knowledge to the partnership. This group's teaching is critical to the success of this project. The group's biggest contribution will be their volunteer time which will provide a transfer of knowledge to the Ranger staff, establishment of the honey bee population and pollinator gardens, and environmental education for the visitors, all of which will provide for the betterment of the project community and environment. The Carters Lake Project will supply professional staff to learn from the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County and leverage their knowledge of the native environment and local area to establish a healthy pollinator community and habitat. Handshake funding will be spent on plants, seeds, mulch and ground work for the pollinator gardens, interpretive displays, and live bees with habitat supplies.

Recreational Benefit:

All of the pollinator gardens will be located along established hiking trails, providing hikers with the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the plants and pollinators and drawing more visitors to the trails. The gardens will give visitors the opportunity watch and enjoy wildlife. It is anticipated that the Visitor Center Area will experience an increase in visitation by visitors coming to see the pollinator gardens and beehives. Visitors will be at a safe distance to enjoy the experience without any danger of interaction with the bees. Programming provided by the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County is also expected to bring in additional visitation with the potential to establish relationships with schools and local civic groups.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

The environmental stewardship value of this partnership is high and supports the USACE Pollinator Protection Plan, part of the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators. Pollinators are vital to creating and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that many animals and human rely on for food and shelter. Each beehive contains over 30,000 individual bees, over 60,000 new pollinators will be added to the ecosystem. Adding these bees to the environment will help mitigate some of the loss currently being experienced worldwide from Colony Collapse Disorder. Bees from the hives will travel up to two miles from the hive in search of nectar and pollen while pollinating plants along the way. By creating the pollinator gardens we are also increasing biodiversity and preserving native plantlife from the local area. Many of the seeds that will be used in the pollinator garden have been cultivated and preserved from areas around Carters Lake and will be used to propagate the native species in the pollinator gardens. These gardens will provide a food source and host plants for other native species bearing young, and provide benefits for other wildlife.

Communication & Education Value:

The Bee Keepers of Gilmer County will conduct interpretive programs, giving visitors a closer, hands on look at a beehive, along with educational information on how to they can help pollinators. When visitors go to the

pollinator gardens they will have the opportunity to see the pollinators at work. The handshake funding will provide an educational display in the Carters Lake Visitor Center. This display will provide visitors with information on creating pollinator gardens and how honey bees and other pollinators are important to the ecosystem. Visitors will also have the opportunity to see an active honeybee hive. This partnership will give visitors a better understanding for the importance of pollinators and the role they play in the environment, and also support the USACE Pollinator Protection Plan, part of the National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and other Pollinators.

Innovativeness:

This is a unique partnership for USACE. One thing that makes this project unique is that many of the seeds that will be used in the pollinator garden have been cultivated and preserved from areas around Carters Lake and will be used to propagate the native species in the pollinator gardens. Another unique aspect is that while many projects have established pollinator gardens, none have done so along with the installation of beehives. Combining the pollinator gardens with the beehives brings the project full circle. The partnership with the Bee Keepers of Gilmer County gives this project knowledge needed for success. Working with this group to provide interpretive programs and displays will provide our visitors with information and hopefully spark an interest to make a difference in the environment.

Conclusion:

In summary, pollinators are a vital part of our ecosystem. This project promotes, educates, and inspires visitors with knowledge on pollinators and the environment, adds to the recreational benefits of our trails, and supports national pollinator initiatives. It also aids the USACE Environmental Stewardship mission by providing new pollinator habitat and creating biodiversity. This project will not only improve Carters Lake, but improve the environment throughout our regional community.

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	Bee Keepers of Gilmer County	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$3,200	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$10,000	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$2,475	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$3,200	\$10,000	\$3,225	\$0	\$0	\$0
Share of Total Cost	19.5%	60.9%	19.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	80.4%					

	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	\$3,200
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,250
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,475
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,425
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Bee Keeper of Gilmer County Volunteer and Park Ranger tend beehives below Carters Lake Visitor Center



Park Ranger learning to manage a Honey Beehive below Carters Lake Visitor Center



Existing Pollinator Plants line a trail below the Carters Lake Visitor Center

