

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fiscal Year 2019  
Handshake Program Application**

**Please review instructions before completing application!**

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Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Summersville Lake**  
District / Division: **Huntington District / Great Lakes and Ohio River Division**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Orange Oswald Climber Access Trail**  
Corps POC Name: **Toby J. Wood**  
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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 2018 or review a 2018 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway?  **Yes**  **No**
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**B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$20,000): 20,000**

**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 (250 points).
- This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, but more than 10 years ago (FY 05 to FY 09 program funds) (150 points).
- This Lake/River Project has received Handshake funding, between 5 - 10 years ago (FY 10 to FY 14 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 Meadow, New and Gauley river regions of West Virginia attract rock climbers from around the world, due largely to the Nuttal Sandstone composition of the rock cliffs. Summersville Lake hosts over 152 rock climbing routes located at nine different locations around the Lake. The west and south facing cliffs dry quickly and are accessible by multiple trail systems. One of the most popular climbing areas is the Orange Oswald, which has one of the finest lineups of sport routes in the nation. It, and the Circus Wall downstream of it contain 38 of the most heavily used routes at the Lake.

The access trail leading to this area has eroded away from the wave action of the lake. Efforts by the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) and the Corps to stabilize this shoreline have only provided temporary relief. NRAC and the Corps staff at Summersville Lake would like to implement a permanent repair of the shoreline to ensure future access to the climbing routes.

**Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:**

**USACE:**

\$5,000 in materials

Equipment operator: 80 hrs @ 28.72: \$2,297.60.

Boat operators: two @ \$20 an hour x 160 hours \$3,200

Laborers: two @ \$24.90 an hour x 160 hours \$3,984

**New River Alliance of Climbers:**

\$10,000 in materials

\$9,600 in kind labor: four laborers @ \$20 an hour x 160 hours (3 weeks) = \$9,600

Handshake Funds: \$20,000

**Longevity / O&M description:**

The scope of work is to acquire 300 ton of 4" rip rap stone. This stone will be hand placed into gabion baskets measuring 6' x 6' x 6 that will be anchored into the shoreline, three deep. The challenge of the project is the remoteness of the worksite, which will require a needle-flat type barge to be rented or hauled from another project. The barge will need loaded with stone, towed to the site, and unloaded by hand into the baskets. The work will need to occur as the lake is drawing down to the winter pool level, where there is an optimal level for accessing the worksite by barge. There is potential for hauling a skid steer or small excavator to the worksite if the proper barge can be located. The finish work to the gabion wall will include willow stakes embedded in soil that is backfilled over and around the baskets.

This project will provide a permanent and indefinite repair to the shoreline and trail system. The use of gabion baskets and stone method for repairing the shoreline was chosen because the BMP's for installation can be implemented with or without heavy equipment. There is no foreseeable short or mid-term maintenance requirements to the gabion wall. Likewise there are no recurring or annual operating expenses. It is recognized that 25+ years of seasonal wave action and pool fluctuations may have a nominal impact, and the Operations Manager is committed to tracking and inspecting and documenting the condition of this feature in FEM. Future repairs or maintenance will be cost-shared with NRAC.

## **Partnership Value:**

The New River Alliance of Climbers represents all rock climbers in the Summersville Lake area and their goal includes solidifying access to climbing resources. They work tirelessly with the National Park Service, Cities of Fayetteville and Summersville WV and private land owners. NRAC is an affiliate and partner of the Access Fund, the nation's leading climbing advocacy group. The Access Fund provides guidance and support in NRAC's continued mission to ensure preservation and accessibility of climbing in the New River Region. The Corps at Summersville Lake relies on NRAC to provide the technical knowledge and expertise required for the proper bolting and maintenance of climbing routes and trail maintenance. For this project, NRAC is willing to contribute laborers and \$10,000 to this effort, while the Corps provides manpower, equipment and \$5,000 worth of materials. NRAC is willing to commit to this effort and enter into an agreement with the Corps.

The collaboration between the USACE at Summersville Lake and the New River Alliance of Climbers dates back to the 1990's. They have been an important volunteer organization and it is to everyone's advantage for them to become formal partners with the Corps.

## **Recreational Benefit:**

Summersville Lake has become a regional destination for rock climbing. It is common to see nonresidents and folks from other countries using the cliffs and trails. The uniqueness of the climbing opportunities on Summersville Lake is best described as quoted from the New River Rock Volume 2, "...the Summersville Lake and Gauley River region...together the two zones create possibly the most diverse and unique climbing area in the nation....when nature, and the Army Corps, flip the switch and winter descends, the water recedes and reveals miles of sun-bleached stone with never a soul in sight. The hum of boats is replaced by a constant bitter breeze and the infrequent calls of bald eagles, sounds that accentuate the bizarre Desert Southwest landscape that suddenly appears."

The repair of the shoreline/trail system is necessary and important, but equally valuable is the opportunity to solidify our relationship with NRAC and the climbing community by way of a formal partnership agreement. The agreement will include much more than O&M language about the shoreline repair area. It will include a framework for NRAC to oversee the safe and proper maintenance of the climbing routes project wide. This will include over 150 climbing routes in nine areas around the lake.

## **Environmental Stewardship Value:**

Restoration of an eroded shoreline certainly falls within the ES realm of work. At Summersville Lake the ES budget is extremely small and provides only enough funding to perform the annual boundary inspection and maintenance activities. The Handshake Program is an opportunity to obtain additional funding, partner with NRAC to utilize their funding and volunteer labor, and return this shoreline area to its original contour. This is a sustainable practice with nearly 100% natural materials, with the goal of allowing native vegetation to grow upon the gabions. The root systems of this vegetation will help secure the stone and provide a more natural appearance.

## **Communication & Education Value:**

The NRAC has an excellent web site that includes Lake information and several topics and links related to outdoor etiquette and safety (<https://www.newriverclimbing.net>). It also includes a video documentary of the first deep water solo completion event ever held on US soil, which occurred at Summersville Lake in 2016. Educating the public about cliff diving restrictions and how it impacts the rock climbing around the lake has been an important effort for the last 10 years. NRAC has helped, and ensured that the following message was published in the popular climbing guide New River Rock Volume 2: "What was once the finest deep-water soloing location in the States is no more. In May 2007, the Army Corps banned all cliff-jumping activities in the lake region. Cliff

jumping is defined by the Corps as 'Entering the lake from a height greater than one's own.' Does this include free-soloing above the water? Well technically, I guess not; but if you fall, then yes it does. If you go for it anyway and get caught, you risk a \$5000 fine, enough money to easily fund your DWS trip to Mallorca."

NRAC helps to spread our Corps messages, and this project will further strengthen our efforts to provide safe and healthful recreation opportunities. It will be publicized and signed to identify the partnering efforts, and our lake map/brochure will be updated to include specifics on rock climbing opportunities.

### **Innovativeness:**

The work that has previously been completed on this stabilization project included adjusting lake levels, hauling large quantities of stone by boat, and hand placing stone due to the remoteness of this job site. Numerous other avenues have been explored, everything from helicopter assistance (partnering with USFS, but was too costly), aquatic machinery, and heavy equipment use with the WV Army National Guard through extremely rugged terrain. Each has been thoroughly explored, moved past, and revisited in an effort to find a way to make this project forward. It has been determined that the use of gabion baskets anchored into the shoreline and filled with 4" stone is the best available method.

The most innovative part of the job will be moving 100's of tons of stone (10 ton at a time) to the worksite by way of a needle-flat type barge. This has been done in the past on a smaller scale. The boat is carefully loaded with a front-loader at a nearby launch ramp location. Then it is towed and pushed to the worksite with johnboats and work boats where it is unloaded and placed.

### **Conclusion:**

#### **The Corps will:**

- Continue to partner with the City of Summersville to provide parking
- Work in cooperation with NRAC to improve the existing access trail to the Waterfall Cove and Orange Oswald.
- Potentially provide barge for transport of baskets and rip rap stone
- Load stone onto the barge with heavy equipment
- Tow the barge to/from the worksite with vessels
- Continue to update and maintain the Orange Oswald access trail
- Be responsible for installing and maintaining all trail signage
- Enforce Title 36 rules and regulations such as no shoreline camping, fires, littering, or vandalism

#### **The Partner will:**

- Work in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Summersville Lake Office to update and maintain safe trail access to the Orange Oswald Wall
- Potentially procure barge for use
- Consult with USACE employees during the planning
- Provide bank stabilization design and layout
- Provide volunteer work to anchor gabion baskets and fill with stone
- Continue to provide volunteers to maintain the Orange Oswald Trail Access
- Provide stone and gabion baskets

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	NRAC	Partner 2	Partner 3	Partner 4
Salaries	\$9,600	N/A	\$9,600	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$2,500	\$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	\$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>\$17,100</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$19,600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	30.2%	35.3%	34.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	65.4%					

	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
<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	\$19,200
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500
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>\$56,700</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:

Below is a Map showing the area where the project will be located, it also shows the remoteness of the project.



Below is a picture of past efforts attempting to slow the erosion of the shoreline and the efforts to move material to the area. Partnered with Boy Scouts of America and NRAC.

