

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

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Francis E. Walter Dam**
District / Division:**Philadelphia/North Atlantic Division**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Borrow Area Habitat Completion**
Corps POC Name:**Dave Williams**
Telephone:(**484**) **614** - **0074** ext.
E-Mail: **David.B.Williams@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? (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**
-

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 (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:

Since the completion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Francis E. Walter Reservoir in 1961, efforts to reclaim and enhance areas disturbed during project construction have been ongoing. These efforts have been supported in many ways by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other local partners, however, reaching a projects completion is often limited by funding availability. Reclamation efforts in partnership with Pheasants Forever Chapter 803 on a twenty six acre stone borrow area have been ongoing since 2008. During construction of the dam, this site was cleared and grubbed down to bedrock in most cases. Over the last ten years, efforts to improve wildlife habitats, passive and active human recreation, and a sustainable ecosystem have included placement of topsoil and organic matter; planting of pollinator and native plant species that provide food, cover, and habitat; and creation of surface storm and seasonal runoff water holding ponds. Handshake funds will be used to complete the restoration of this site. To finalize the habitat improvement project, a large food and cover plot is needed to connect previously developed habitats on site. This area will provide a safer wildlife movement corridor between existing habitats; food and cover for nesting birds and other species; and will complete the restoration of the entire twenty six acre site to a sustainable level.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

The Corps of Engineers will have 2 full time employees working on this project for a total of 16 hours at a cost of \$925.00. Pheasants forever Chapter 803 will have a total of 6 volunteers working a total of 96 hours with a volunteer value of \$2370.24. Pheasants Afield will have a total of 3 volunteers working a total of 48 hours with a volunteer value of \$1198.08. Kieper excavating will supply a bulldozer and operator for a total of 24 hours with a volunteer value of \$3750.00. Pheasants forever will be contributing \$3000.00 and \$300.00 worth of seed to the project.

See enclosure 2 for spreadsheet.

Longevity / O&M description:

This project involves the enhancement of four previously and partially constructed small food plots to create one larger plot of approximately two acres. This larger food and cover plot will connect other previously developed adjacent habitats. The work will include removal of existing invasive and noxious non-native plant species, trucking in topsoil and grading of the site with a bulldozer to a six inch nominal topsoil depth, liming, fertilizing and planting of native perennial food and cover crops for a variety of wildlife species. Expected lifespan of this project should exceed twenty years. A combination of labor from the Corps and Pheasants Forever Chapter 803 will be used for any future maintenance work.

Partnership Value:

As one of many valuable partnership projects at the F.E. Walter Dam and Reservoir, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pheasants Forever Chapter 803 will manage the project together, provide high quality habitats for various native wildlife species, and many hours of enjoyment for public recreation. Direct value to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seen in the completion of the long term restoration of the site; reinforcement of established partnerships in the region and the F.E. Walter Dam and Reservoir project area; and support of the Corps “Value to the Nation” as stewards of the nation’s land and waters. Additional value to the Corps, Pheasants Forever Chapter 803 and ultimately the public is seen in the restoration of a previously disturbed site that maintained little to no vegetation and provided little in way of habitats for wildlife species. The completely restored site will provide sustainable habitats for wildlife and long term recreational benefits for users.

Recreational Benefit:

The area is located adjacent to Pennsylvania State Game Lands 119. One of only three areas in Luzerne County that are stocked with pheasants by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission. This area is easily accessible by the public from several metropolitan areas and experiences heavy use by various sportsman's groups and environmental groups. Popular active and passive recreational use of the area includes birding, wildlife viewing, hunting, hiking, dog training, and youth education programs. By completing the restoration of the site and improving the function and sustainability of the habitats, active and passive recreational benefits are expected to increase.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

As stewards of the nation's lands and waters at Corps of Engineers civil works projects, the corps goals of managing lands and waters for future generations and maintaining and improving ecosystems and biodiversity will be met with this project. For over 50 years this site has essentially been a barren landscape as a result of its use as material borrow area during dam construction. Complete restoration of this twenty six acre area will be realized with the completion of the Handshake food and cover plot project. The needs of people and wildlife utilizing the site will be balanced and sustainable. Wildlife habitats will be available for use as food, cover, nesting and rearing of young by many species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds. The biodiversity and overall ecosystem function of the site is expected to dramatically increase. Public use of the site would also be expected to increase as a result of the overall restoration of the environment.

Communication & Education Value:

The area will be used to conduct Pheasants Forever and NEPA (Northeastern Pennsylvania) Pheasants Afield youth field days, to include, hunter safety, firearms safety, clay bird practice, safe dog handling and practical field use. Various other organizations such as NAVHDA (North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association) also use the site for dog training and field days. It will also provide needed Pennsylvania State Game Commission pheasant stocking opportunities on lands with excellent food, water and cover. The project area is one of only three areas in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania that maintain these important wildlife habitats and resources and remain in the State pheasant stocking program.

Innovativeness:

This project will reclaim an area disturbed during dam and reservoir construction and would culminate in a complete habitat/ecosystem restoration consisting of cover, nesting habitat, water and a food source for many native species of wildlife meanwhile providing added recreational benefits and opportunities for the public.

Conclusion:

The original borrow area could be characterized as a barren wasteland. All topsoil was removed for construction of the F.E. Walter Dam and Reservoir embankment project. Only noxious weed and invasive species adapted to disturbed and harsh conditions existed in this borrow area. Starting in 2008 the Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with Pheasants Forever Chapter 803 began a long term partnership goal to transform this barrow area into a viable habitat for wildlife with the introduction of warm season grasses and a water supply. To finalize the habitat improvement project, a large food and cover plot is needed to connect previously developed habitats on site. This area will provide a safer wildlife movement corridor between existing habitats; food and cover for nesting birds and other species; and will complete the restoration of the entire twenty six acre site to a sustainable level. The Handshake funding will allow us to complete this long term partnership restoration goal.

Barrow Area Reclamation

1.25 acre area added to existing food plot, 6" of topsoil needs to be added to this area

Legend

- FEW Property Boundry
- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Survey Monument
- Untitled Polygon

Google earth

600 ft



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	Phesants Forever Chapter 803	Phesants Afield	RD Kieper Excavating	Partner 4
Salaries	\$925	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$500	\$10,000	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,750	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$2,370	\$1,185	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,425	\$10,000	\$5,670	\$1,185	\$3,750	\$0
Share of Total Cost	10.5%	43.4%	24.6%	5.1%	16.3%	0.0%
	54.0%					

	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	\$925
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,800
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,750
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,555
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,030
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations: