

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fiscal Year 2020
Handshake Program Application**

Please review instructions before completing application!

Corps Lake/River Project Name: **Big Hill Lake**
District / Division: **SWT**
Handshake Proposal Title: **Mapping & Maintenance of Big Hill Trail**
Corps POC Name: **Barb Busenbarrick**
Telephone: **(620) 336 - 2741** ext.
E-Mail: **barbara.j.busenbarrick@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 2019 or review a 2019 Handshake Webinar on the Gateway? Yes No
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B. Handshake Funding Request (maximum \$25,000): \$14,230

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

- This project will be completed with a national MOU partner with which the Lake or Project hasn't previously partnered. (100 points).
- This project reduces O&M cost to the Corps over the lifecycle of the proposed project or improves existing infrastructure. (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:

If you journey to Southeast Kansas you will find the small town of Cherryvale, home to Big Hill Lake and its popular network of equestrian trails. The trails utilize three Day Use and Camping areas for trailheads for their 18 mile network of trails. Being just two hours south of Kansas City, Big Hill Lake is becoming a big deal for horse back riding. As this recreational sport expands in popularity it also brings in other recreational users including hikers, campers, bird watchers, disc golfers and many others. All this brings in much needed revenue for the small city of Cherryvale KS, and Parsons County. With local groups investing their own money and time to make these equestrian trails safe and usable, funding both within the community and the local Lake Office often runs short. However new partners have brought new life to the trailheads with Back Country Horseman of Kansas and the Audubon Society now working together to invest in these trails. With the help of Handshake Funding to assist the Big Hill Lake Office, the partners would utilize volunteers to accomplish a sophisticated mapping project, trail clearing, and trail marking, reducing future operational and maintenance costs to the Corp.

Handshake Funding Cost Break Down:

- \$6400 Professional Brush and Debris Cleaning from 17.5 miles Equestrian trails. 80 Hours (@ \$80 per hour) in three events covering all trails. Payouts spread between two licensed bonded and trail proven contractors familiar with the Big Hill property. Can remove large fallen timber and shred invasive brush and sprouting trees.
- \$1000 to hire professional noxious weed control specialist to apply donated, appropriate herbicide to area of trails overrun with sericea lespedeza and johnson grass, both Kansas designated noxious weeds or invasive species.
- \$2200 for three 3x4 foot kiosks to display new maps of the recently measured and marked trails. Wright Signs cost estimate. Includes vandal proof finish.
- \$3780 for printing cost and creation of a detailed map of the trails, access points, road numbers, directions,. Will show other major points in facility and include a guide to native birds and common wildlife as well as safety tips. Will include the creation of digital copies and small print copies for distribution.
- \$850 to cover expenses of bringing the professional map maker (who is volunteering her time) to the site to GPS and photograph the proposed map area,

Total: \$14,230

Longevity / O&M description:

New map kiosks proposed would be created from materials that would extend their life to over 25 years according to the vendor. The digital map would last indefinitely and would be the mobile version of what is printed on the trailhead kiosks. The landscape of Big Hill Lake restricts any major trail changes so there would be no need for map updates until the maps on the kiosks weather and are unreadable. The longevity of the whole process once the trails are clear, trails remarked for safety, and the three kiosks constructed is over 30 years. After construction, all O&M will fall on the partners to keep and maintain these items with limited assistance from the Lake Office.

Partnership Value:

The value of the below listed partners is found in the current status of the Big Hill trails and the future preservation of those trails. Each partner listed below has either put in time/labor or money to assist in maintaining the current trails. Without the help of these partners, the Lake Office could not maintain the trail system and the three trailheads.

1. North American Trail Ride Conference: Contact Person: Marsha Hayes. 3277 CR 4300 Independence, Kansas 67301 620-330-0582
mhkansas@me.com

Will commit 200 volunteer hours including 120 trail work, painting markings, clearing brush, 80 hours specialized writing of press releases and information about the trail and events and facilities. Will also contribute \$500.00

Repeat National Partner (third commitment)

2. American Endurance Ride Conference: Contact Person: Deirdre Monroe. 15 Camino Del Ojito, Santa Fe, NM 87506. 505-9670-4925

deirdre@swcp.com. 90 hours @ \$80 per hour of specialized map creation, 20 hours travel time, plus 24 hours mapping on trail. \$80 Mapping Software donation

Repeat National Partner (third commitment)

3. The Bridge Campground: Owner: Chuck Waggoner, 440 22000RD, Cherryvale, KS. 67335, 620-423-1798. waggonerchuck@yahoo.com

20 hours of mowing with his equipment and \$100 Cash

New Partner

4. Back Country Horsemen of America: Steve Lindsey, 710 N. Mayfield Rd, Hutchison, KS 67501. 785-259-4712, steve.lindsey@lia-ks.com

\$500 Cash, 200 volunteer hours.

Repeat National Partner (third commitment)

5. Big Hill Horse Riders Association: Bill Racy, billracy@yahoo.com, 620-870-8333. Will donate chemical to spray (\$100 value) 300 volunteer hours, 1100 miles, 40 hours 4 wheelers, 80 hours chain saws.

Repeat Local Partner (third commitment)

6. Scout Troop 4. Bill Carson. 508-725-6164, 418 S. 5th, Independence, Kansas 67301.

wwcarsoniv@gmail.com. 100 hours GPS verification on trail.

Repeat National Partner

7. Labette County Tourism: Jim Zaleski, 620-421-7001, jzaleski@parsonsk.com. \$400 Cash

Repeat Partner (third year)

8. Western Way Cowboy Church. Ron McKinzie, 620-330-1557 snckinzie@altamontks.com

100 Hours Trail maintenance.

Repeat Partner (third year)

9. Audubon of Southeast Kansas: Kindra Holland, 620-778-1835, kindrajo@gmail.com. 50 hours bird and wildlife research

New Partner with National MOU in place

Recreational Benefit:

Having a debris cleared trail encourages hikers and equestrians to enjoy outdoor recreation. Some of the user groups expected are equestrian users, hikers, campers from the trailheads, birders, geocachers, day users, local and community groups, and even some high school cross country groups. A current, user friendly, accurate map will also encourage more trail usage and provide a safety standard for emergencies on the trail with trail markers matching what is on the actual trail. The most common question asked volunteers and Corp personnel is, "Do you have a map?", or "How far is it to...". Both questions would be better answered with a professional map. The Kioks will also be a great advertisement for the three trailheads, two that are in current day use parks and one inside a campground, for other recreational users to have an opportunity to use the trails. The trail would open to all user groups with exception of mountain bikers for safety reasons. This trail also ties together three of the four main parks at Big Hill Lake.

Environmental Stewardship Value:

Along with the trail clearing, there will also be trail spraying of the areas as well to get rid of some invasive species along the way. The explosion of *Sericea lespedeza* and Johnson grass will be addressed by a researched and coordinated plan to spray the noxious weeds blocking parts of the trail and obscuring existing signage and often the trail. The removal of these species will help with the safety of the trail as well as helping the natural environment.

Communication & Education Value:

One of the things our partners have done well is to communicate. They have used outreach and communication of the trail and their mission to improve and restore it to reach out to their groups of interest and bring them in as partners. The Backcountry Horsemen of Kansas alone has posted articles in local newspapers and in local magazines about the restoration of the trail and the efforts made through the multi-partner agreement with the local Big Hill Lake Office Staff. This group has done a great job helping to get the Corps Mission across to the community and has shed a very positive light both on Big Hill Lake and the Corps of Engineers as a Partner and Land Manager. Utilizing the Scouts to verify GPS coordinates for the mapping will enhance their education on multiple levels: environmental, scientific, and technical. The incorporation of the Audubon Society to research and contribute to the educational component of the map will inform trail users of birds, foliage, and wildlife seen in the area. They will also offer safety information to educate the public of plants and potentially dangerous wildlife.

Innovativeness:

The project brings cutting edge technology like mapping software, GPS usage, and computer overlays to a recreational setting. It does the same for modern equipment usually used for agriculture purposes or commercial land cleaning and adapting it to enhance public recreation. As well as adapting the best of technology to a new purpose, these partners bring vastly different groups together to accomplish one purpose: improving trail and outdoor recreation opportunities and educating users about Kansas birds, animals and plants.

Conclusion:

Funding this proposal would continue work planned and executed by the Corp and volunteers working together. Since the inception of the Handshake Program and its involvement at Big Hill Lake, volunteer hours have steadily risen and cash pledges have increased. Press coverage of handshakes and their completed projects has attracted more partners and generated positive feelings of community ownership and involvement in "their" park.

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	NATRC	AERC	Bridge	BCHA
Salaries	\$2,000	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$509	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$500
Funds Contributed	N/A	\$14,230	\$500	\$80	\$100	\$500
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	N/A	N/A	\$5,086	\$7,810	\$509	\$5,086
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,000		\$5,586	\$8,399	\$809	\$6,086
Share of Total Cost	5.4%	0.0%	14.9%	22.5%	2.2%	16.3%
	5.4%					

	BHHRA	Scout Tr 4	LBCoTour	WWCCh	SEKAud	Partner 10
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$7,629	\$2,543	\$0	\$2,543	\$1,272	\$0
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$7,729	\$2,543	\$400	\$2,543	\$1,272	\$0
Share of Total Cost	20.7%	6.8%	1.1%	6.8%	3.4%	0

	Partner 11	Partner 12	Partner 13	Partner 14	Partner 15	Total
Salaries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$509
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$700
Funds Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,810
Personal Property	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,478
In-Kind Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$37,367
Share of Total Cost	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%

Explanations:



• Photo

inside
inside art: Employee Giving Campaign, Season of Giving

Employee Spotlight: Deirdre Monroe

A graphic element for an employee spotlight. It features the 'inside inside' logo, the text 'art: Employee Giving Campaign, Season of Giving', and the title 'Employee Spotlight: Deirdre Monroe'. Below the text are two small square photographs: the left one shows a person riding a brown horse on a dirt path, and the right one shows a woman with blonde hair sitting in a white wicker chair with a dog.