Handshake Partnership Program
Report - FY 2019 Recipients

1. Name of Corps Project/Lake: Lake Oahe
2. District / Division of Corps Project/Lake: Omaha District
3. Handshake Project Name: Oahe West Shore Mountain Bike Trail
4. Amount of Handshake Funds remaining: $0
5. What has been accomplished? Please provide photographs; before, during, and after!:
A five-mile-long mountain bike trail was constructed and will be maintained by the Oahe Wheelman cycling club on the Oahe Project near Pierre, SD. This trail is unique in that it provides considerable elevation change, considering that it was built in the great plains, and is hundreds of miles from the nearest similar trail.

	Total
Handshake Program Funding Amount	$10000
Local Corps Office Funds (total expended on labor, materials, contracts, etc.)?	$3444.39
Partner's Contributions (total value of funds, goods, services, volunteer hours, etc.)	
Partners Name	**Total Value of Contributions**
1 Oahe Wheelman Cycling Club	$14462
2 South Dakota Missouri River Tourism	$4000

6. Handshake Program Recipient Feedback
Please take this opportunity to provide feedback on all aspects of the Handshake Program and the Challenge Partnership Agreement authority. Your productive comments are important to the ongoing improvement of the program. Make sure to let us know how the Handshake funds have benefited your efforts to initiate and/or strengthen your partnerships.
The program worked very well for this project. This project was the first big opportunity this group of mountain bikers received and was the success they are using to expand local trails with other partners. Without this program they would probably still be trying to build local support.

7. Handshake Summary:
A mountain bike trail in the middle of the Great Plains? It's not the first area that comes to mind when talking about mountain biking; but Pierre, SD resident Uriah Steber saw the potential from a high bluff overlooking Lake Oahe. With little opportunity to mountain bike locally, outside of gravel roads and a very flat city trail, most mountain biking enthusiasts travel a couple hundred miles away to the Black Hills. But surveying the rugged shoreline, Uriah thought this might be just the location to build a new trail.

Working with the Oahe Project Office, the local Oahe Wheelman cycling club, and South Dakota Missouri River Tourism, not only was Steber able to get an agreement to build the trail but was also able to secure US Army Corps of Engineers Handshake funds to cover some of the costs associated with building the trail.

Construction of the trail began in 2018 after many hours spent walking the hills and ravines bordering Lake Oahe, determining the best path for a challenging, yet sustainable trail. The initial construction was primarily completed by hand with volunteers wielding weed whips, fire rakes, and shovels. By the end of the summer of 2019 the entire 4-mile trail was laid out, mowed, and contoured to the correct shape. During the summer of 2020 several portions of the trail which showed problems with erosions or wet ground were stabilized with geo-grid or treated lumber. By the end of trail construction, a dozen people put in over 450 volunteer hours!

The trail has been greatly appreciated by local cycling enthusiast who no longer need to drive several hours to find a trail with significant elevation change. The total elevation change of the Oahe trail is around 200 feet, however the nature of the terrain results in frequent 50 to 100-foot ascents and descents. The spectacular views of Lake Oahe are an added bonus to getting off the road and onto the trail!

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