

USACE Headquarters Partnership Program Update

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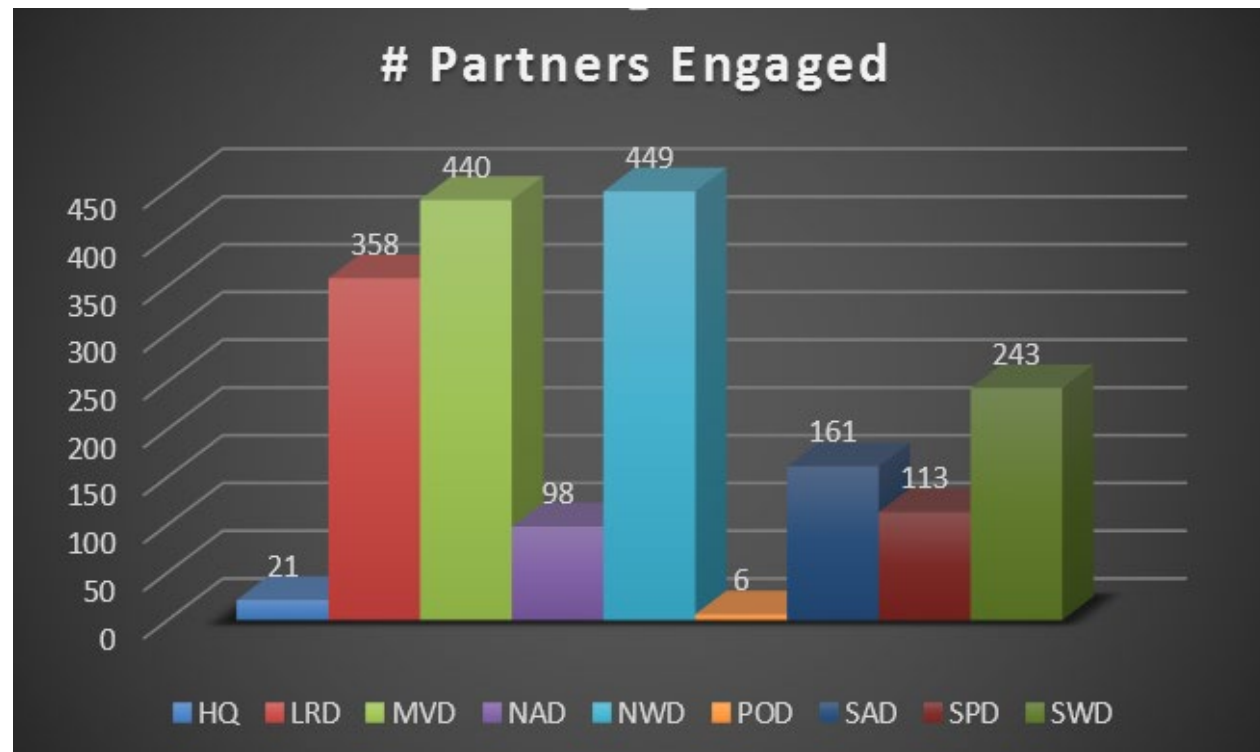
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Program Updates: FY 17 OMBIL Partnership/Volunteer Data

- 1,889 partnerships with a total value of **\$65 million** (\$7.9 million Corps investment matched by \$57.1 million partner investment)

- 43,975 volunteers contributed 1,616,259 hours of work with an estimated value of \$39 million



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Newest Partnering Authorities

WRDA 2016 – Section 1001: Youth Service and Conservation Corps Organizations

- Amends WRDA 2000 Section 213 (33 USC 2339)
- Added language: “The Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, shall enter into cooperative agreements with qualified youth service and conservation corps organizations for services relating to projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary and shall do so in a manner that ensures the maximum participation and opportunities for such organizations.”
- Does not actually provide any new authority. Just provides more emphasis on use of youth conservation corps.
- Does not come with any new funding stream.
- **Proposed legislation:** HR 3400 “Recreation Not Red Tape Act” 21st Century CSC section would give USACE direct hire authority and noncompetitive hiring status of interns



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Newest Partnering Authorities

WRDA 2016 – Section 1155: Management of Recreation Facilities

- Amends WRDA 1992 Section 225 (33 USC 2328) Challenge Partnership Program
- Added language:
 - Collection of fees: The Secretary may allow a **non-Federal public entity** that has entered into an agreement to collect user fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, whether developed or constructed by that entity or the Department of the Army.
 - Use of visitor reservation services: The non-Federal public entity may use, to manage fee collections and reservations, any visitor reservation service that the Secretary has provided for by contract or interagency agreement.



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Newest Partnering Authorities

WRDA 2016 – Section 1155: Management of Recreation Facilities (cont.)

- Added language (cont.):
 - Use of fees: The non-Federal public entity that collects the user fees may retain up to 100 percent of the fees collected, and shall use any retained amount for operation, maintenance, and management activities at the recreation site at which the fee is collected.

- Implementation guidance is currently under review by the ASA(CW).

- Until official implementation guidance has been approved by the ASA (CW), Corps staff cannot share their own interpretation of the statute or provide draft policy and procedures to the public.

- Note: Please have patience with the process. WRRDA 2014 implementation guidance took 2 years to go into effect.



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Partnership Program Updates

- Handshake Program: 178 partnerships funded through Remaining Items budget since 2004 with a total value of \$13.6 million and 61% partner share (\$8.2M). FY 18 winners:
 - Barren River: Pollinator pavilion and bee hive
 - Carters Lake: Pollinator gardens and bee hives
 - Melvern Lake: Marsh rehabilitation
 - Mississippi River Project Office: Bald eagle artificial perches and interpretive signs
 - Oahe Lake: Mountain bike trails
 - Soo Locks: Community picnic structure and ADA upgrades
 - Tuttle Creek Lake: ORV area kiosk and picnic facilities
- Cooperative agreement process PDT: Contracting Policy Office published a National SOP and templates/samples for administering cooperative agreements. CoP established, updates in progress
- Prison Labor Delegation Memo –
 - Request to approve national Inmate Labor Plan and delegate authority to District Commanders to approve MOAs without sending up to ACSIM.
 - Currently in ASA(CW) office for review
 - Questions about authority to work with State prisons



Training and Awards

- PROSPECT Partnerships in Natural Resources Management class
 - Targeted outreach to OC, RM, RE, and CT to attend classes
 - FY 18 – 20 classes:
 - ❑ Pittsburgh District Office, PA: June 4 – 7, 2018
 - ❑ Saylorville Lake, IA: October 29 – November 1, 2018
 - ❑ Boise, ID: May 6 – 9, 2019
 - ❑ Southbridge Training Center, MA: Fall 2019

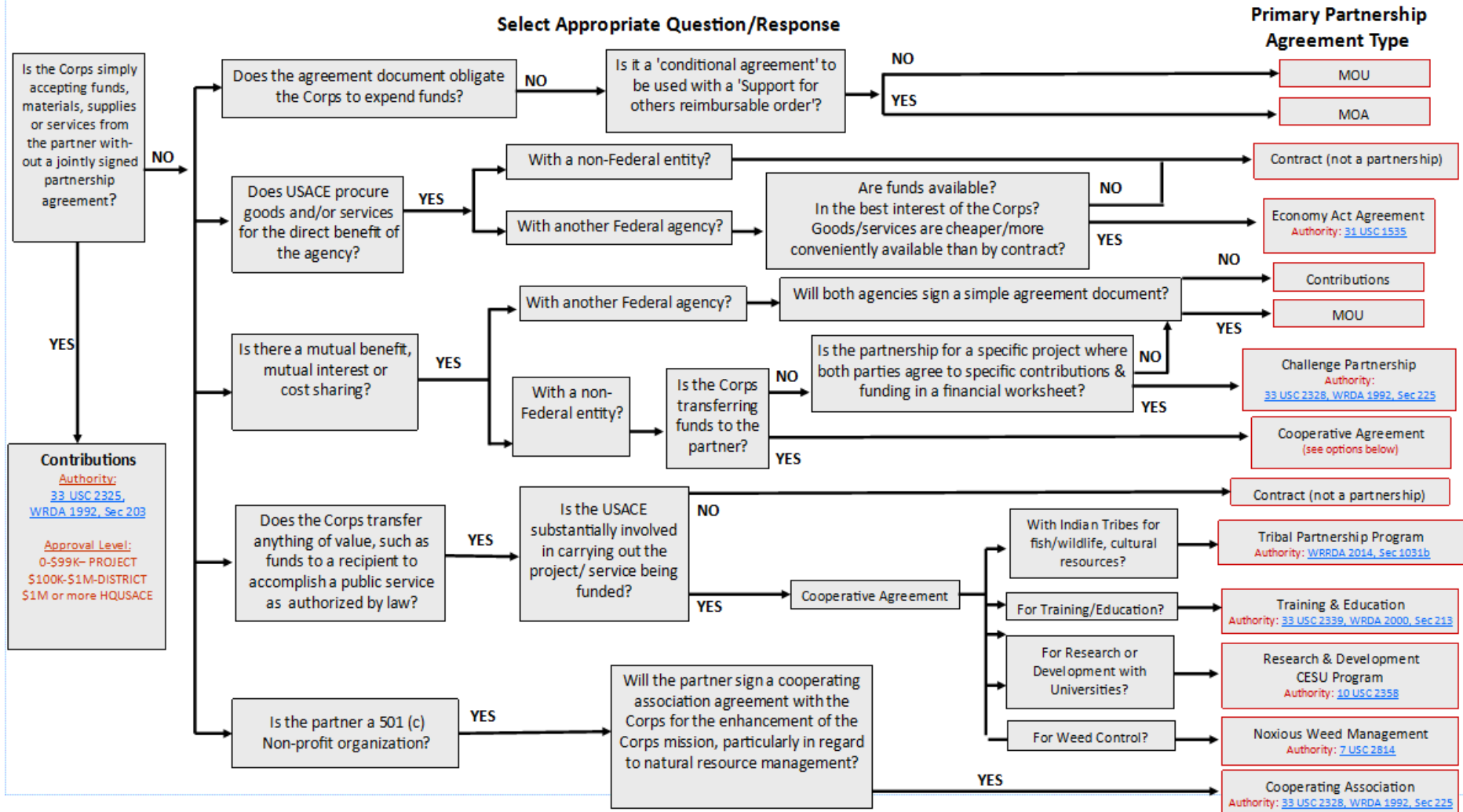
- Legends/Beacon nominations – Due April 16
 - Sponsored by the American Recreation Coalition
 - Legends – lifetime achievement for recreation
 - Beacon – innovative use of technology for recreation

- 2017 Excellence in Partnership and National Volunteer Award winners selected
 - EIP: FOREST Council (MVS - Mark Twain)
 - Volunteer: Will & Judy Carter (MVR - Saylorville)
 - Sponsored by the Corps Foundation
 - Nomination requests sent out in Fall; December 15 due date



USACE NRM Partnership Agreement Decision Tree

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)



USACE NRM Partnership Agreements - Flow of Money/Contributions

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)

USACE ← \$\$\$ to us

Contributions

(anyone except the project sponsor)

Authority:

[33 USC 2325](#)

[WRDA 1992, Sec 203](#)

Challenge Partnerships

(non-federal entity)

Authority:

[33 USC 2328](#)

[WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#)

Cooperating Association

(non-profit entity)

Authority:

[33 USC 2328](#)

[WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#)

USACE → \$\$\$ to partner

Cooperative Agreement for Fire Protection

(any fire organization)

Authority:

[42 USC 1856a](#)

Cooperative Agreement for Research & Development

(non-federal entity)

Authority:

[33 USC 2313](#)

Cooperative Agreement with Indian Tribes for fish, wildlife, water quality, cultural resources

(Indian Tribes)

Authority:

[WRRDA 2014, Sec 1031b](#)

USACE → \$\$\$ to partner

Cooperative Agreement for Training/Education

(non-federal or non-profit)

Authority:

[33 USC 2339](#)

[WRDA 2000, Sec 213](#)

amended by [WRRDA 2014, Sec 1047\(e\)](#)

Cooperative Agreement for Weed Management

(any State Agency)

Authority:

[7 USC 2418](#)

USACE ↔ \$\$\$ both ways

Economy Act

(federal agency)

Authority:

[31 USC 1535](#)

NRM Partnership Agreement Approval Levels

This document is intended to provide a brief overview of available partnership authorities and approval requirements. Corps personnel should coordinate all proposed agreements with their Office of Counsel.

Agreement Type	Authority	Special Considerations	\$ Value	Signature*
Contribution	33 USC 2325, Sec 203 of WRDA 1992	Acceptance level based on \$ value	< \$2,500: Any staff member \$2,500 to < \$100K: Manager \$100K to < \$1M: District NRM and OC \$1M or >: HQUSACE OC, NRM, DCW <i>*Reference 2008 Contributions, Fundraising and Recognition Reference Guide, Sections 5.2 and 5.3</i>	No agreement to sign. District Contributions Plan provides authorization.
Challenge Partnership	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992	Signature based on \$ value	\$25K or <: delegable to OPM > \$25K to \$200K: delegable to Ops Chief > \$200K: District Commander <i>*Reference ER 1130-2-500, Ch 12-2.k</i>	District Commander unless delegated to Operations Project Manager and/or Chief of Operations per ER 1130-2-500. Agreements involving projects in more than one district must be approved by MSC Commander or their delegate.
Cooperating Association	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992	A moratorium is currently in place for cooperative agreements and associated leases that allow CAs to collect and retain fees for use of Corps facilities. <i>*Reference CECW Memo dated 12 September 2013.</i>	N/A	Agreements that do not involve fee collection/retention may be approved by District Commanders. Until further guidance is issued, all agreements involving fee collection/retention for use of Corps facilities must be approved at HQUSACE.
Economy Act	31 USC 1535	Agreements w/ DoD entities	N/A	District Commander <i>*Reference ER 1140-1-1, para. 6.</i>
		Agreement w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the servicing agency	N/A	MSC Commander unless delegated to District Commander. <i>*Reference ER 1140-1-211, para. 8.</i>
		Agreements w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the ordering agency	N/A	SES or General Officer. <i>*Reference DoD FMR Vol. 11A, ch. 3, para. 030304.</i>
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	No explicit authority required. MOUs are non-binding agreements that do not commit either party to do anything. However, the Corps must have authority to perform the activities or carry out the intentions referenced in an MOU.	Level of signature depends on complexity of agreement and level of partner signature	N/A	OPM, Operations Chief, District Commander or higher official - depends on which authority is cited (if any) and/or level of signature at partner organization. Agreements with regional or national implications should be coordinated with affected MSCs and HQUSACE.
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	Authorities vary. MOAs are used to document binding agreements between parties based on specific statutory authority (e.g., Economy Act agreements).	Depends on authority	Depends on authority	Depends on authority
Volunteer	33 USC 569c	Delegation memo on file	N/A	District Commander unless delegated. <i>*Reference 12 Aug 2016 CECW-OO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1042(d) Services of Volunteers of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRDA) of 2014, Pl. 111-121</i>

Resources: NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erdcdren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

Partnerships

[Headquarters POC](#)

[Partnerships Pages Quick-finder Index](#)

In today's financial environment PARTNERING is an essential tool that allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to effectively manage recreation and environmental resources. In order to successfully meet our recreation and stewardship missions, and to foster shared values, vision, and a sense of ownership it is imperative that we work together with state governments, Native American tribes, private/public organizations, local communities, and other partners to maintain or advance programs from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements.

Partnering helps to pool scarce resources, to promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The NRM Program has embraced this reality and is committed to fully exploring the potential development of new public-private partnerships to leverage limited appropriated funds and human resources.

This page will help you determine the [right tools for your partnerships](#), [find the right training to expand your knowledge](#), and [learn from the successful efforts of your peers](#). You will find answers to longstanding questions and discover how to effectively utilize important partners such as the [Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#). The bottom line: **partnering is smart business**.

Partnership Types: [Which is right for you?](#)

- [Challenge Partnerships Program](#)
- [Handshake Partnerships Program](#)
- [Contributions Program](#)
- [Cooperating Associations Program](#)
- [Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement \(MOU/MOA\)](#)
- [Volunteer Program](#)
- [Economy Act Agreements](#)
- [Cooperative Agreements](#)

How To:

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Grants/Alternative Funding Sources](#)
- [Partnership Advisory Committee](#)
- [Division & District POCs](#) 
- [Partnerships in OMBIL](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Partnership Outreach Sheet](#)



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Opportunities



Why Partner with the Corps?

Benefits of Partnering with the Corps

- Potential for national exposure by partnering with a federal agency
- Variety of partnering opportunities because of the Corps' diverse missions
- Potential market branding to reach out to new customers
- One of the nation's leading federal providers of recreation
- We manage more than 400 lake and river projects equaling more than 12 million acres of land and water in 43 states.
- Our parks have significant economic impact, with visitors spending upwards of \$10.7 billion on trip expenses, strengthening the environmental, social and economic health of communities.
- 5,000 recreation sites with more than 93,000 campsites, 3,700 boat ramps, 7,800 miles of trails, of which 90% are within 50 miles of a metropolitan area

Connecting with the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages some of the most cherished lakes, rivers and lands near your cities and towns. Communities are proud of their special place in our parks. Great family memories are created during a boating, fishing, camping trip, or after a quiet day of hiking or biking on one our many trail systems. These experiences are important in strengthening families and organizations. Our parks also have significant economic impact, with 250 million visits per year supporting 180,000 jobs in communities near Corps lakes.

With the help of our partners, we can provide more service to the public than without you by our side.

To find out more about partnering with the Corps please visit: <https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/visitors/partners.cfm>.



Partnering with the Corps information sheet



Partner Spotlight

The Corps Foundation assists by partnering with a wide range of organizations including local Friends groups, private individuals and businesses to support educational activities which enhance our visitor's experiences.

To learn how you can work with our national foundation, visit the Corps Foundation website: <http://corpsfoundation.org>



Connecting with Communities

Natural Resources Management Excellence in Partnership Award: General Wehr, Colonel Mitchell, and Mary Coulombe presented the Excellence in Partnerships Award to the Okaw Valley School District for their partnership with Lake Shelbyville in Illinois. Over 300 middle and high school students, project partners, teachers, and elected officials were present for the award. The school district leases land from the project which provides a learning environment for the students in land and water stewardship, recreation, and facility maintenance and operations. Businesses in the local communities donate materials, equipment, and financial support. This partnership was started with Corps Handshake program seed funds which are matched by the partner, and in this case significantly exceeded. This award is sponsored by the Corps Foundation.



Okaw Valley students planting trees at Lake Shelbyville.

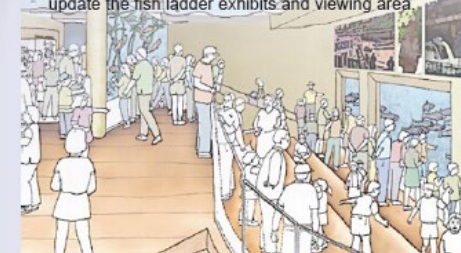
\$400,000 Grant from Birkenfeld Trust Provides Major Upgrades to Support Visitor Education at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks

Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander, acknowledges the single largest gift nationally to a Corps of Engineers facility. Jim Adams of Discover Your Northwest and Rich Deline of the Corps Foundation, two non-profits supporting visitor education at the Locks, accept the check from Claire Bishop of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust. The funds will be used to renovate and update the fish ladder exhibits and viewing area.



A Final Note

In a time of decreasing federal funding, America's lakes and waterways are at risk of reduced access, eliminated programs, and closures. By partnering and working together, we can help maintain and improve programs and facilities and keep these treasured resources healthy and vibrant.





US Army Corps of Engineers

Bridging the Gap

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 September 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Important Dates to Remember!

September 30: FY18 Handshake nomination packages due

October 31: Partnership data entry due in OMBIL

December 15: 2017 Excellence in Partnerships and National Volunteer award nomination packages due to Taylor Saia

Bridging the Gap is a biannual newsletter that is prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Partnership Advisory Committee intended to highlight accomplishments and the value of recent USACE partnerships with important partners and stakeholders.

Handshake Funding Applications Due September 30th



Over the past fourteen years the Corps has made \$2.7 million in "seed money" available through the Handshake Program. Handshake funds combined with funding from local Corps projects and their partners' contributions benefit the community by improving our environment and providing additional opportunities. The intent of this program is to initiate new or enhance existing recreation and natural resources management opportunities.

The objective is to provide an incentive to Corps projects to utilize partnering initiatives to their fullest potential. In addition, this funding is intended to encourage local organizations to partner with the Corps to construct, operate, and/or maintain local partnering projects. Handshake Partnership Program funding recipients demonstrate the continued success of our field projects working with their stakeholders and local communities to accomplish great projects.

For more information regarding the Handshake Program, please visit the Handshake page on the NRM Gateway at <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/employees/handshake/handshake.cfm> or contact your division Partnership Advisory Committee member.

2017 NRM Workshop Partnership and Volunteer Training

by Heather Burke



From April 18 – 20, 2017 approximately 350 natural resource management staff gathered in Norman, Oklahoma to strengthen technical competencies, share recreation and NRM best practices, learn about new technologies, and improve knowledge and skills in public safety and management techniques. The Partnership Advisory Committee and the Corps Foundation played a key role in the success of the workshop by providing three days of partnership and volunteer program sessions including topics such as building partnership capacity, partnering trends, applying for grants, cooperative ecosystem studies units program, Handshake program, the Corps Foundation, cooperating association toolkit, Federal Highways grants, partnership roundtable, OMBIL, volunteer management roundtable, special events with partners, and working with youth conservation corps. The Corps Foundation also hosted a booth to share information about how they are helping support the Corps NRM program. For more information, visit www.corpsfoundation.org



PAC team newsletter: issued twice each year



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Resources: Corps Lakes Photo Album

<https://corpslakes.erd.dren.mil/visitors/album.cfm?Option=View&Id=0&Activity=Volunteers>



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Corps Lakes Photo Album

Take a virtual trip of our lakes:

[Corps Lakes Gateway](#) > [Corps Photo Album](#) - [How to get photos added?](#)

Volunteers

Select a Corps of Engineers Lake

Select an Activity



Photo by: Mary Margaret Lewis

USACE Volunteers in Action- 1st Place



Photo by: Eric Haskell

USACE Volunteers in Action- 2nd place



Photo by: Robert Carr

USACE Volunteers in Action- Honorable Mention



Photo by: Mindy Cory

Volunteers in Action - 2nd place



Bardwell Lake



Bardwell Lake



PAC 2018

- Jason Knight – SWD
(SWT District Office)
- Stacy Sigman - MVD
(Lake Ouachita)
- Taylor Saia - SPD
(New Hogan Lake)
- Heather Burke – HQ
- Miriam Fleming – SAD
(Carters Lake)
- Allison Walker - LRD
(LRN District Office)
- Heath Kruger – NWD
(Kansas City District)



Not pictured:
Scott Sunderland – NAD
(Blue Marsh Lake)

Questions?



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