

Handshake Partnership Program

Allen Gwinn

Partnership PROSPECT
Training



Lake Mendocino



Hartwell Lake

Handshake Partnership Program

- Program originated in 2004
- Requires a formal agreement to achieve a mutually beneficial project (not just two people shaking hands (informal))
- Incentive for field sites to use partnership authorities
- Encourage community engagement
- Promote mutually beneficial activities
- This is NOT a grant or granting program.



Handshake Partnership Program

FY 2004 to FY 2013

- 119 project recipients
- \$1.7 million in “seed money”



Jordan Lake



Blue Marsh Lake



Philpott Lake



BUILDING STRONG®

Handshake Partnership Program Investment (FY 04 – FY13)

Handshake Funds: \$ 1,694,350

Corps Offices: \$ 1,691,559

Partners: \$ 5,812,994

Total : \$ 9,198,903



Handshake Partnership Program



Pine Flat Lake - Edison Point Trailhead

Partnerships

An Investment In Our Future!
Over the past eight years, the Corps has made \$1.15 million in "seed money" available through the Handshake Program.



Old Hickory Lake – Project Biodiversity



Raystown Lake – Wild Turkey Habitat



W Kerr Scott Lake – Greenway Bridge

A Tool For You!

Handshake funds are an incentive to use Corps partnership authorities to engage your local community in mutually beneficial activities.



San Francisco Bay Model-Jason Project



Lake Ouachita - Vista Trail



Enid Lake – Spy Glass Hill Multi-Use Trail

Handshake Partnership Program

Handshake funds combined with funding from local Corps projects and their partners' contributions benefit the community by improving our environment and providing additional recreation opportunities.



Greens Ferry Lake – Tournament Fishing Area



Alabama River Lakes –
Blackbelt Birding Trail

For More Information:

NRM Gateway Partnership Pages
<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

Partnership Advisory Committee Members

LRD – Chris Rapschuk POD - Vacant
MVD – Jamie Gyol SAD – Michael Hoseny
SPD – Chris Gallagher NAD – Allen Gwinn
NWD – Alana Mesenbrink SWD – Jeff Boutwell



Philpott Lake – Multi-Use Trail

Handshake Partnership Program Basics

- \$300,000 total annual program
 - ▶ increased from \$250,000 for 2013
- \$30,000 maximum request
- \$5,000 cooperating association bonus
 - ▶ could receive up to \$35,000 total with bonus



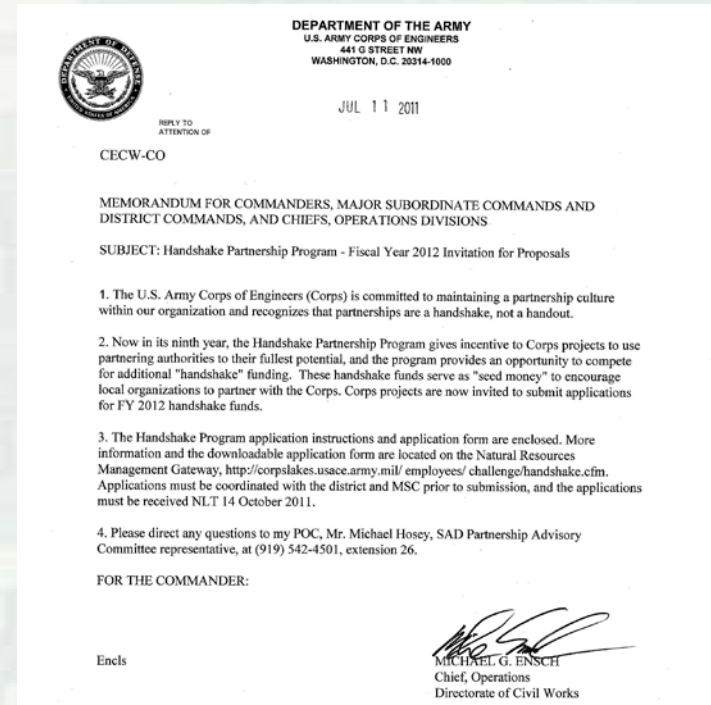
Handshake Partnership Program Time Line

- Applications Period Begins July
 - Application Deadline Oct
-
- Recipients Announced Dec
 - Agreement Deadline Aug
 - Expend Funds 2 yrs
 - ▶ funds transmitted to District/Project via MIPR or FAD



Handshake Partnership Program

- Application - NRM Gateway Partnership Page
 - MS Word form
 - Example Applications
- May submit multiple applications but each lake project may receive funding for only one Handshake project



- Recipients no longer required to sit out a year before applying again



Handshake Partnership Program

Application Evaluation Criteria

- Sustainability
- Partnership Value
- Recreational Benefit
- Environmental Stewardship Value
- Communication and Education Value
- Innovativeness



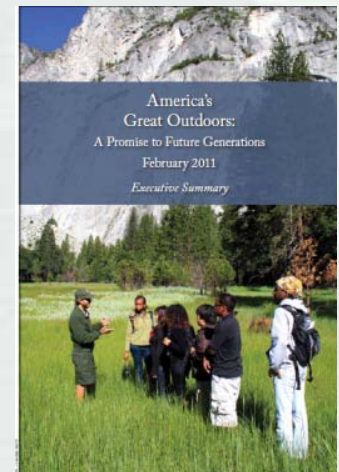
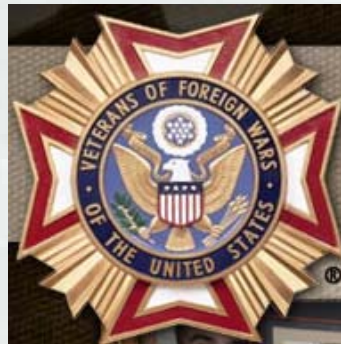
Handshake Partnership Program Basics

- No required % matching contribution by partners
- Partner's contributions - cash, volunteer services/labor, materials, supplies
 - Reference ER & EP 1130-2-500 Ch 11
- Make sure to include all contributions made by partners on the application.
- Proposals with higher % of partner contribution and participation usually compete better



Handshake Partnership Program Incentive Categories

- Bonus point categories change annually
- FY 14 categories have not been determined
- FY13 category was GETS submission
- FY 12 categories were:
 1. Veterans and/or military family organizations
 2. Supports America's Great Outdoors (AGO)
 3. Supports National Recreation Strategic Plan



Handshake Partnership Program Cooperating Association Bonus

- Incentive to formalize partnerships by entering into a Cooperative Agreement
- Compete for an additional \$5,000
- Challenge Partnership that includes a partner (Friends Group/Cooperating Association) that has signed a Cooperative Agreement with Project/District can compete for the additional funds

Reference: - ER and EP 1130-2-500 Chapter 9 Cooperating Associations



Handshake Partnership Program Basics

- Handshake funds must be spent via the same processes as any other appropriated funds; in accordance with contracting laws, FAR, DFAR, and AFAR, and all other regulations.
- Cannot “Give” Handshake Funds to partners
 - The Corps does not have granting authority
- Handshake funds cannot be spent on permanent Corps salaries (labor) or travel



Handshake Partnership Program

Managing Expectations

- Realistic view of the opportunity
 - In FY13 there were 27 applications
 - 11 selected to receive funds
 - In FY 12 there were 36 applications
 - 13 selected to receive funds

- Prior to applying, discuss with partners what you will do if project is not selected
 - Go ahead with project using more local office and/or partner funds
 - Agree on a scaled down version
 - Identify funding from other sources
 - Try a different project
 - Cancel project



Handshake Partnership Program

1. Challenge Partnerships Projects
2. Student Conservation Association (SCA) Intern/Crew - stand alone projects
3. Combination of these



Challenge Partnership Project Basics

- Challenge Partnership Agreement
 - ▶ Formerly Called Challenge Cost-Share Agreement
 - ▶ Reference Chapter 12, ER & EP 1130-2-500
 - ▶ Example Agreements on NRM Gateway
- Requirements:
 - ▶ Corps facilities and resources maintained at 100% Corps expense
 - ▶ Agreement with a non-federal public or private entity
 - ▶ Within authorities and in approved OMP



Handshake Partnership Program SCA Projects



- USACE is authorized through Section 213(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to enter into cooperative agreements with non-federal public and nonprofit entities for services relating to natural resources conservation or recreation management at Corps Civil Work Projects.
- USACE utilizes the existing Department of the Army cooperative agreement (contract) to partner with the SCA.
- The SCA intern/crew project does not have to be part of a challenge partnership project to compete for Handshake funding
- SCA program information on NRM Gateway Partnership Page
▶ <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/sca/sca.cfm>



Handshake Partnership Program

- Upcoming Handshake Webinars
 - ▶ July and September
 - ▶ Watch for the dates.
- GOOD LUCK!

