



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor  
Colleen Callahan, Director

February 15, 2022

Jeff Boxrucker  
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership  
9321 E. State Highway 9 Norman, OK 73026

Mr Boxrucker,

Please let this serve as my letter of support for the Rend Lake Army COE's application for funding through the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Program. I'm currently the state fisheries biologist that assists the Rend ACOE with the fisheries management aspects of Rend Lake.

Rend Lake is one of the largest lakes in Illinois. With its age and soil substrate the shallow water fisheries habitat is sorely lacking. If awarded, the activities and projects associated with this grant funding will serve as a template for future fisheries habitat projects at Rend Lake. As an added benefit, this project should also improve water quality in Rend Lake which serves as a potable water supply for a very large area.

IDNR Fisheries has a great working relationship with the Rend ACOE and I hope to continue that cooperation if this grant is awarded.

If you need additional information from me please let me know. On a side note (I know I'm dating myself) but I was present in the early 90's for the AFS Shadathon at Lake Texoma that you helped coordinate).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shawn Hirst".

Shawn Hirst, Rend Lake Fisheries Biologist  
IDNR Fisheries  
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Lake Murphysboro, IL 62966  
618-559-5009