

USACE AND CORPS FOUNDATION MOU UPDATE

September 2023



Heather Burke, HQUSACE National Partnership Program Manager

Nancy Rogers, Corps Foundation Board Member



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps of Engineers®





Overview



- Introductions
- USACE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Relating MOU to NRM Program
- Corps Foundation updates
- Discussion/open forum



CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION



–www.CorpsFoundation.org

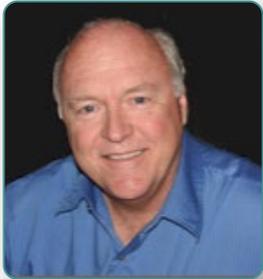
Support and advocate for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Recreation and Natural Resources Management (NRM) Program

Non-profit, 501(c)(3), fully managed and operated by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, including USACE retirees with decades of experience working in the recreation and NRM program. We do business as the Corps Foundation.

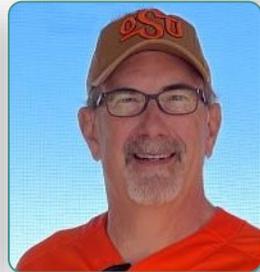
Current Board

Board of Directors

(Maximum of 13 Directors with a minimum of 7)



- Greg Miller, Chair
- Marilyn Jones, Treasurer
- Sue Clevestine, Secretary



Directors:

- Nancy Rogers
- Rich Deline
- Kent Dunlap
- Avis Kennedy
- Sam Wagner

Directors Emeritus:

- Peter Lewis
- Darrell Lewis

Non-Board Support Members:

- Rachel Garren (Water Safety)
- Susan Searway-Fertig- (Webmaster)
- Christine Hamman- (Accountant)



National MOU: Revised 2023

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

- USACE and the Corps Foundation have worked together cooperatively for ***more than a decade*** to nurture partnerships and contributions for the USACE Natural Resources Management (NRM) program.
- Maintain and expand these efforts.
- MOU provides a framework for continued collaboration related to outreach and education, technical and financial assistance, support of cooperating associations and volunteers, and advocacy for the enhancement of the recreation and environmental stewardship programs at USACE Civil Works projects.

Article III - Understanding of the Parties

- Notify its Division and District offices, laboratories, and field offices of the establishment of this MOU.
- Make available to the Corps Foundation, to the extent legal and practicable, and as appropriate and required to accomplish the goals of this MOU, information on USACE NRM program priorities, needs, budgetary status, policies, and issues.

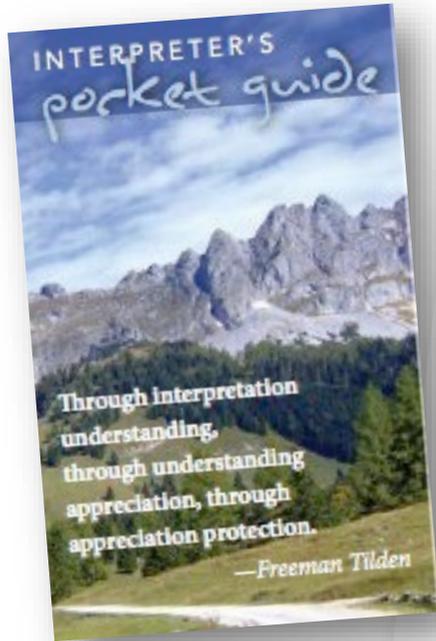
Partnerships, Activities/Products, Advocacy

- **Partnerships:**
 - Engage the public, organizations, and local communities to support recreation and stewardship at our nation's lakes, lands, and waterways administered by USACE
- **Activities/Products:**
 - Volunteer recognition and Enduring Service Award program
 - Cooperating Association Toolkit
 - Water safety campaign – \$1.4 million in grants
 - Fundraising - Over \$1.1 million upgrades at Chittenden Locks salmon viewing room
 - USACE Park Ranger Stories
 - NRM Innovations Team support
 - \$5,000 bonus award- USACE Handshake Program
- **Advocacy (Outreach and Education):**
 - Educate about recreation and stewardship programs and advance stakeholder support
 - Provide fundraising and grant support
 - Serve as connection/hub for partner groups
 - Advocate for beneficial legislative authorities

Activities/Products

Supports Article II (2) *Shared appreciation of the value of working in partnerships, both public and private, and engaging communities and diverse stakeholders by identifying, understanding, and implementing projects to improve wildlife habitat, ecosystem health, recreation opportunities and access at USACE projects.*

Activities/Products



Trinidad Lake - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Published by Kim Falen · June 14 ·

We are excited that the sculpture portion of the pollinator garden is finished! If you look at the topline, it mirrors Fishers Peak. We are SO thankful for the support of the BAR NI RANCH COMMUNITY FUND and THE CORPS FOUNDATION for helping to fund this project!! Some of the next steps include getting the soil and plants in. . .if you are interested in volunteering, send us a message! We'll update with more photos as it heads toward completion!



Trinidad Lake - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Send message



Activities/Products – Water Safety Campaign



Supports Article II (3) *Shared commitment to the welfare and safety of the public as it pertains to land and water-based recreation.*



– Campaign materials at [PleaseWearIt.com](https://www.PleaseWearIt.com)

Activities/Products – Water Safety Campaign



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants

Six grants since 2014 (\$1.7 Million to date)

- ✓ Video & audio PSAs
- ✓ “Inflatable Life Jackets: Everything You Need to Know”
- ✓ Two mobile games
- ✓ Campaign promotional giveaways
- ✓ Digital media marketing (Please Wear It)
- ✓ 27,000 Facebook followers!

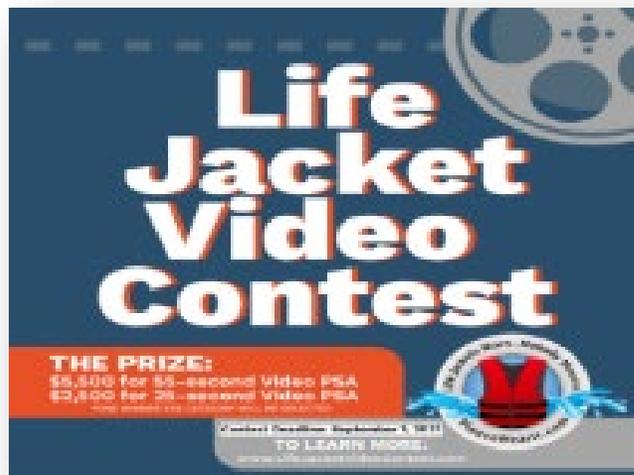


Activities/Products – Water Safety Campaign



Water Safety Campaign (U.S. Coast Guard Grants)

- ✓ LifeJacketVideoContest.com (\$8,000 in prizes)
- ✓ Campaign promotional items (t-shirts, beach towels, dry bags, and vehicle windshield sunshades)
- ✓ Advertisement (Billboards, movie theaters, State fishing guides, gas pump toppers, ice machine wraps)



Activities/Products – Water Safety Campaign

- State boating guide ads

Assisted in sponsoring water safety ads in the Georgia, Florida, and Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns
PleaseWearIt.com

Carters Lake, Hartwell Lake, Allatoona Lake, Richard B. Russell Lake, Lake Sidney Lanier, J. Strom Thurmond, West Point Lake, Walter F. George Lake & Lake George W. Andrews, Lake Seminole

For a Great Vacation, visit the Great Lakes of Georgia

For More Information Visit:
Savannah District: www.sas.usace.army.mil Mobile District: www.sam.usace.army.mil
For Reservations Visit: www.recreation.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers
THE CORPS FOUNDATION
AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Set an Example for Life

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns
PleaseWearIt.com

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FLORIDA FRESHWATER 2023-2024
FISHING REGULATIONS
General Statewide Freshwater Fishing Regulations pages 10-13
Florida's Freshwater Fish Hatcheries page 18

Trophy Catch
See page 6

Valid from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Florida Fishing Map! page 15

Please visit MyFWC.com/Fishing_Freshwater for the most current regulations

US Army Corps of Engineers
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AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns
PleaseWearIt.com

Created through a partnership between The Corps Foundation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

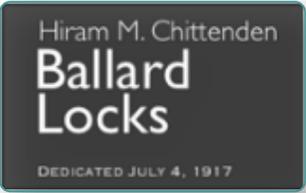
US Army Corps of Engineers
THE CORPS FOUNDATION
AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

YOUR BOATING DOLLARS AT WORK
Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Activities/Products – Fundraising

Nation’s Largest Partnership Monetary Donation Seattle’s Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks:

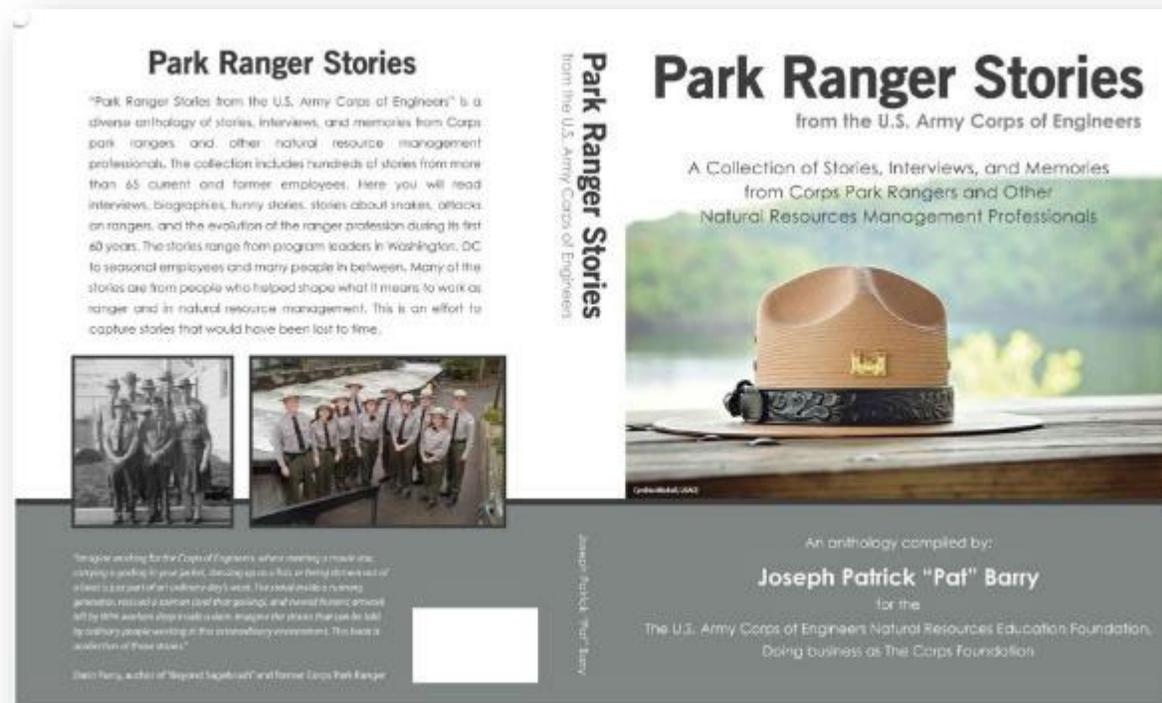


- Top 5 tourist icon in serious need of repairs and improved educational exhibits
- Custom website and social media developed to engage public for support
- Over \$1 million raised for construction and improved exhibits
- On-going fundraising using Salmon Legacy Wall (over \$200k)

Activities/Products – Park Ranger Book

Park Ranger Stories Book “2021 NAI Media Award Winner!”

- ✓ Collecting stories from past and present rangers and other NRM
- ✓ Informal history
- ✓ Passing on wisdom and traditions
- ✓ Available in digital and paper/hardback format through Amazon



<https://www.amazon.com/Park-Ranger-Stories-Corps-Engineers/dp/1712590251>



Activities/Products – Field Support

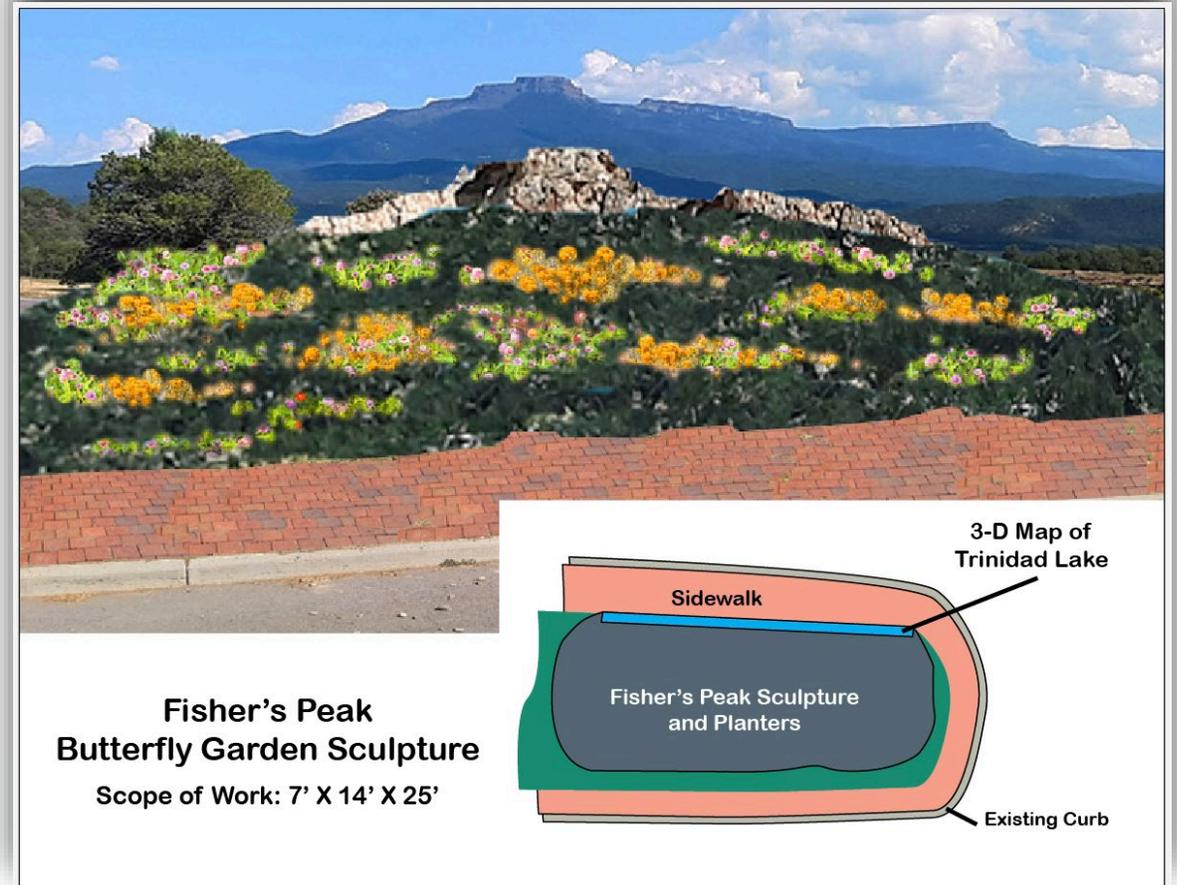
**Mansfield Hollow Lake,
Pine Barren Restoration Project,
Handshake Bonus: \$5K**

**Huntington-Clemson Interpretive Sign,
Army CID Restitution: \$5K**

**Fishers Peak & Trinidad Lake
Interpretive Sculpture & Pollinator Garden:
\$3,750**

John Martin Handshake Bonus: \$5K

**Berlin Lake- Tailwater Angler
Accessibility NEEF Grant: \$2,500**



Partnerships

MOU Article III (2) *Combine efforts with other recreation and environmental entities and stakeholders, independent of USACE and without USACE involvement, to amplify their message to elected officials, advocating for the NRM program by seeking additional funding, legislative authorities, and policy changes.*

Partnerships

- Engage in strategic partnerships with nonprofits, cooperating associations, the public and diverse like-minded groups, interests and organizations such as **Public Lands Alliance, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, National Marine Manufacturers Association and the Southeast Tourism Society** and many others:
 - **Raise awareness** about USACE NRM program at lakes, rivers and waterways
 - **Communicate our partnership role** to enhance the visitor experience and help stretch limited federal dollars
 - **Educate public and partners** about threats to access and use at USACE lakes, rivers and waterways
 - **Educate elected leaders** about a piece of legislation and its positive or negative impact
 - **Influence and reflect a view of a specific legislation** through direct communication

Advocacy 2021- 2023



– **1,036 Total Contacts Made thru Email, Facebook & Website:**

- Moving Forward Act, Federal Lands Transportation Program - FLTP
- Appropriations Bill
- Water Resources Development Act WRDA 22
- National Marine Manufacturers Assoc. (NMMA) - FLTP Letter of Support
- Hunt Fish 30x30 Coalition
- Reconciliation Bill Federal Lands Transportation Program - FLTP

• **278 Outreach Contacts:**

- NMMA Coalition non-profits & industry 43
- Agency contacts 77
- Non-profits & industry 92
- Cooperating associations 66

Advocacy - Building Congressional Support & Success Stories!



Corps Foundation Advocacy for USACE Recreation: 2021- 2023 Timeline for Building Support

- **2021** - Congressionally mandated Recreation Task Force - 2 year assessment of recreation facilities and condition.
- **January 2022** - Testimony, Committee on Environment and Public Works - ASA Connor questioned by Senator Inhofe- USACE needs to pay more attention to recreation
- **April 2022** - Senator Heinrich questions ASA Connor during testimony in the Senate Appropriations Committee regarding significant FY23 budget reduction for Recreation
- **May 2022** - Corps Foundation visits Senators Cramer, Heinrich, Feinstein and Boozman to advocate for Fee Retention and Coop. Joint Management authority changes.
- **June 2022** - Sen. Feinstein questions ASA Connor during Senate Energy & Water Appropriations in support for Recreation
- **December 2022** - Year 1 Recreation Task Force Report released to public

Advocacy - Building Congressional Support & Success Stories!



Lake **A**ccess **K**eeping **E**conomies **S**trong
ACT

Senator Kevin Cramer — Senator Martin Heinrich

The LAKES Act expands opportunities to improve and develop outdoor recreation facilities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers managed areas.

Outdoor recreation is a vital economic driver in local economies across the U.S.

1.9% of U.S. GDP
\$454B in gross economic output

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assets are one of the nation's largest federal outdoor recreation providers

257,000 facilities
43 states

Retention of Recreation Fees:

Under current law, local units of federal land management agencies at the Departments of Interior and Agriculture can retain 80% of recreation fees collected on site. These funds are then dedicated to the site's operation and maintenance needs without approval from headquarters, allowing them to be nimble and more responsive with their planning decisions. Currently, USACE recreation facilities are excluded from this benefit.

The LAKES Act rectifies this discrepancy by enabling recreation sites and facilities under the jurisdiction of USACE to retain 80% of recreation fees collected at a particular location for its operation and maintenance.

This funding would supplement annual appropriated funding, while the other 20% of collected fees would be available for operations and management at any Army Corps recreation facility. This authority provides for more expedient reinvestment of recreation fees by USACE in local recreation infrastructure.

Joint Recreation Management:

- The LAKES Act amends Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement authority, enabling private nonprofit entities to enter into cooperative agreements with USACE to operate and maintain recreation facilities under USACE jurisdiction.
- The LAKES Act will foster agreements between nonprofits and the USACE, as well as affirm the authority of the USACE to enter into cooperative joint management agreements with Tribes.

The LAKES Act fixes issues with the USACE's inability to collect and send funds to partners under existing CCSMA authority using the Recreation.gov system. This issue has deterred partners interested in cooperatively managing parks with USACE. The LAKES Act would allow USACE to handle partner-collected fees and return them to the partner after processing.

- **May 2023 & Fall 2023-** Senate and House Bi-Partisan Legislation for Fee Retention and changes to Cooperative Joint Mgmt. authority to include non-profit organizations w/fee collection and retention.

The Foundation wishes to thank the National Marine Manufacturers Assoc., Southeast Tourism Society, Public Lands Alliance and many individual supporters who love America's lands and waters managed by USACE!

Advocacy - 2023 Priorities during 118th Congress



–FY 2024 Appropriations Bill

- Received \$275 million - that's a \$45 million increase over FY 2023 budget!
- Release of Year 2 - Congressionally mandated Recreation Task Force Report. Year 1 released in Dec. 22. Report quantifies USACE recreation facilities and infrastructure with inventory and condition survey. Unfunded maintenance estimates to be included.

Legislative Advocacy - 2023 & 2024



– Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024:

- **Acquire New Authorities:** Use appropriated funds on volunteer recognition, cost-sharing with federal or non-federal public entities for mutually beneficial work- fire fighting, invasive species mgmt., consolidated contract services
- **Establish a Public Lands Restoration Fund:** Address recreation facilities maintenance backlog. Direct funds retained for extraction of resources on public lands like funding provisions in the Great American Outdoors Act.
- **Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP):** Dedicate \$16 million for each of fiscal years 2024 – 2028 for road, bridge, tunnel and parking lot projects.
 - Current Authorized Fiscal Year FLTP Funding: \$7.4M 2022 to \$9.0M 2026

Legislative Advocacy- Corps Foundation Advocacy Toolkit

The Corps Foundation Advocacy Toolkit 2023-2024: 118th Congress

Welcome to the Corps Foundation's Advocacy Toolkit! This Toolkit is a one-stop source of information for the public, visitors, cooperating associations, friend's groups, foundations, educational partners, local communities and other 501(c)(3) nonprofits to join in supporting the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Natural Resources Management (NRM) Program. Use this toolkit to access the Corps Foundation's most recent advocacy proposals. Information provided will assist individuals, organizations, and local communities in developing an advocacy strategy in their area of interest.

Find it at www.corpsfoundation.org

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Consider an Annual Membership

- Individual (\$25-250/year)
- Business (\$500/year)



The Corps Foundation is 100% volunteer operated

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QUESTIONS