



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-CO-N

MAR 27 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEFS, CONSTRUCTION-OPERATIONS AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS AND OPERATIONS  
PROJECT MANAGERS

SUBJECT: The Student Conservation Association – An Update

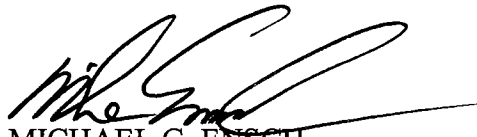
1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received authority in 2000 to partner with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and other similar non-profit organizations to help accomplish natural resource and recreation management work at Corps Civil Works projects. Since 2002, the Corps has engaged almost 150 SCA interns and 18 high school crews at 32 projects nationwide. The SCA/Corps partnership was prominently featured in the February 2009 edition of Engineer Update, "Student Group Big Help In Outdoors".
2. I'd like to thank those of you who have partnered with the Student Conservation Association and encourage others to consider the benefits of the SCA to help meet our critical mission objectives within the natural resources and recreation management programs. Partnering with the SCA meets Goal #2 of the Corps Campaign Plan of "delivering enduring and essential water resources solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders".
3. The SCA has several programs that have proven to be very beneficial to the Corps, including the Conservation Intern and Conservation Crew programs. The Corps has used these programs to accomplish many tasks, including updating master plans, conducting Level 2 inventories, constructing trails and campsites, presenting water safety and interpretive programs, staffing visitor centers, removing invasive plants and replanting with native vegetation and providing considerable support in the GIS arena. A summary of the SCA/Corps Partnership program is enclosed.
4. The Corps is part of an overall Army/SCA cooperative agreement which is administered by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity at Ft. Detrick, Maryland. Ft. Detrick has developed a simple process to acquire the services of the SCA.
5. Additional information can be found on the NRM Gateway at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/sca/sca.html> and on the SCA web site at [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org). The POC for the SCA is Mr. Ray Auger at (603) 543-1700 extension 144, [rauger@thesca.org](mailto:rauger@thesca.org). Mr. Auger is available to answer questions and can begin the process of establishing an agreement for your projects. He is also willing to present programs at district and division meetings as well as staff an SCA exhibit at your MSC/district conferences.

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6. I look forward to increasing our involvement with the SCA in order to help meet our mission requirements and to provide meaningful conservation-related work for young adults.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



MICHAEL G. ENSCH  
Chief, Operations  
Directorate of Civil Works

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## USACE / SCA Partnership FY 2003 – 2008

Through the first few years of the partnership, SCA has placed 18 high school Conservation Crews and 126 Conservation Interns (12-52 week positions) with 32 USACE partners in 16 states. Highlights from FY 2008:

**IOWA - Coralville Lake; 52 week intern: 9/17/08 – 9/18/09; USACE POC Mary Bowers**  
Ecological Restoration Intern: Identify and GPS invasive species for entry into the Midwest Invasive Plant Network; assist the Hawkeye Cooperative Weed Management (CWMA) with public outreach and education and grant writing; work to eradicate invasive species from undeveloped areas around the lake; work with adjacent homeowner associations in identifying and eradicating invasive species on private land adjacent to public land; organize and manage volunteer groups in invasive species management; create and present interpretive programs regarding invasive species; assist with prescribed burns (both prairie and woodland); other conservation related duties (as needed).

**MASSACHUSETTS - West Hill Dam/Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area; 52 week interns (2): 1/14/08 – 1/15/09 & 4/15/08 – 4/14/09; USACE POC Merlon Bassett**  
GIS Intern: Locate Corps boundary and easement lines and property markers (using GPS Trimble Geo XT); gather data and enter into database for export into Arcview GIS version 9.1; scan and geo reference survey related documents; create maps using raster data sets and shape files, provide contractor with complete data package for boundary maintenance work. Additional GIS assignments do become available as needed.

**OREGON- Bonneville Lock & Dam; 20 week interns (6): 1/7/08 – 5/30/08; USACE POC Robert Stansell**  
Sea Lion Observer Intern: Observe sea lion predation on salmon and other species below Bonneville Dam; watch with binoculars to enumerate predation events; identify species of fish taken; identify species of pinnipeds present and number of pinnipeds present; identify individual pinnipeds and note other behaviors; study the impacts of harassment methods; data input and analysis. Observations occur from dawn to dusk at three locations at the dam, seven days a week.

**TENNESSEE- Cheatham Lake, Cordell Hull Lake, J. Percy Priest Lake, Old Hickory Lake; 12 – 16 week interns: 5/19/08 – 9/8/08; USACE POC Dena Williams**  
Summer Park Ranger Intern: Implement the water safety program to reduce public accidents and fatalities; provide one-on-one communication and speak to groups to present interpretive and educational programs and beach programs for all age groups; write news releases; distribute and post information to recreation areas, marinas, business and media; develop and implement a National Safe Boating Week Campaign, Safety Days, and other safety programs; staff exhibits at fairs or festivals; implement creative ways to provide for public safety; patrol by vehicle and by boat are key parts; check the condition of public use areas, commercial docks, group camps, and other recreation areas; assist park rangers by performing routine duties; ensure compliance with rules, regulations, and policies; investigate and report incidents, accidents, trespasses and damage to Government property; report violations or incidents; staff the Visitor Center to greet visitors and answer the phone; write reports including the fishing report; take and record water temperatures; install, read and make field repairs to traffic counters; perform other duties as assigned; represent the Corps in this public contact role by wearing and maintaining a prescribed uniform and present a neat, clean, and well-groomed appearance.

**VERMONT- Upper Connecticut River Basin; 12 - 26 week interns (10): 5/14/08 – 11/30/08; USACE POC Gary Pelton**  
Wildlife Management Interns: Assist with various wildlife inventories (small mammals, bats, birds, herptiles) in a variety of habitats and locations, 75%; assist with a variety of resource management activities, 15%; computer data entry, 10%.

**WASHINGTON- Chief Joseph Dam; 21 Day High School Crew: 6/12/08 – 7/2/08; USACE POC Robert Fischer**  
Six members / two leaders. Two to three days spent on fence maintenance, fire line maintenance, and trail maintenance at a primitive boat-in only campsite. The remainder of the time was spent planting trees critical for wildlife and removing larger trees that have already been cut to the ground.