



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Paralyzed Veterans of America
and
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



1996

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is made and entered into between, Paralyzed Veterans of America, a nonprofit association of spinal cord injured/diseased veterans, hereinafter referred to as PVA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, hereinafter referred to as the Corps. This agreement is authorized under the terms of Section 225 of Public Law 102-580, the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, wherein under Challenge Cost-sharing the Corps may accept services of the kind indicated herein.

WHEREAS, the Corps administers 11.7 million acres of Federal land and water located at 462 water resources projects in 42 states. These lands and waters are managed under multiple-use principles providing for outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power, and water supply.

WHEREAS, although the Corps administers less than 2 percent of the Federal land estate, Corps lands account for almost 30 percent of the recreation visitation to Federal lands. People are attracted to these projects by the unique experiences that water oriented recreational resources offer. They come to fish, boat, water ski, sail, swim, sightsee, hunt, hike, camp or picnic around Corps administered lakes. In 1995, more than 385 million recreational visits occurred at these projects.

WHEREAS, recreation is only one aspect of the multi-disciplinary Natural Resources Management program. Many Corps projects are involved, either directly or indirectly through coordination with the States, in the management of the forest, range, fish, wildlife, mineral and soil resources. The Corps is a steward, entrusted by the American public to manage the natural resources on project lands for the benefit of present and future generations. This responsibility guides all natural resources management activities. As pressure on private lands and lands near urban centers increases, these natural resources on public lands become increasingly important.

WHEREAS, PVA, a nonprofit association of spinal cord injured/diseased veterans has established thirty-four chapters and six sub-chapters across the United States. These Chapters are actively involved in advancing the quality of life of PVA members and all individuals who are spinal cord injured/diseased. Many of these chapters are involved in sports and recreation programs for individuals with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, PVA has for many years been involved with the development of recreational activities and sites for veterans with spinal cord injury. Recreation and athletic programs such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the PVA National Bass Trail, the National Wheelchair Basketball Associations have all been supported both financially and through the participation of PVA members, and

WHEREAS, PVA possesses a variety of expertise in recreational therapy, fund raising,

barrier free designs and other areas associated with providing assistance to spinal cord injured veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

I. Paralyzed Veterans of America shall:

A. Assist the Corps of Engineers with the identification of sites for the development or improvement of accessibility for individuals with disabilities at Corps controlled recreation facilities. This will include assisting in developing a team concept to include the PVA Chapters, local Corps of Engineer Officials, the National entities of both organizations, plus local business and fraternal organizations in the private sector.

B. Assist the Corps in developing accessibility plans through PVA's Architecture and Barrier Free Design Program, Paradigm Design Group and the PVA Sports and Recreation Program and local PVA Chapter resources.

C. Assist the Corps in developing challenge cost-sharing projects with other agencies and organizations in the private sector, promoting volunteerism, and establishing partnerships with user groups to improve the accessibility of Corps administered recreational land and water resources. This will include an attempt to seek out methods of obtaining funds for each project agreed to by PVA and the Corps.

D. Assist the Corps with the design and implementation of a public affairs program around the "Recreation for Everyone" theme to include the possible design of a logo for the project, a media relations program and sponsors' recognition programs.

II. The Corps Shall:

A. In conjunction with PVA design and implement a public relations program around the "Recreation for Everyone" theme to include the possible design of a logo for the project, a media relations program and sponsors' recognition programs.

B. Work with PVA to identify sites for the development or improvement of accessibility for individuals with disabilities at Corps managed recreation facilities. This will include assisting in developing a team concept to include the PVA Chapters, local Corps of Engineer Officials, the National entities of both organizations, plus local business and fraternal organizations and funding sources.

C. Provide publicly available information to PVA on accessibility and management issues pertaining to public use of and the natural resources on Corps administered lands and waters.

D. Work with PVA in the development of challenge cost-sharing projects with

other agencies and organizations in the private sector, the promotion of volunteerism, and establishment of partnerships with user groups to improve accessibility of Corps administered recreational land and water resources.

E. Ensure PVA is aware of opportunities to participate in public involvement processes and events, especially those dealing with planning, implementation, and evaluation of land management activities. Advise PVA of key public involvement processes and events pertaining to recreation and the accessibility thereof on Corps administered lands and waters.

III. Other Mutually Agreed Upon Conditions:

A. Nothing in the MOU shall be construed as obligating the Corps or PVA to expend, or involve any contract or obligation for the future payment of money.

B. The Corps responsibilities hereunder are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

C. No Member of, or Delegate to Congress, shall be admitted to any share or part of this MOU, or to any benefit that may arise; but this provision shall not be construed to extend this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

D. Amendments or modification to this MOU may be made upon written consent of both parties.

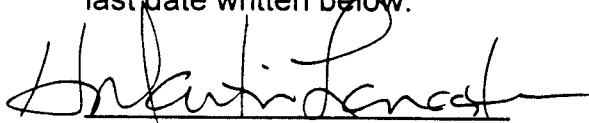
E. This MOU shall remain in effect until terminated, following a 30-day written consent of both parties.

F. The parties agree to review and assess the effectiveness of the program and the MOU annually.

G. Staffs responsible for the execution of this MOU exist in the Corps Natural Resources Management Branch and the PVA. Specific points of contact are David Wahus of the Corps and Tom Ryan of PVA.

H. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as obligating the Corps to reveal information to PVA that is not available to the public, or render treatment that is preferential to PVA; nor shall PVA be construed as offering preferential treatment to the Corps.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties hereto have executed this MOU as of the last date written below.



H. Martin Lancaster DATE
Assistant Secretary 4-22-96
of the Army (Civil Works)



Richard Grant DATE
President
Paralyzed Veterans of America