

14 February 2001

CECW-PD

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding Between the United States Department of the Army, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and The Nature Conservancy

1. On 14 December 2000, Dr. Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, signed the enclosed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Nature Conservancy is the nation's largest private, non-profit conservation organization. The MOU recognizes the shared commitment of the Corps and TNC to managing water resources in a manner that meets human needs, while also protecting priority species, natural biological communities, and their habitats. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate effective and efficient management of important biological resources within the context of the Corps civil works and regulatory missions. The two parties have agreed to cooperate in an effort to seek opportunities to promote the conservation of regionally significant biological diversity in accordance with applicable law for the purposes of carrying out projects or programs related to the conservation, understanding, management, and sustainable use of the Nation's land and water resources.

2. My staff will be meeting with TNC staff in the near future to discuss specifics regarding implementation of this MOU. In the meantime districts are encouraged to look for opportunities to work with TNC on projects of mutual benefit. It is important to note that the MOU is not a fiscal nor a funds obligation document and does not establish authority for the noncompetitive award to TNC of any contract or other agreement.

3. Please ensure broad dissemination of this MOU among your staff working on planning, operations and regulatory issues. The MOU will be posted on the CECW-P web page in the near future. My point of contact regarding implementation of this MOU is Ellen Cummings, CECW-PD. She may be reached at (202) 761-4558 or electronically at ellen.m.cummings@usace.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/

Encl

HANS A. VAN WINKLE
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works

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