

# 2017 NATIONAL NRM WORKSHOP

## NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Mary J. Coulombe  
Chief, Natural Resources Management  
18 April 2017

*"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."*



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# NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT MISSION

“The Army Corps of Engineers is the **steward of the lands and waters** at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resources Management Mission is to **manage and conserve** those natural resources, consistent with **ecosystem management principles**, while providing **quality public outdoor recreation experiences** to serve the needs of present and future generations.” (ER 1130-2-540/550)





# HQ NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT TEAM

**HQ Chief —Mary Coulombe**

**Visitor Assistance Senior Program—Steve Austin**

**Recreation Program & Budget—Scott Strotman**

**Environmental Compliance & Sustainability—John Coho**

**Environmental Stewardship Program & Budget—Jeff Krause**

**Land Uses and Natural Resources—Jeremy Crossland**

**National Partnerships Program—Heather Burke**

**National Water Safety Program—Pam Doty**

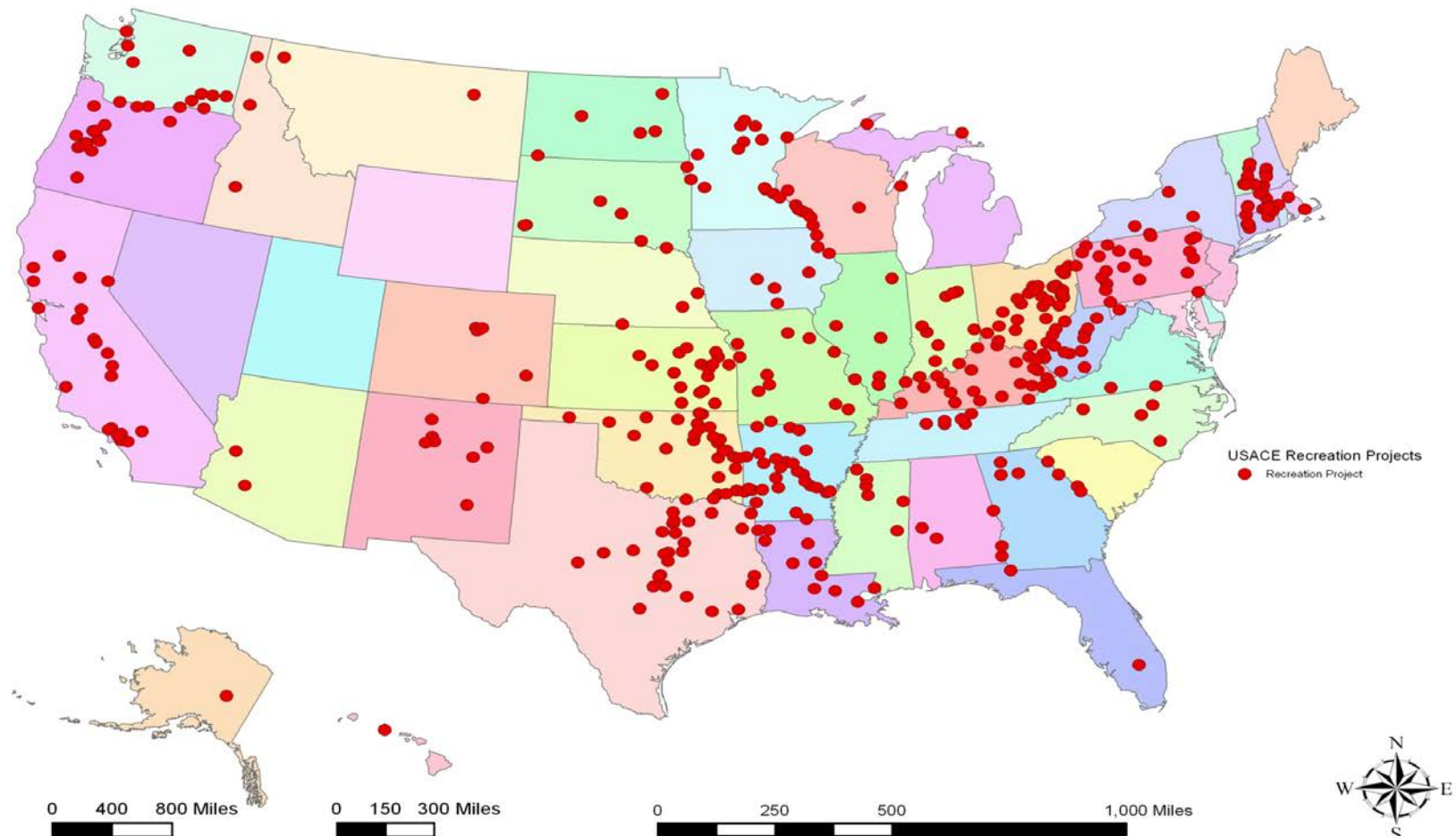
**National Sign Program—AJ Jensen**

**Federal Lands Transportation Program—Meredith Bridgers**

# WHERE ARE WE?

## USACE 403 RECREATION PROJECTS

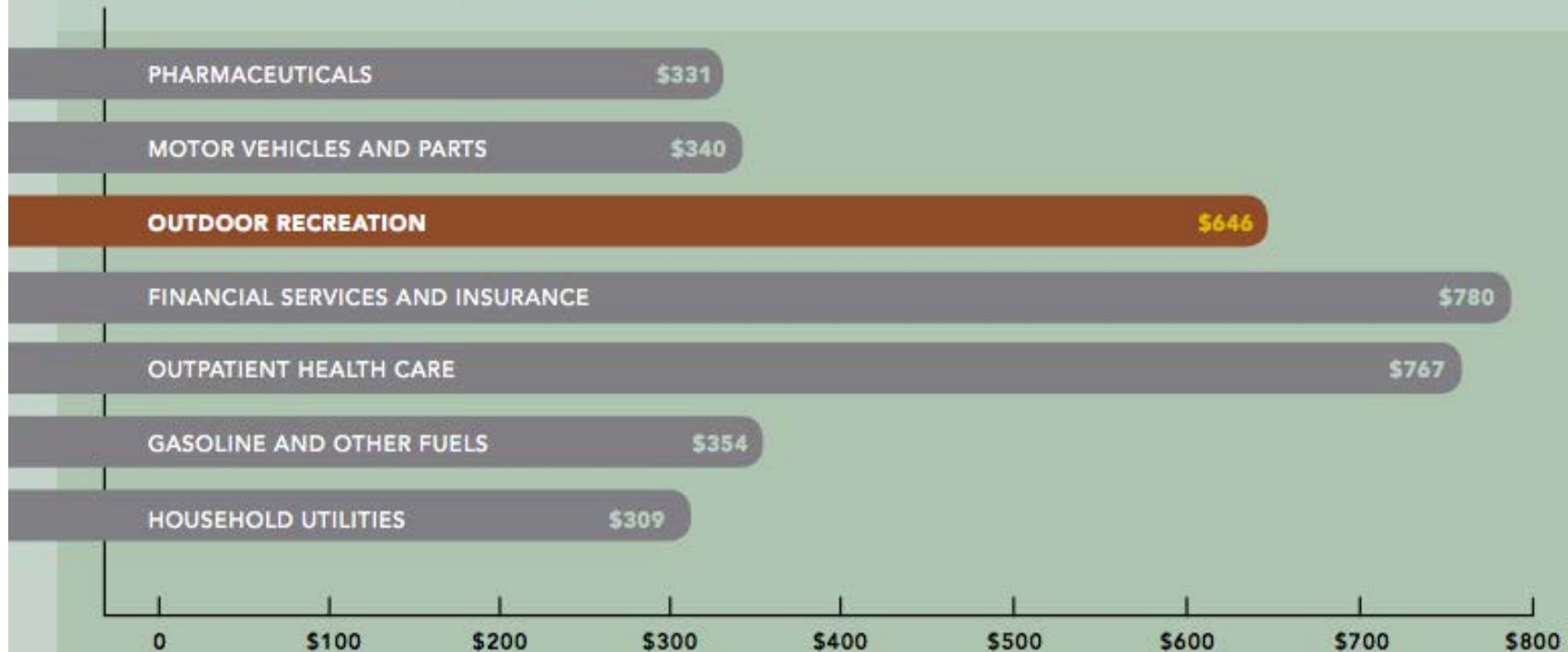
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# RECREATION IS NOT JUST FUN TO DO.....

## An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Product, based on available 2010 data.



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# RECREATION

## VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY

**Visitor Use Management and Public Safety are the foundations of the Recreation program. The purpose is to avoid unsafe, destructive public use of federal lands & waters. Necessary for project mission success.**

Recreation facilities, programs, and personnel ensure public safety and protection of land and water resources. Public recreation is the product of these programs.

The Recreation Business Line funds programs and policies necessary to manage where people go, what they can do safely for themselves and others, what they can't do, and actions necessary to protect and maintain natural and man-made features.

### Recreation Budget funds:

- Daily operations and maintenance of public use facilities—service contracts and in-house labor
- Recreation infrastructure investments
- Rangers staffing and uniforms
- Vehicles, trucks, cars, boats
- Utilities
- Partnerships/Volunteers/fee collection
- Water Safety programs, people & products
- Project patrols and regulation enforcement
- Real Estate management & inspection of recreation outgrants



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# LAND USES, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP

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**Sustainably managing the natural resources on project lands is essential to meet project missions.**

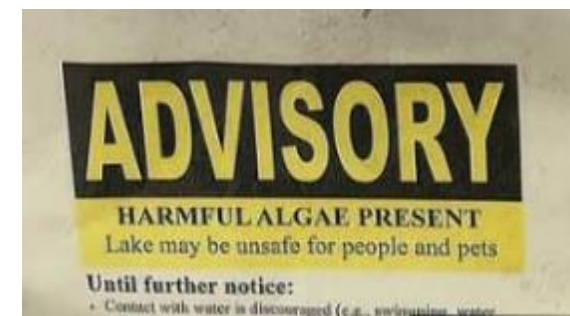
Land use and protection issues are complex and can be controversial.

The Environmental Stewardship Business Line funds:

- Programs and activities that manage project lands and waters to protect federal land interests,
- Manage public uses
- Sustainably manage soil, water, terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna
- Protect cultural and archeological resources

Key ES funding priorities:

- Master plans and shoreline management plans
- Boundary maintenance & encroachments
- Cultural Resources
- Invasive Species
- Wildlife habitat management
- Pollinator Initiative



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# PUBLIC & RANGER SAFETY

Safety is the highest priority for the public and our employees.

## Visitor Assistance

- Firearms: legislative proposals, lawsuits
- Youth Corps engagement
- Uniform program
- Water Safety
- Ranger Program

## Water Safety Program—Actions to reduce fatalities

- Highest Frequency: Swimming in undesignated areas and off boats, Males 18-35, Boating/Personal Watercraft
- Campaign “Life Jackets Worn...Nobody Mourns” developed through grant by USCG to the Corps Foundation
- Expand responsibilities to support the program: RE, RM, OC,
- Provide additional focus on projects with high risk



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# EXTENDING PROGRAM CAPACITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

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## Partnerships:

- Bring new people to Corps projects
- Create public interest
- Create support for Corps programs
- Extend capacity in \$ & labor
- Foster innovation
- Educate and inform children and adults
- Advance public and private goals
- Work in both Recreation and Environmental Stewardship
- Are not free to us OR the partners

## Who Are Our Partners:

- 60 Cooperating Assns & Friends Groups
- 1,393 Partners at 293 Projects (73%)
- 1.5 Million Volunteer Hours
- Corps Foundation—Outstanding Partner

## Program Leadership:

- Partnership Advisory Committee (1 rep/division)
- Partnership Awards—Highly visible and important for the Corps, both within and without the agency



Lake Shelbyville: HS Students  
Excellence in Partnership  
Award Winners 2017



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# SIGN PROGRAM

- MCX for the USACE Sign Program (NWK)
  - Engineering and Technical Support
  - Manufacturing support
- Sign Advisory Group (SAWG)-1 rep from each Division
- District & Division Sign Program Managers—All signs go through District Sign Managers before the order is placed
- Project Sign Program Managers
- Focus Areas: Public Impact & Safety; Positive Image; Support & Guidance



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# FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM- USACE IMPLEMENTATION

Road/parking improvements at highly visited recreation areas to address backlog maintenance where condition negatively impacts public access and use of areas

- Road/parking projects not generally competitive in USACE budget process.

Bridge program work for compliance with NBIS and FHWA Guidelines. FLTP allows improvements to bridges at CW projects that support public safety, recreation access and regional economies.



Year	Planning	Program	Total
FY13	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 3,209,040	\$ 5,209,040
FY14	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 5,875,407	\$ 7,875,407
FY15	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 6,210,000	\$ 8,560,000
FY16	\$ 2,350,000	\$ 7,008,035	\$ 9,358,035
FY17	\$ 2,323,000	\$ 6,381,927	\$ 8,704,927
Total	\$11,023,000	\$ 22,302,482	\$ 39,707,409



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# WHAT'S REALLY **HOT** AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL?

- **BUDGET, BUDGET, BUDGET—FY 17,18, AND 19**
  - Changes are happening now and there will be more
  - Break out groups will provide more information
- **REAL ESTATE OUTGRANTS, BOUNDARIES, ENCROACHMENTS**
- **VISITATION STATISTICS and VERS IMPLEMENTATION**
  - The numbers of recreation visits hasn't changed
  - How we count visits has changed
  - New national number 250 M for FY 15
  - Other agencies have encountered the same situation on visitation
- **FIREARMS AT CORPS PROJECTS—Amend Title 36 Part 327**
- **Legislative Changes:** Cooperative Joint Management with Public Entities; Table Rock Lake;





**Recreation.gov**  
EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

## Corps of Engineers Statistics:

Reservable Parks 677

- Total Sites 38,675
  - Reservable Sites 29,981
  - Percent Reservable Sites 78%

Total Advance Reservations 462,831

- Total Walk-Up 226,050
- Percent Advance Reservations 67%

Total Site Visits 3,453,375

Gross collections \$43,186,990

Net collections \$38,242,781

**Skiatook Lake, OK**  
US Army Corps of Engineers

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**VISITOR PHOTOS**  
Log-In and Be the First to Upload a Photo

**MAKE A RESERVATION**  
[TALL CHIEF DOVE >](#)  
[TWIN POINTS >](#)

**OTHER FACILITIES**  
[Bull Creek Peninsula >](#)  
[Crowdermans Marina >](#)  
[Crowdermans Marina >](#)



**SKIATOOK LAKE**

Gentle rolling hills of Blackjack and Post Oak interspersed with Tall Grass Prairie surround beautiful Skiatook Lake. The meandering shoreline is accentuated by steep picturesque bluffs which offer spectacular ... [\(more\)](#)

**ADDRESS**  
6350 Lake RD  
Skiatook, OK 74070-5803  
Phone: (518) 396-3170

**Additional Information**  
[Oklahoma State Tourism >](#)  
[Oklahoma State Road >](#)

# THE INFO IS ONLY AS GOOD AS WHAT YOU PUT IN!!!



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**Recreation.gov**  
EXPLORE YOUR AMERICA

## Recreation One-Stop—12 Agency Partnership

- Reservation and Trip-Planning Information (4 M transactions)

## New Era for Recreation.Gov:

- A modern, user-experience driven platform for digital age
- Continuous innovation in a nimble environment to keep pace with rapidly evolving technology

## New Contract Provider—Booz Allen Hamilton

- Go live-September 2018
- July 2017-Sept 2018 Technology Development period
- Bridge Contract with Active (current contractor) to 9/2018
- Agency & field level COMMITMENT to support



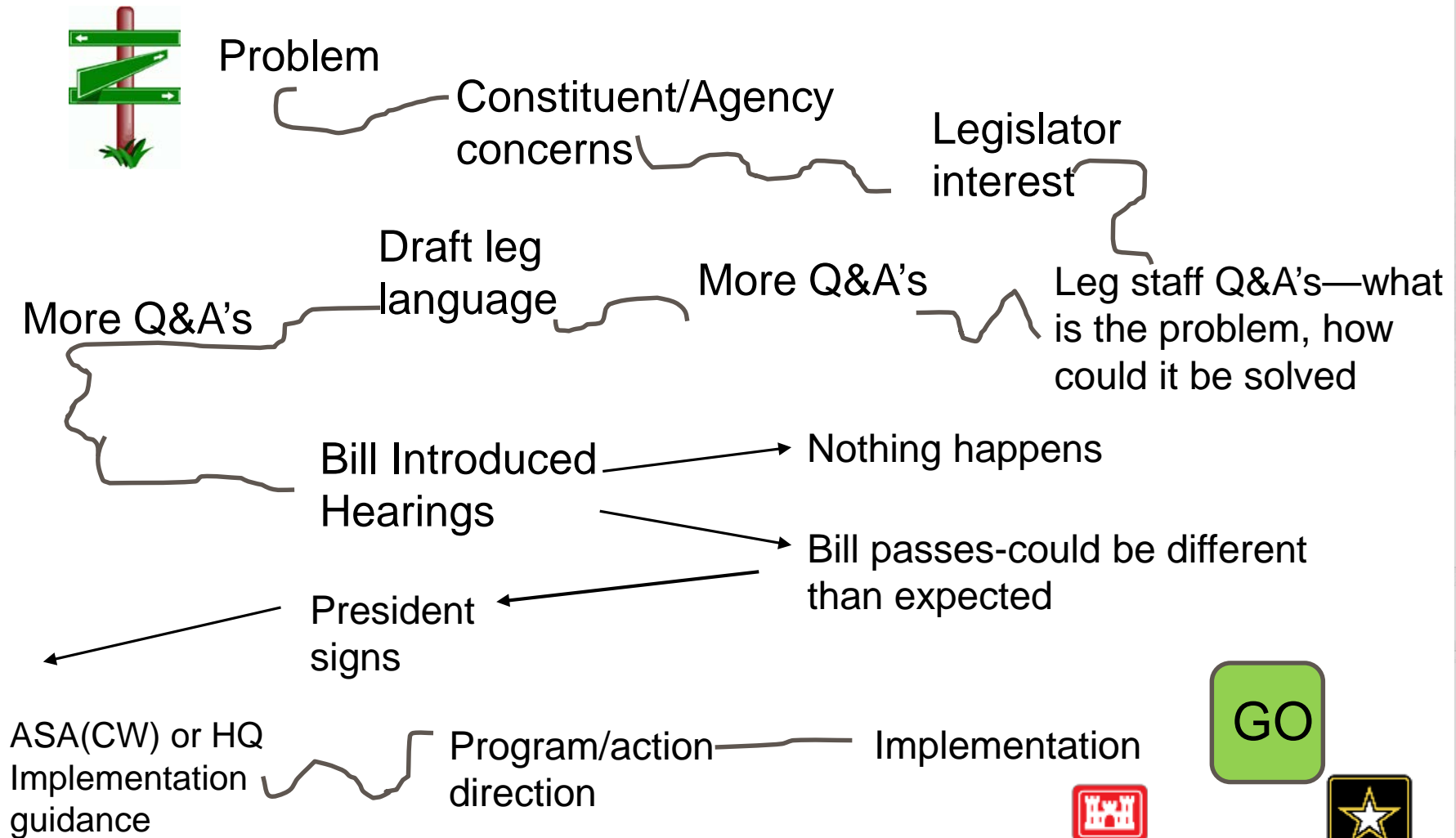
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# HOW DO WE GET NEW LAWS & AUTHORITIES FOR PROGRAMS?

IT'S A TORTUOUS PATH—SOMETIMES WITH UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES



GO



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# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Keep doing what you are doing

CAP program

Ensure you stay current with training



# YOUR NATIONAL NRM PROGRAM TEAM

- **Mary Coulombe**, Natural Resources Management Branch Chief, 202-761-1228
- **Scott Strotman**, HQ Recreation Program/Business Line, 202-761-0036
- **Jeff Krause**, HQ Environmental Stewardship Program/Business Line, 814-641-3957
- **Steve Austin**, HQ Visitor Assistance, Ranger and Water Safety Advisor, Interpretative Program, Youth Programs, 202-761-4489
- **Jeremy Crossland**, HQ Land Uses, Special Uses, Outgrants//Real Estate, Oil/Gas programs, Aquatic Plant Control, 202-761-4259
- **John Coho**, HQ Sustainability, Environmental Compliance, Energy Program, 202-761-4722
- **National Program Leads Located in the Field**
  - **Pam Doty**, Water Safety Program Manager, SWF, 817-886-1727
  - **Heather Burke**, Partnerships Program, NWP, 503-808-4313
  - **A.J. Jensen**, National Sign Program Manager, NWK, 816-389-3840
  - **Meredith Bridgers**, Federal Lands Transportation Program, IWR, 703-428-8458



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# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?



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# EVERY KID IN A PARK

**The Goal is to build a new generation of stewards that will work to protect America's natural and cultural resources for the future by:**

- Providing 4<sup>th</sup> graders an in-person experience with their public lands and waters
- Inspiring parents, teachers, and other partners to engage with the outdoors

**Why 4<sup>th</sup> Graders?** Research has shown that 10/11 years old is a critical time to connect with children on values and attitudes about the environment.



# AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS PROGRAM

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Implementation January 1, 2016

5 pass types plus Corps Annual Pass

Program managed by an interagency committee

Two types of sales/distribution: on site, on the web

Revenues

- Law requires that the revenue be retained by the agency
- OMB requires that the revenue be reported in the President's budget, like the Recreation User Fees as "Additional New Resources"—not appropriations
- OMB required estimation of revenues from ATB and Special Uses for FY 17 budget—\$1.2 million
- OMB reduced the FY 17 Recreation budget by \$1.2 million

Return of revenues to projects is yet unresolved



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# SPECIAL USE PERMITS

100% of fees collected will be retained at the Project at which the fees are collected and available for use without further appropriation.

Revenue will be used solely for administering the Special Use Permits and carrying out related operation and maintenance activities at the site at which the fees are collected.

**Special Event Permits:** Special Event Permit may be issued for the organized use of project resources for a specific purpose and limited duration, beyond what is normally engaged in by individuals or groups on a day-to-day basis

- \$75.00 may be charged for each permit.
- Additional fees may be assessed to recover costs incurred by the USACE
- Events for-profit will be assessed a fee of 2% of gross revenue.

**Special Activity Permits;** Special Activity Permits may be issued for the specific use of project resources benefiting an individual or small group that may be recurring in nature.

Special Activity Fee may be charged to cover:

- Administrative cost of the program.
- Recover cost incurred by the Corps to manage the permit program.

**Special Facility Permits:** A fee may be charged for the use of specialized recreation facilities (e.g. group picnic shelters, multipurpose courts, amphitheaters, etc.)

- Items classified and collected as Recreation Use Fees (campsites, beaches, boat ramps, etc.) are NOT considered “Special Facilities”



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