# The NRM Innovations Team (est. 2016)





- Was a Multi-District Team for 5 years consistently growing to encompass 22 Districts in an Innovations Alliance.
- √ 3-17-2022, became the National NRM Innovations Team approved by USACE Headquarters representing the entire NRM Community.
- ✓ Updated Innovations Team Structure:
  - **Team Leadership**, 1 representative from each MSC, 3 At-Large, and One HQ Proponent.
  - Team Membership, more than 40 Innovators from across the Nation gather to bring to the table new Innovative Ideas and for those the team elects to work on, create a prototype for that innovation in just an 8-month long Innovation Season with no monetary resources for Research and Development.

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### **Dynamic**



**Workflow Model** 

#### **Innovations Store**



#### **Mission Statement**

Planning and developing technology for Park Rangers/Field Staff and enhancing the recreational experience for the visiting public.

Goals

## **OVERCOME**

Roadblocks

Overcome challenges: time and resources.

## **CHANGE**

Culture

Innovate new solutions for old problems.

# **DEVELOP**

**Innovative Leaders** 

Lead an Innovations Subteam Expand network/partnerships

Innovations Completed

13
PRODUCTS

Self-Service Day Use Machines Park Ranger Mobile App USACE Hunting Maps App \$8.6 M

**COST SAVING** 

Self-Service Campgrounds Mobile Credit Cards/Point of Sale Interpretive Contacts Counter \$2.6 M

ADDED VALUE

Touchless Transactions USACE Jr. Ranger App RETS Starter

Innovations In-Progress

12
PROTOTYPES

\$4.6 M

EST. COST SAVING

\$700k

EST. ADDED VALUE

**Apps:** Caching Wildlife, Volunteer App, Live Screen Augmented Reality, Hologram Park Rangers **Services/New Tech:** Corps Marketplace, Self Service Kiosks, Parks and Rec Comment System

**Team National Award Winners** 

2016

deb

Jason Knight receives American Recreation Coalition's Beacon Award for innovations excellence using partnerships. 2018

Shawna Polen receives National Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence for Jr. Ranger app.

2019



Sarah Noel receives National Innovation of the Year Award for the USACE Bid Assist app. 2022



Abby Jones receives American Recreation Coalition's Agency Leadership Award for her Innovative efforts in USACE.

# **Dynamic Workflow Model**

Innovations Team



An inclusive team that provides resources to get innovations from the field off the ground. The Innovations Team is a conduit for individuals to develop a better way of accomplishing USACE missions. The team gives them a forum where like-minded people can collaborate and develop strategies for transitioning to the future.

Innovations Summit



**Objectives:** Innovative ideas are presented from all across USACE. The Team selects innovations for the season and chooses sub team leaders and sub teams. Sub teams begin research & development.

Strategic Actions: Innovations, Research

Workshop #2
Partners



**Objectives:** Sub teams present on innovation progress. Teams decide if they can create a prototype with in-house talent or if they need assistance from partners. Sub teams that need assistance present their innovations to the partner.

Strategic Actions: Partner, Develop

Workshop #3

Summer Pilot



**Objectives:** Decide where innovations might best be piloted (Division/District/Project Office). Final preparations for pilot prototypes. Partner presents prototypes to sub teams for class graduation.

Strategic Actions: Build Prototype

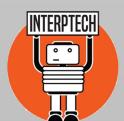
Pilot Prototype

**Objectives:** Pilot innovations 1 May – 1 Sept at selected Divisions/ Districts/Project Offices. Share and promote innovation to multiple districts.

Strategic Actions: Pilot

# **Innovations Team Representation**

**Sharing Innovative ideas with other Agencies and Private Sector** 









#### **Innovative Partners**



# Southwestern Oklahoma State University

School of Business and Technology, Capstone Student Program

2017 partnership formed to develop technology

125 students since inception

23 innovations worked on

\$644,883.40 value of service from 21,532 hours

2019 received USACE SWD Excellence in Partnerships Award



#### **The Corps Foundation**

Provides solutions for most common roadblocks

Hosts Website for the Team's Innovations Store

Developer Accounts Google and Apple Platforms

Purchased 500 plastic badges for Jr. Ranger Adventure App

Co-presents innovations at conferences



#### **Emporia State University (Kansas)**

School of Business and Technology, Capstone Student Program

**2022** partnership formed to develop technology

4 students working on 2 Innovations since inception

\$20,605.60 value of service from 688 hours