



Your Recreation HQ Update

POC: Scott Strotman, Recreation Program and Business Line Manager, 202-761-0036

Professional Development and Training! This is something in which everyone should have a serious vested interest. While supervisors and leadership are committed to training and developing their staffs, no one should care about your own professional development more than you. Everyone needs to take this seriously and you can best do this by working with your supervisor to ensure that your Individual Development Plan (IDP) is kept current and updated annually. In addition to listing all of your routine recurring training, PROSPECT training needs, and other training, everyone should consider listing professional development opportunities. It has been my experience that these opportunities can pop up unexpectedly and in some cases if you have not listed professional development opportunities on your IDP, you could lose consideration. These opportunities may include the Leadership Development Program (District, MSC and HQ levels), the Career Assignment Program in HQ (four 6-months positions are filled each year in Washington DC), and other cross training opportunities. This can even be true when it comes to attending regional or national workshops. For example, a team is currently planning a National NRM Workshop for 2021. Each of you should ensure this is listed on your IDP or risk losing the opportunity to attend. While many may see IDPs as just another form that sometimes seems to have little meaning and takes away from doing other work, these are critical when it comes to tracking, planning and ensuring a clear roadmap is in place that lays out your professional development. Do not risk missing out on training and professional development opportunities. Find your IDP now, review its status and make it a priority to ensure it is up to date!

**Looking forward:
2021 National NRM Workshop
*Get it on your IDPs now!***

This Issue:

 **NPLD
Water Safety Spotlight
Park Ranger Hot Topics**



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

YOUR Thoughts

We are looking for contributors and ideas!
*If you have a topic, success story, lesson learned, or helpful suggestion—let us know.
Send to: Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

*The Recreation Retreat is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced quarterly with the purpose of providing its readers information about the USACE Recreation Program. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.
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Campaign Hat Photo Credit:
Cynthia Mitchell, USACE

Celebrating National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the largest single-day volunteer effort for the America's public lands. This year NPLD took place on Saturday, September 28th. Three USACE lakes were selected as Highlighted Sites for 2019 NPLD! Congratulations to Sacramento District's Success Lake and Dam, Eastman Lake, & Terminus Dam (Lake Kaweah).

Each of these lakes received a sponsorship package worth an estimated \$1,500: •\$500 Stipend for any supplies, tools or transportation services that are needed for the event •1 NPLD event tablecloth •1 NPLD event banner •150 NPLD Water Bottles •150 NPLD Sunglasses •High-level marketing and communications support. *Here are the wrap-ups and some great photos of their events!*

1 H.V. Eastman & Hensley Lake

POC: Carrie Richardson, Carrie.Richardson@usace.army.mil

H.V. Eastman Lake, in a partnership with USACE Hensley Lake and the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), hosted a National Public Lands Day (NPLD) event. Approximately 78 volunteers participated equalling a volunteer value of \$7,930. This year's event drew enthusiastic families, individuals, and school groups from throughout the Central Valley and Sierra foothills.

After an introduction and safety message by H.V. Eastman Park Ranger Walter Pope, volunteers removed an estimated 2 miles of shoreline litter (weighing approximately 160 pounds), planted 20 native trees and shrubs, reconditioned sand in two volleyball courts and four horseshoe pits, and placed over 24 tons of playground certified bark at H.V. Eastman Lake's two playgrounds!

Once all the hard work was done, this year's volunteers received a NEEF water bottle, sunglasses, and a T-shirt celebrating the NPLD event, as a means to show appreciation for their hard work. The local community has a long and proud history of supporting H.V. Eastman Lake and USACE. This was again evident in the fantastic turn out at this year's NPLD event.



Photo Above: Native plantings at H.V. Eastman & Hensley Lake during NPLD.



Summary Across USACE

Volunteers: 10,252

Hours: 37,103

Tires removed: 488

Lbs of trash: 112,254

Miles of roadway cleared: 85

Miles of trail improved: 89

Acres of habitat improved: 177

Trees/shrubs planted: 2,953

Lbs of invasive plants removed: 6,475

Partners involved: 296



2 Success Lake

POC: Sylvia Guerrero, Sylvia.A.Guerrero@usace.army.mil

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is much more than just a one day event. It requires months of planning, networking, and communicating with all who are involved, but it is a labor of love with a lasting effect on our public lands. National Public Lands Day is always a great success at Richard L. Schaffer Dam and Success Lake!

On September 28, 2019, Success Lake was greeted with 346 eager volunteers, each bringing something special to add to our recreational facility. The morning started with an early registration, where volunteers could prepare for the day while enjoying coffee and pastries donated by local partners, as well as receive a Success Lake NPLD t-shirt and a variety of giveaways provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF).

Photo Above Left: Volunteers take a moment for a group photo at H.V. Eastman Lake. Photo Below: Success Lake NPLD volunteers working together for improvements.



After a short introduction and safety talk volunteers split into different project groups led by Success Lake's long-term volunteers, park rangers, and maintenance staff.

Participants efforts improved the Tule Recreation Area shoreline, in total 1,000 feet of irrigation line was laid, 56 trees were planted, 7 new barbeques were installed, and 9 new picnic benches were assembled and placed. The recreation area's amphitheater, arbors, and curbs were all given a fresh coat of paint and the playgrounds, a volleyball court, and various campsites were refreshed with new sand and decomposed granite. Many great things were accomplished during this year's NPLD, all credited to the hard work of each and every person who donated their time to improving our nation's public lands.

After all the hard work was complete, it was time for a little fun! Lunch was served by staff, informational booths were displayed by Success Lake's partners, door prizes were given away, and our dedicated volunteers were sent off with a special thank you!



Photo Above: Volunteers give the Tule Recreation Area curbs a fresh coat of paint.



Photos From Top to Bottom: 1. Tulare County Boy Scouts of America troops lead the 250 volunteers and staff at the flag ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance. 2. Maintenance Worker, Josh Smalling, instructs the 2019 NPLD volunteers on safety procedures. 3. 2019 National Public Lands Day volunteers remove graffiti at Slick Rock Recreation Area. 4. At the Kaweah Heritage Visitor Center, planter boxes were created and various trees, shrubs, and plants were placed into the ground by our students fulfilling community service hours for their school.

3 Terminus Dam

POC: Heather Dumais, Heather.M.Dumais@usace.army.mil

As the sun rose upon Terminus Dam, 250 enthusiastic volunteers were registering for a fun-filled day of beautifying Lake Kaweah. The smell of donuts was in the air as they were cooked on site to be devoured in preparation for the day's activities. Water safety bags were given to our volunteers by our staff filled with goodies, including NEEF water bottles and sunglasses. Volunteers topped off their new water bottles at our water stations on their way to a memorable opening ceremony. Five boy scouts troops, sleepy eyed from the following night's movie and popcorn festivities, conducted the flag ceremony, while all volunteers rose to their feet for the Pledge of Allegiance.

After introductions of our staff and itinerary for the day, the 9 work groups, dressed in their new Lake Kaweah camouflage silk screened t-shirts, dispersed to their chosen project areas. Historic projects took place such as litter pickup and graffiti removal. Additionally this year, the entire lake was beautified with over 700 trees, plants, and shrubs donated to the Project. Two large pollinator gardens were created. With a generous donation from REI, we were able to rename and restore the beloved nature trail at Horsecreek Campground, where a beautiful redwood sign with the name Ga-We-Hah Historic Trail, marks the entrance.

As all the hard working and dedicated volunteers found their way back to the NPLD meeting area, they were welcomed by the sounds of a local band and the smells of a delicious Tri-tip lunch. The view of the children playing under the kid's activity tents blowing bubbles, face painting, and shooting rockets into the air added to the fun-filled day. Over a dozen of our partners brought information and raffles for our volunteers to browse and delight in.



Water Safety Project Spotlight: Water Safety is a Top Priority at Allatoona Lake

POC: Pam Doty, Water Safety Program Manager, (817) 886-1727



RLAT Recreation Leadership Advisory Team

Hello, my name is Chris Alford and I am the chair of The Recreation Leadership Advisory Team (RLAT). The RLAT met in conjunction with the Stewardship Advisory Team (SAT) in Washington, D.C. in November 2019. This team meets twice annually to discuss challenges to the recreation program and discuss our path forward. The team consists of each Division's Recreation Major Subordinate Command (MSC) and a field or district representative from each Division. During the meeting, topics such as the NRM Strategic Plan, Project Site Area (PSA) standardization, the 2021 National NRM Workshop, Operational Condition Assessments (OCAs), and various policy updates were discussed. The team also discussed topics with Steve Austin (Senior Policy Advisor for Park Ranger Activities) that included unmanned aerial systems (drones), uniform updates, and firearms on USACE lands. I encourage each of you reading this to reach out to your division's representative to learn more about these topics and find ways that you can be more involved with our recreation mission.

Allatoona, located in Georgia 36 miles from Atlanta, has an average of 6.7 million visits every year. At all of our lake and river projects visitors come to enjoy the outdoors and most of them spend time on, in, or near the water. Here are some of the things that are done at Allatoona Lake to help keep their visitors safe.

As part of their water safety initiatives with Cherokee County Safe Kids Coalition the Allatoona Lake staff partnered with them in 2007 to create an Allatoona Lake Ranger Trading Card Program that is still going strong today. The trading cards are distributed by the park rangers to children 15 years of age and under. Children ask park rangers for their card and they must answer a water safety question before receiving a card. After a child has received a certain number of cards they can take them to the project management office to receive donated prizes that includes things like life jackets, water park passes, Zoo Atlanta passes, beach mats, and t-shirts. A brochure is created every year to promote the trading card program.

In 2006, Allatoona Lake started their life jacket loaner program with life jackets that were donated by a local Walmart store. Since then, the program has expanded to include 22 stations in 19 recreation areas. Life jackets that are loaned out come from partnerships with the BoatUS Foundation, Sea Tow Foundation, Yamaha Corporation, and Cobb County Safe Kids Coalition. For example, earlier this year the Yamaha Corporation donated 100 life jackets that can be used in the Allatoona Lake and Bartow County River life jacket loaner programs. The life jackets at Allatoona Lake are loaned out on an honor system at stations in their recreation areas and can be checked out at different locations around the lake including at the project management office. Having a loaner program that provides life jackets both on an honor system and check out system helps ensure that the life jackets are returned and reduces the number of life jackets that "walk away".

The water safety program at Allatoona Lake could not be done without the assistance of a great volunteer staff. Over the years and since the Allatoona Volunteer Village has been created, volunteers have increasingly been asked to help promote water safety. In FY2019, the "Village People" as they are known, completed over 3,650 hours in recreation and water safety work. Their water safety duties include hanging several posters and banners in different locations around the lake, painting stencils on the pavement at boat ramps and other locations, assisting partners with numerous events, preparing handout materials for events, presenting interpretive programs at the beaches, taking pictures, which some of them were entered in the National Water Safety Program Photo Contest and won, maintaining and inspecting all of the life jacket loaner stations at the lake, and this year they built a new storage rack to hold all of their donated life jackets.

RLAT Photo Top: Group concept analysis regarding the development of the NRM Strategic Plan. Bottom: Group photo from the November 2019 meeting.



Photo Above and Below: Employees participate in Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day. Sample of Allatoona Lake Park Ranger Trading Cards.



Water Safety Continued

For the last five years, the staff at Allatoona Lake has participated in Wear a Life Jacket to Work Day, which is always the Friday before National Safe Boating Week in May. This year the Bartow County Commissioner and the Mayor of Cartersville, GA signed a proclamation of support for National Safe Boating Week. Members of the staff and volunteers from Allatoona Lake and other partners attended the proclamation signing to show their support.

The Allatoona Lake staff has built upon their water safety program by also incorporating the Every Kid Outdoor passes into their water safety interpretive programs. In 2018, Allatoona Lake led the South Atlantic Division in number of passes issued and this year in 2019 they currently lead the nation, which includes all agencies, by issuing nearly 10,000 passes.

An Allatoona Lake Water Safety Task Force was created in 2015 to build cooperation and combine resources between first responders and partners around the lake to promote water safety particularly on holiday weekends. Since the inception of the task force, Allatoona Lake has seen a large decrease in water-related public recreation fatalities. In 2018, there were no water-related fatalities at the lake. That is the first year ever in the 68 year history of the lake that there were no fatalities.

Release of Visitor Capacity and Monitoring Guidebooks

POC: Meredith Bridgers, Planner, Meredith.Bridgers@usace.army.mil

Six federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—collaborate on the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council. Council collaboration is designed to increase awareness of and commitment to proactive, professional, and science-based visitor use management on federally-managed lands and waters. USACE members on the council are Meredith Bridgers (Institute for Water Resources) and Scott Strotman (HQ).

Visitor use management is the proactive and adaptive process for managing characteristics of visitor use and the natural and managerial setting using a variety of strategies and tools to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions and visitor experiences.

The council recently released edition one of both its *Visitor Capacity Guidebook* and *Monitoring Guidebook*. The guidebooks are not agency policy, but rather represent recommendations developed by the council for consistent best practices based on the current state of knowledge for visitor use management.



The *Visitor Capacity Guidebook: Managing the Amounts and Types of Visitor Use to Achieve Desired Conditions*, provides managers with processes and tools to collaboratively develop long-term strategies to manage the amounts and types of visitor use to achieve desired conditions.

The *Monitoring Guidebook: Evaluating Effectiveness of Visitor Use Management*, provides specific guidance for developing a monitoring strategy related to visitor use that can be incorporated into existing agency planning and decision-making processes, along with day-to-day management.

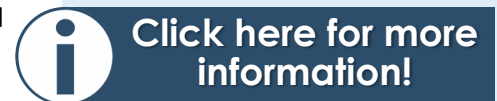
Guidebooks and more on the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council are available at <https://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov>.



Park Ranger Community of Practice

Park Rangers: A USACE Legacy, as pictured below, is a timeline created by members of the Park Ranger CoP with the help of the National Water Safety Program Manager and the National Water Safety Visual Information Specialist. Dating from the 1960's, this timeline can be used as a large scale display at project offices, district offices, and division offices. The display is meant to be printed at 8ft x 3ft. If you choose to display the timeline at your location or if you currently have a display honoring Park Rangers, please share those with Aurora Scott and Tennille Hammonds.

(Aurora.C.Scott@usace.army.mil)
(Courtney.T.Hammonds@usace.army.mil)



Park Ranger & Visitor Assistance Hot Topics

POC: Steve Austin, Senior Policy Advisory for Park Ranger Activities, 202-761-4489

PUBLIC CARRY OF FIREARMS. The court actions of “Corps vs. Morris & Baker 2013” - District Court of Idaho and “Corps vs. Georgia Carry 2014” - District Court of Georgia resulted in settlement conditions in which plaintiffs are allowed to carry with state-approved permit (concealed carry only), in designated areas only. As a result, HQUSACE is in the process of revising 36CFR327.13 via Rulemaking. The current USACE regulation allows individuals to possess weapons for authorized hunting and fishing, at shooting ranges, and after receiving written permission from the District Commander. The revised regulation reduces burden to the public by eliminating the requirement to obtain written permission from the District Commander. Additionally, the revised regulation achieves consistency with federal, state, and local firearm laws.

Federal Land Management Agency Public Possession of Weapons Rule

*Once revised USACE regulations are implemented.

Comparison	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*	National Park Service	Bureau of Land Management	Bureau of Reclamation	U.S. Forest Service
Public Possession of Loaded Weapons	Yes Federal, State and Local Laws Apply	Yes Federal, State and Local Laws Apply	Yes Federal, State and Local Laws Apply	Yes Federal, State and Local Laws Apply	Yes Federal, State and Local Laws Apply
Regulation or Statute	36 C.F.R part 327.13(a)	P.L. 111-24, part 512	43 C.F.R. part 8365.1-7	43 C.F.R. part 423.30	36 C.F.R. parts 261.8(b) & 261.57(c)
Last Issued	2019	2010	1983	2008	2004

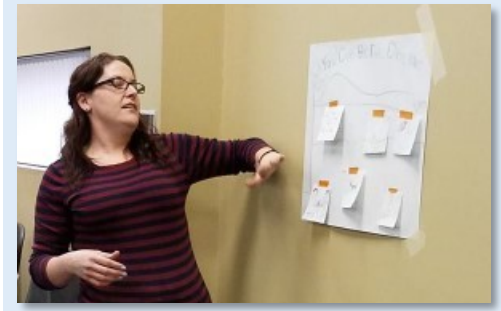
What is the way forward? The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) sends the Rulemaking to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for interagency review and approval. Following OMB approval, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASACW) signs the Rulemaking Preamble. Next USACE posts the Rulemaking in the Federal Register which includes a comment period. USACE then considers public comments and incorporates changes as applicable into the final rule. Finally, USACE implements the final rule.

SMALL BOAT TRAINING PROGRAM. Did you know? ER 385-1-91, Training Testing and Licensing of Small Boat Operators was revised and published in September 2019.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS). Policy

allows for UAS at the Operations Manager discretion. USACE has jurisdiction on project lands and set the rules where to operate from land. HOWEVER, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has jurisdiction over the airspace and all airspace is open unless documented with the FAA. “No Fly Zones” (restricted airspace) can only be established by the FAA. The USACE Aviation Program lead by Jason Kirkpatrick is working with the FAA to explore ways to define the USACE “no fly zones” in the web based applications that the FAA provides to drone users. The goal is to provide Project Managers with command guidance on what to restrict (guidelines) and how to restrict it (process) in the coming calendar year. Currently, revised UAS Reporting Procedures only require reporting when: 1. criminal/terrorism activity has occurred or is suspected, 2. the operation poses a significant security threat or public/employee safety, 3. a mishap involving a USACE-operated UAS occurs. A final note, reporting is not required for hobby-model aircraft operation.

 [Click here to access the ER!](#)



Interpretive Corner

POC: Roseana Burick 202-761-4988

Get it on your IDP!

Interpretive Services PROSPECT will be the most fun you'll have at a PROSPECT class!

Join fellow rangers in learning how to use Interpretation to help get compliance at the lowest level from your visiting public. Also learn why you can't afford NOT to use Interpretation at your project.

Not only do you learn the fundamentals of Interpretation and how to develop a program, but you get to design real world interpretive products for a local state park and present a group interpretive program as well. Take home pre-made programs to use at your project, and learn tips and tricks from your instructors who work in your field!

 [Click here for the Purple Book listing of this class!](#)

Photo Above: A student presents to the class regarding a wayside exhibit design. Photo Below: Students present to Monte Sano State Park Director on interpretive site updates.

