



THE recreation RETREAT

HQ Recreation Update

POC: Ryan Hartwig, Recreation Program and Business Line Manager

The launch of Rec-Assessment occurred on Nov. 14, 2022 and will be open to the field through the end of the month (30 November). The data collected through this process is used to support FY25 budget packages and therefore it is critical that this data is entered timely and accurately. Rec-Assessment is used to compile and integrate baseline performance data including utilization, revenue, national economic development (NED) benefit and unit day value (UDV), visitor spending, relative risk assessment along with program efficiency, and benefit cost ratio. After the two week data entry period, Rec-Assessment will close for district, division, and HQ review followed uploads to Rec-CWIFD. The use of Rec-Assessment data as part of the budget build process has been a goal for many years. The Rec Budget CATT (Coach, Assist, and Train Team) is coordinating necessary training and updates, please reach out to them for any assistance you may need during this critical phase of the budget preparation process!



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. Managing Editor: Tara Whitsel. Tara.J.Whitsel@usace.army.mil

*Campaign Hat Photo Credit:
Cynthia Mitchell, USACE*

This Issue:



NRM Community
Team!

Water Safety Project Spotlight

Down in the Valley:

Portland District's Willamette Valley Project Shines Even When It Rains

POC: Tana Wilson, NWD/POD National Water Safety Committee Representative

Like many USACE Projects across the country, Willamette Valley in Cottage Grove, Oregon had a bustling recreation season. When the sun shines in the Pacific Northwest, people are soaking it up and that usually means bumper to bumper traffic with cars outfitted with kayak racks, stand up paddleboards, boat trailers and other water-related gear headed for one of the 13 lakes that make up the Willamette Valley Project.

A study published in the journal *Land* examined how outdoor recreation has changed as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Results indicated that nearly half of adults from across the United States now participate in outdoor recreation on at least a monthly basis, and approximately 20 percent may be new to outdoor recreation because of the pandemic. With more visitors comes the need for more education—especially for those new to water activities.



Photos (Left to Right): I Got Caught Initiative and the Emerald's Baseball Game in Eugene Oregon.

Armed with water safety facts and materials, the Willamette Valley NRM team was ready to save lives by helping keep people safe when on, in, or near the water. They also supplemented what the National Water Safety Program has provided with some of their own water safety promotional items including a chip clip that says, “Clip It For Life.”

Nothing quite says summer like baseball. Although not a game typically played in the water, Bobber the Water Safety Dog was invited to an Emerald's baseball game in Eugene, Oregon. Bobber and Park Ranger Paige King greeted over 3,000 fans of all ages with water safety messages. Bobber even got to hit a piñata during the 7th inning stretch while his water safety slogan, “Life Jackets: Man's Vest Friend” was shared on the big screen.

A different kind of game of catch, Willamette Valley Park Rangers also participated in the “I Got Caught” initiative. They successfully caught 50 adults wearing life jackets. Adult visitors caught wearing their life jackets received dry bags. The dry bags were purchased by the Corps Foundation using grant funds they received from the U.S. Coast Guard and then donated to the National Water Safety Program to distribute to USACE projects. “Most everybody we talked to accepted a dry bag and were excited, even for a photo op,” said Ranger King.

The nature of the Valley means the recreation season is relatively short (mid-May through mid-September), but it is unceasing while underway. The Willamette Valley had two public recreation fatalities between April and August, both occurred while swimming. Neither one of the victims were wearing a life jacket. It is unfortunate that the fatalities occurred and the Willamette Valley continued on with their water safety outreach even stronger than before. Rangers made valuable visitor contacts with people of all ages and through their efforts uncountable lives were saved.

As the Valley enters the rainy season, Park Ranger King is already thinking about what's next on the water safety outreach docket. “We are headed to the Eugene Boat Show in February,” King said. “And it's a great opportunity geared for adult water safety outreach.”

Bobber Receives Certificate of Appreciation from Lt. Gen. Spellmon

On Aug. 25, 2022, Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Spellmon presented Bobber the Water Safety Dog with a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in the Jul. 20, 2022 U.S. Army Twilight Tattoo. Bobber assisted USACE park rangers that staffed a display area during the Twilight Tattoo to promote water safety to all ages in attendance.

Citation on the certificate that Bobber received states "For exceptional achievement in support of the Jul. 20, 2022 United States Army Twilight Tattoo static display. As an instantly recognizable icon, your participation generated excitement and interest amongst all those in attendance. Your positive influence and impact goes far beyond safety awareness and provides immeasurable value to our mission. Bobber's exceptional service reflects great credit upon him, the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army."

Bobber the Water Safety Dog is the USACE National Water Safety Mascot. Bobber and the youth water safety campaign that is associated with him is overseen by the USACE National Water Safety Program. Bobber's messages are highlighted in cartoons, coloring books, trading cards, social media, and in character. He is famous across the country for helping to save lives! Bobber's website is www.Bobber.info.

Bobber's Golden Rules

-  **Learn To Swim Well.**  **Don't swim in water over your head.**
-  **Always have an adult with you.**  **Wear a Life Jacket!**

Important Reminder!

The Deadline to submit nominations for the National Water Safety Awards is Dec. 9, 2022.

The National Boating Federation (NBF) will honor a USACE employee and team for their outstanding contribution to boating and water safety. More information on the nomination process and criteria can be found on the NRM Gateway.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/cecwon/pdfs/22Oct4-NationalWaterSafetyAwards.pdf>



Photo Below: Lt. Gen. Spellmon recognized Bobber for participating in the July 20th Army Twilight Tattoo display and booth that was staffed by USACE Park Rangers and Bobber.



NRM Community TEAM (MS-TEAMS Site)

You asked, we listened! Park Rangers in the field often say that they need something to inform them of what is going on in the NRM Community. The NRM Gateway Team has also heard for years that users would like to know when something new is added to the Gateway website

The NRM Strategic Plan Implementation Communications Team has worked with the NRM Gateway Team to establish a new NRM COMMUNITY TEAM site on MS-TEAMS to help address these issues. The following Q&A explains more about the site.



Q. How does the NRM COMMUNITY TEAM help the field?

A. NRM TEAMS offers these features to all rangers with a government computer, and can be accessed remotely by those rangers who have government mobile phones

- Push notifications for new Gateway postings. This includes notifications of HQ memos/emails, vacancy announcements, Park Ranger CoP meeting minutes postings, etc.
- Any member can start a conversation to ask questions or make comments and gives a forum where all members can read or join in the conversation.
- Members can post their local vacancy announcements, as an additional means of advertisement to the CoP.



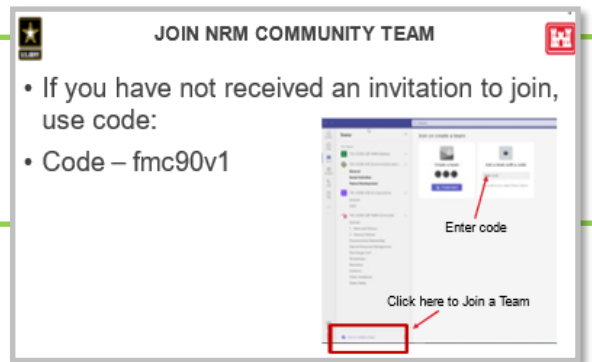
Q. Why don't we just set up a Park Ranger Instagram account to communicate?

A. Besides some technical issues, there is great hesitation to send employees to Social Media like IG since the standard protocol is to keep folks off those sites during work hours. Also, official Corps communications should not be accessed on a personal phone.



Q. How do I access the NRM COMMUNITY TEAM site?

A. If you haven't already received an invitation to this new site, open MS-TEAMS, click the Join a Team link, enter code fmc90v1 or utilize type "/join" in the search bar followed by the code.



Q. How do I set up notifications, so I know when something is added to the NRM COMMUNITY TEAMS?

A. To manage notifications:

- ON COMPUTER: Open Teams; then click on your profile photo in upper right of screen; select Manage Accounts; select Notifications and change settings to your preference.
- On IPHONE: Open Teams; click on profile photo in upper left of iPhone screen. Click Notifications and change settings to your preference.



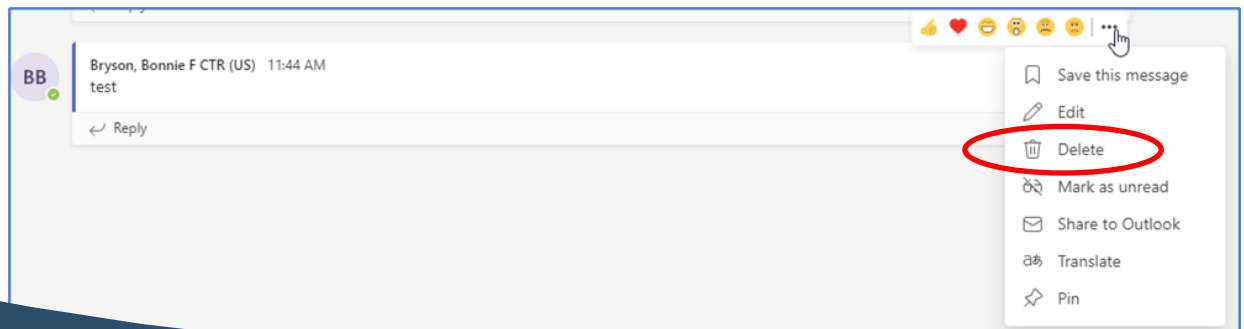
Q. Can I start conversations about anything I want to in NRM COMMUNITY TEAMS?

A. It does need to be an NRM topic, and obviously not sharing a personal issue or a political opinion. There are channels for various topics, so if you have a question about water safety, you would ask that in the Water Safety channel. You can start a conversation in the General or the Park Ranger CoP channels if it is an NRM issue that doesn't fit in any of the topic channels. Keep in mind: be professional in your comments, and ask locally for policy and guidance before putting your question out in this national forum.



Q. Can I delete a comment I have posted?

A. Yes. You can delete your own comments, but you cannot delete comments made by others. To delete, move your cursor to upper right of comment box, click on the three dots that appear, and click delete in the dropdown menu.



NRM Community TEAM Continued



Q How do I add MS TEAMS to my government mobile phone?

A. First you must get the Purebred app added to your phone. Then the MS Teams app is loaded. Just call the ESD to get the process started!



ACCESS TEAMS ON CORPS MOBILE PHONE



- Did you know you can get MS Teams on your government mobile phone?
- First, CAC certificates must be installed via the Purebred app
- Call Enterprise Service Desk (866) 562-2348 for installation

Purebred App Install

(Encrypted email on mobile devices)

- The enrollment process can take 15-45 mins to complete.
- We will need to be able to talk on a phone other than the device that we will be troubleshooting.
- You will need access to your computer and your phone during the setup.
- The following site must be accessible on the computer, preferably through Chrome, during a portion of the install: <https://purebred.csd.disa.mil/pb/> You will want access to WIFI or have 3+ bars of cellular service.

MOBILE PHONE VIEW OF TEAMS ICONS

ACEIT must install Purebred first

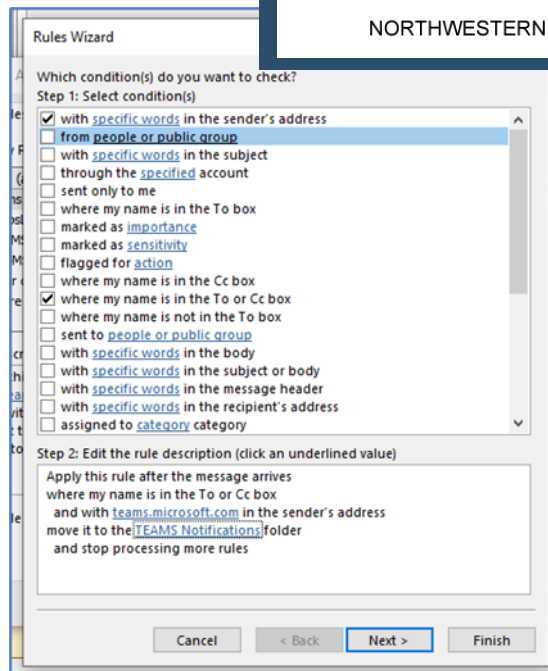


TEAMS icon



Q. Is there a way to turn off the email notifications when something is added to TEAMS?

A. You can declutter your Inbox by setting up an Outlook folder and a rule. If you haven't created a new folder or rule before, you can search for instructions in Outlook Help. In this example, an Outlook folder named TEAMS Notifications was created. The Rules Wizard screenshot shows criteria to have emailed notifications go automatically to that folder.



Sharing Helpful Information

1 Are you looking for new opportunities within USACE? You can search for and get notified for jobs that have been newly posted within USA-JOBS by setting up a saved search. MVD's CPAC (Civilian Personnel Advisory Center) shared how the process works.

If you search for a job using a keyword, location, or filters (even if you don't get any search results), you can save your search. When you save a search and agree to receive email notifications, USAJOBS will send you an email if a new job is posted that matches what you're looking for.

- You can create and save up to 10 saved searches—saved searches expire one year after you create it.
- You can sign up to receive daily, weekly, or monthly email notifications.
- You can manage your saved searches in your USAJOBS account on the home tab.
- For more information on this subject, please visit: <https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/search/save>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division
P.O. Box 2870
Portland, Oregon 97208-2870

*DR 1130-2-4

CENWD-PDS

Division Regulation
No. 1130-2-4

Project Operation
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION PARK RANGER TRAINING PROGRAM

2 NWD Park Ranger Training Program—NWD has published a Park Ranger Training Program regulation and Park Ranger training record. The regulation was created to help Park Rangers gain the needed skills and experience to be successful in their positions and compete for future opportunities.

Both the NWD regulation and record are available on the NRM when accessing from a CAC enabled device.

<https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/employees/gets.cfm?id=career>

Recreation Around USACE



US Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District

1 Rangers Attend U.S. Army Twilight Tattoo—Mobile and Pittsburgh District Park Rangers represented the USACE's Civil Works Program at the U.S. Army's Twilight Tattoo Ceremony (a live-action military pageant) at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, VA. During this event, the Park Rangers in attendance were able to communicate each of the USACE missions, their value, and explained the wide diversity of duties that rangers perform for USACE.



2 Promoting Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Stewardship—During September, Park Rangers from Buffalo District's Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area promoted outdoor recreation and water safety to hundreds of park patrons during the Letchworth State Park Outdoor Recreation Festival. Additionally, environmental stewardship themed messaging was provided to 5th grade students representing three separate urban schools from Rochester, NY during the Monroe County Conservation Field Day.



3 Explore the Corps: Teacher Workshop 2022—USACE and partners hosted a teach workshop on Aug. 17, 2022 at Bonneville Dam. Thirteen teachers from the Portland Metro and surrounding area attended. The workshop qualified them to receive 6 hours of continuing education credentials. USACE presented Partner Excellence Coins and

Certificates of Appreciation, donated by the Corps Foundation to ONREP and WWF in recognition of their time (approx. 30 hours) helping to plan, coordinate and execute the event. Partner content added to the Virtual Bonneville website and Corps content added to ONREP/NWF website. The workshop provide detaches with Corps environmental education and STEM resources.



Recreation Across USACE

4 Floatzilla at the Mississippi River Project— Park Rangers and a volunteer helped guide paddlers going through Lock 15 during Floatzilla on Aug. 20, 2022. Floatzilla is an annual paddling event in the Quad Cities where participants launch from various areas on the Mississippi River and meet at a local marina in an attempt at beating the record of largest flotilla of canoes and kayaks rafted together in one spot. A total of 636 paddlers locked through successfully on that day with no major incidents. Preparation for this involved perform rescue drills on the water with the Coast Guard Auxiliary the day before.



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Rock Island District



5 Happy 50th Anniversary Rend Lake—On Sep. 10, 2022, the Rend Lake Project, in partnership with the Rend Lake Conservancy District and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, hosted a celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dedication ceremony of the Rend Lake Dam. The commemorative ceremony was attended by St. Louis District leadership, elected officials, partners, stakeholders, USACE retirees, and current USACE team mem-

bers. Additionally, USACE partnered with multiple community organizations to bring live animal presentations, water safety programs, kids fishing, a petting zoo, adoptable animals from Franklin County Animal Control, living history, and a free sunset concert featuring Grammy award winning artists, David Ball, sponsored by the Benton/West City Chamber of Commerce to the Rend Lake Project. Over 2,000 visitors came to Rend Lake to enjoy a full day of celebration.



6 Cross Lake's Wounded Warrior Weekend—Cross Lake Recreation Area hosted its seventh annual wounded warriors camping event to honor veterans and their families. Sixteen veterans and their families enjoyed a weekend of camping and connection at the Cross Lake Dam and Recreation Area with events that included fishing, boating, kayaking, food, outdoor movie night and night-time campfires. As part of the event, a community breakfast was hosted onsite to honor veterans and served more than 250 people. Volunteers and partners from the community dedicated their time and money to this event. Upwards of \$8,000 of donated supplies and items along with over 400 volunteers hours made the weekend a success.



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St. Paul District



Recreation Across USACE

7 Rangers Assist with Fire Fighting Operations—On Jul. 9, 2022, Whitney Lake Park Rangers were contacted by Bosque County Sheriff's Office to assist with emergency fire operations on Whitney Lake as boaters were attempting to get too close to the fire planes and helicopters. Pilots had reported boats were attempting to take pictures of the firefighting operation and making conditions unsafe for extracting water from the lake. Rangers patrolled the water extraction area to ensure it was clear and safe for pilots to resume operations and able to gain control of the wildfire.



Bosque County Office Of Emergency Management

July 9 · 🌐

:::NOTICE:::

Boaters on Lake Whitney need to remain clear of the aircraft that continue scooping water there.

Park Rangers there are being made aware and will assist in keeping boaters and pilots safe but we can do our part to help as well.

Tell anyone you know that may be boating there today to stay clear of the aircraft and the areas they're using.

This is NOT a time to try to get close for a photo op!

Thanks for everyone's help...

👍 239

10 Comments 838 Shares

Ranger Recognition



Jacob T. Kramer, Park Ranger, Buckhorn Lake, Operations Division, was commended for his actions on Jul. 28, 2022. During the early morning hours (0300) in what would later become a 1,000 year flood event, Park Ranger Kramer who resides in government quarters at Buckhorn Lake was alerted that a flood event was on-going in the tailwater campground area of Buckhorn Lake. This was a result of extreme precipitation occurring in a tributary adjacent to the Buckhorn Dam outflow tailwater called Squabble Creek.

Mr. Kramer immediately utilized his cross training in dam tending, back-up generator operation and rushed to completely close off the outflow of Buckhorn Lake to lessen the impacts of flash flooding downstream and quickly moved to evacuate Park Attendants and campers from the impending flash flooding. Ranger Kramer also assisted with the removal of unattended recreational camper trailers. Ranger Kramer's actions saved lives and protected thousands of dollars in public property damage and is hereby commended for his outstanding response actions.

Mr. Kramer is a valuable asset to the Buckhorn Lake team, Louisville District Operations Division, USACE and local community where he is a volunteer first responder on the local fire and rescue department.



National Public Lands Day

On Sep. 24, 2022, USACE projects joined with other federal land management agencies to celebrate the connection between people and green spaces in their community, inspire environmental stewardship, and encourage the use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits. USACE provided volunteer opportunities in conjunction with NPLD at 68 lake projects across 25 districts and all MSCs. Photos (clockwise) from Blue Marsh Lake (NAB), Green River Lake (LRL), John H. Kerr (SAW), Lake Sonoma (SPN), and Keystone Lake (SWT).



6,919
VOLUNTEERS
ENGAGED BY USACE



26,061
VOLUNTEER HOURS
PROVIDED TO USACE



\$777,288
VALUE OF
SERVICE



566
TIRES
REMOVED



86,329
POUNDS OF
TRASH REMOVED



10,833
LBS OF INVASIVE
PLANTS REMOVED



89
MILES OF TRAIL
MAINTAINED



270
PARTNERS
INVOLVED

