



American Recreation Coalition

*Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right
to health and happiness through recreation.*

November 3, 2000

Major General Hans Van Winkle
Deputy Commander for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
HQUSACE (CECW-ZA)
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Van Winkle:

Thank you for your interest and responsiveness to recreation community suggestions during our meeting on Wednesday, November 1. Our delegation felt the meeting was constructive and identified important opportunities for cooperation and progress in the days ahead. We will work with various Corps officials to focus our energies on high-priority, timely matters.

My meeting notes reflected the following action steps:

- 1) we will plan regular meetings, most likely quarterly, between Corps leaders including yourself and recreation community leaders, addressing an agenda developed in advance by ARC and your agency. John D'Aniello, Principal Assistant for Civil Works, and Derrick Crandall will coordinate these sessions and investigate development of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining mutual goals and priorities;*
- 2) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be a partner with ARC in the "Ranger for a Day" program, which will offer Members of Congress and others the opportunity to volunteer for a day at a Corps-managed recreation site. This initiative is planned to begin in May/June 2001;*
- 3) you will provide us with a bylined column on recreation activities of the Corps which ARC will distribute to key recreation publications. We suggest that the column provide basic background information as well as information regarding Corps initiatives and challenges relevant to recreation. Your new agency recreation brochure provides much appropriate information;*
- 4) you agreed to explore ways to highlight innovative recreation efforts by the Corps and to otherwise increase the visibility of the recreation efforts of the Corps;*



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5) ARC will work with John, Barry Holliday, Charlie Hess and others to focus on legislative issues, including National Recreation Lakes, fee demo, the Recreation Modernization Program, and the next water resources development act (expected in 2002). ARC has a very strong interest in expanding Corps recreation resources through retained fees and expanded concession operations;

6) you agreed to review the agency's position opposing cost-share funding of needed reconstruction at partner-managed recreation sites, especially state park agency-managed facilities;

7) we will work together to develop a stronger rationale for a national mission in recreation for the Corps, perhaps incorporating our view that increased outdoor recreation participation by youths today will improve the quality of future armed forces personnel, and

8) you will utilize your role as Co-Chairman of the Federal Recreation Lakes Leadership Council to encourage experimentation with new partnerships and outreach efforts to the recreation community.

We are delighted by the dialogue begun on Wednesday and by the prospects for better recreation opportunities for all Americans at Corps-managed sites across the nation.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,



Derrick A. Crandall
President

DAC/

cc: John d'Aniello, Principal Assistant for Civil Works
Barry W. Holliday, Chief, Navigation and Operations Branch
Charles Hess, Director of Operations
Darrell Lewis, Chief, Natural Resources Branch