

Recreation Management Support Program

by Dr. H. Roger Hamilton, Engineer Research and Development Center

Research and development in support of the Corps of Engineers' outdoor recreation management program has been conducted at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center since 1976. This activity was organized under a direct-allotted research program, funded and managed through the Civil Works Directorate of Research and Development. The program was originally called the Recreation Research Program, was later changed to the Natural Resources Research Program, and finally, was changed again, back to the original name.

The Recreation Research Program was abolished at the end of FY98 and a new program was established under the O&M General appropriation to provide research and technical support to Headquarters and field offices. The new program is known as the Recreation Management Support Program (RMSP). It includes research and other functions needed to support the management of recreation resources at Corps water resources projects.

Mr. David Wahus, CECW-ON, is the Program Manager, with oversight from the perspective of the national recreation program. Mr. Scott Jackson, CEERD-EN-R, is Project Manager with oversight of the technical aspects of research and development. A Recreation Leadership Advisory Team

comprised of representatives from projects, Districts, and Divisions has been formed to support strategic planning for the recreation business program and serve in an active advisory role to the Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch. The team consists of 15 voting members (8 Division, 4 District, and 3 project representatives) and 2 nonvoting members (the program manager and the project manager). They will meet semiannually each fiscal year to evaluate all proposals for funding in the RMSP and recommend priorities to HQUSACE (CECW-ON). Voting team members will normally serve 4-year terms. The Chair serves a 2-year term.

The initial team has been identified, although all positions have not yet been filled. Current team members are:

Voting Members

- Mr. Tom Peek, Center Hill Lake, Nashville District - Chair
- Mr. Don Dunwoody, Northwestern Division
- Mr. Brad Keshler, South Atlantic Division
- Dr. Mike Loesch, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division
- Ms. Elisa Pellicciotto, Southwestern Division
- Mr. Joe Sigrest, Mississippi Valley Division

- Mr. Phil Turner, South Pacific Division
- Mr. Mike Lee, Pacific Ocean Division
- Mr. John Marnell, Tulsa District
- Ms. Susan Shampine, Albuquerque District
- Mr. Dan Troglin, Portland District
- Ms. Sandra Campbell, Hartwell Lake, Savannah District
- Mr. Jim Carver, Enid Lake, Vicksburg District.

Members to be Determined

- North Atlantic Division
- District in North Atlantic Division

Nonvoting Members

- Mr. David Wahus, HQUSACE
- Mr. Scott Jackson, Engineer Research and Development Center

The team will meet each autumn for a strategic planning session. High-priority issues will be identified and priorities will be established. Each team member is responsible for obtaining input to the program from home offices, regions, and stakeholders, as appropriate. Issues of high priority will be assigned a field proponent and a research representative. They will develop a proposed study plan for consideration at the spring team

meeting. Statements of need and proposed study plans will be presented and reviewed at the spring meeting. The spring meeting will result in recommendations for new starts for the following fiscal year and any minor adjustments required for the ongoing work and the long-range work plan.

Two meetings have been held. Team members were installed and a Chair was elected at the spring meeting in Washington, DC, in June 1998. Ongoing work in the program includes assessment of

economic impacts of private boat docks and marinas, conclusion of the study regarding recreational needs of ethnic populations, and recreation trends analyses. The team has recommended study plans for investigating recreation benefits and the recreation infrastructure to assess the need for rehabilitation and modernization. Continuing research relative to ethnic populations and customer satisfaction surveys, as well as updating the Visitor Estimation and Reporting System, are under consideration.

It is critical that field offices participate in the planning process. The RMSP is intended to solve recreation-related issues that occur throughout the organization. Anyone who has a problem or issue that requires resolution beyond their capabilities should make their team representative aware of it.

Guidance on the RMSP was published on 1 October as Chapter 15 in Engineer Regulation 1130-2-550 and Engineer Pamphlet 1130-2-550.

Calendar of Events

April 11-13, 2000

Recreation Management Support Program, Leadership Team Meeting, Washington, DC.