



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# The Sign Post

A newsletter for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Program

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Rick Magee, Editor in Chief  
National Sign Program Manager

Jeff Mangum, Senior Correspondent  
and New England Bureau Chief

## Welcome to The Sign Post.

By Rick Magee, National Sign Program Manager

Thank you for taking a few minutes to read this second edition of *The Sign Post*. This newsletter is brought to you by the National Sign Program Mandatory Center for Expertise (MCX), located in the St. Paul District Office and the National Sign Advisory Work Group (SAWG), composed of representatives from eight Corps divisions, headquarters and the MCX. Contributions for future newsletters are welcome. Again, thank you for reading *The Sign Post*.

## Approach Directional Signs with Corps Signature.

Have you ever wanted to post signs guiding visitors to your *Corps of Engineers* recreation area? Are you near a state or national park that uses their agency logo on directional signs and wish you could do the same? Now you can, if permitted by the local highway authority. The Corps of Engineers Signature may be placed on APRDIR signs as shown in the revised Sign Standards. The Castle is placed below the bottom line of text, left justified. It may appear alone or with recreational symbols. See the Sign Manual, section 6, page 6-9 for more details on the format of this new option.



## Recent Sign Approvals



In 2007 HQ USACE, approved the sign to the left for inclusion in the Corps Sign Program after review and recommendation by the SAWG. This sign was requested by Robert C. Byrd Lock and Dam in Huntington District. A modification of an existing sign, this may be useful in many areas across the Corps. It is listed as DNG-23 in Corps SignPro and on the Gateway.

# Natural Resources Management Gateway

## The NRM Gateway Has A New Portal Direct to Signs

The NRM Gateway has the answer to many possible questions about the Sign Program. You can find links to the manual and sign software, policy, ideas, and suggestions. You can easily access the National Sign Program information on the NRM Gateway with the following new web address: [www.corpslakes.us/sign](http://www.corpslakes.us/sign) . The older, longer url will also get you through the Gateway to the Sign program. It is: <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/sign/sign.html>

## Sign Information, By the Numbers

In September MG Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, issued a tasker to Operations requesting specific information on signs throughout the Corps of Engineers. Here are some highlights from that study:

- There were over 460,000 signs reported.
- 333, 000 include the Corps Signature, 72% of all signs. More than 275,000 of those are boundary markers.
- Projects report twenty-one states permit the Corps to install its signs on highway rights of way.
- Six states will not allow the Corps to install its signs on state right-of-ways.
- Fifteen states permit Corps to install its signs in some highway districts but not in others.

## Important Reminder of Caution, Warning and Danger Sign Requirements

All caution, warning, and danger signs must use approved wording as shown in the Sign Standards Manual. All safety signs that have been approved are listed on the NRM Gateway. If you perceive the need for other wording, you must submit a Request for Nonstandard Safety Sign through your district and division sign program managers to the Sign MCX. The procedure and request form is found on the Gateway at

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/sign/pdfs/waiver.pdf> General guidelines regarding safety signs are found on pages 2.13 – 2.16 of the Sign Manual.

## Sign Maintenance Corner

By James Halbeison, UNICOR Sign Factory Manager

HDO plywood signs require periodic maintenance to keep your signs looking good. Although HDO is a high grade product, if moisture gets between the layers of the sign it will degrade it, reducing the life of the sign. To help prevent this, I recommend repainting the edge of the sign every couple of years. Clean and sand the surface of the edge on all HDO signs, then paint with the correct shade of Corps Brown. We use a wood filler such as 30-year DAP for any voids that appear on the edge of the plywood before we paint in the shop. It would not hurt to clean the face of the sign with Windex or All Purpose Cleaner at the same time to remove dirt, mold, and grime. [Note that instructions for obtaining Corps Brown paint can be found on the Gateway in the Good Enough To Share page of the Sign Program Section.]

## Meet the Chair of the Sign Advisory Work Group

By Rick Magee, Editor in Chief

The following are excerpts from an e-mail interview with Jeff Mangum, the SAWG Chair:

*Rick -- How long have you been with the Corps?*

*Jeff -- 15 wild and crazy years. I started as a co-op park ranger in June 1992.*

*Rick -- How long have you been involved in the sign program?*

*Jeff -- When I landed a permanent position at Tully Lake in June 1994 I became the sign maker at the New England District Sign Shop.*

*Rick -- How much do you love the sign manual?*

*Jeff -- Well, it's a touchy subject. Volume 1 has gotten all the attention lately and Volume 2 is understandably jealous. Let's just say I love them equally.*

*Rick -- What does, or could, SAWG stand for?*

*Jeff -- Sign Advisory Work Group or Signs Are Wicked Good.*

*Rick -- Summarize what does the SAWG do?*

*Jeff -- The SAWG supports the Sign MCX by reviewing nonstandard safety sign requests, sharing information between the field and the MCX, making suggestions to improve policy or practices, and helping with big projects like the manual revision or the development of SignPro. Although we'd like to meet quarterly in Hawaii, we usually meet annually at HQUSACE.*



*Rick -- What is your favorite memory working for the Corps?*

*Jeff -- Probably working on the temporary housing team in Alabama after Hurricane Ivan in 2004. It was my first disaster deployment and it was very different from my regular job. I interacted directly with disaster victims and experienced a unique camaraderie with the Corps team. I was charmed by the hospitality and environment of the Deep South, and I've been hooked on sweet tea ever since. They have signs in Alabama too!*

*Rick -- What would you like me to share about you?*

*Jeff -- I've been married for 13 years and have a 10-year-old daughter. Although I only have one child, I grew up with 4 brothers and 3 sisters.*

*What are your hobbies and interests? My three big ones are soccer, hiking, and motorcycling. I actually went to London this spring just to see an English Premier League soccer game. In my spare time I manage websites for my local library and the New England Park Ranger Association.*

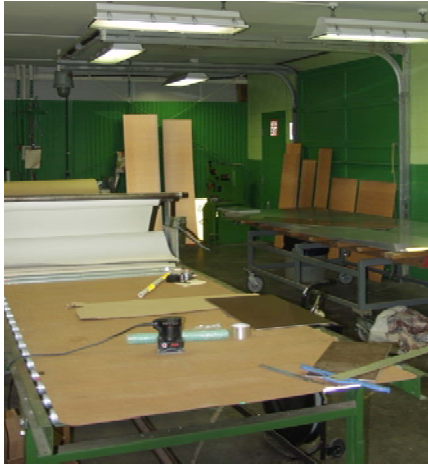
*Your favorite food? Oatmeal chocolate chip cookies. Please overnight them for ideal freshness.*

## Success with Signs

Have you a success story to share with your colleagues across the Corps? Perhaps you have found an innovative solution for a management problem using signs. Perhaps you devised an interpretive panel that helped reduce problems at a cultural resource site. Maybe you had a situation where a sign was removed and some other management technique was employed. If you have a sign success story to share, submit it as a "Good Enough To Share" item in the Sign Program Section of the NRM Gateway. It may also appear in a future edition of *The Sign Post*.



## Notes from the Kansas City District Sign Shop

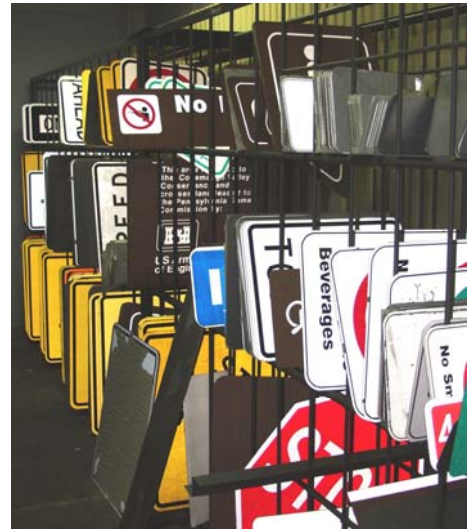


Located at Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir in Missouri, the NWK Sign Shop first began operation in the early 1980's as a silkscreen operation. Under the guidance of Greg Miller, NWK Sign Program Manager, the shop soon transitioned to computer graphics and vinyl cut lettered signs. The Truman Shop has produced signs for Kansas City and several other Corps districts.

The Kansas City District Sign Shop at Truman Lake now offers highly reflective signs, such as waterways signs. The

Truman Sign Shop recently acquired a new plotter capable of cutting 3M Diamond Grade™ and Avery Omni-View™ prismatic vinyl sheeting.

Planning to buy signs this year? Get your orders in early for a faster turnaround. Although the sign shop welcomes orders any time of the year, the fall and winter, especially January and February, are usually the slow time.



Contact Sign Shop Manager Lisa Freshler directly at 660-438-7317, ext. 3257 or from the NWK website at <https://w3.nwk.usace.army.mil/subpage.cfm?page=SIGN>

## Sign Funnies



Beauty is in the Eye of the beholder? Not ours!  
(Phil Sheffield, Omaha District)



We saw a new use for Corps signs!  
(From Ken Wenger, Kansas City District.)

Have you seen a funny, bizarre, or just unusual sign? Send your e-photo of it to [The Sign Post](#).

## Regarding Restricted Signs

By Debra Stokes, HQUSACE Sign Program Proponent

A friendly reminder to all sign program managers: We all know that legends for Warning, Caution and Danger signs not in the manual must be approved by HQ. However, we often forget that Restricted sign legends not in the manual must be approved at the district level per Chapter 6.2.b. of EP 1130-2-500.

[Editor's note: At the recent USACE Environment and Natural Resources Conference in San Antonio, it was announced that Debra has accepted a temporary assignment with the legislative liaison office of HQUSACE. She will still be staying involved with her usual work with partnerships and the sign program. We wish her every success.]

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### Contact Information:

Contact information for UNICOR:  
UNICOR Sign Factory  
Federal Prison Industries  
3901 Klein BLVD  
Lompoc, California 93436  
Phone: 805-735-6211  
FAX: 805-735-4507  
E-Mail: [jhalb@central.unicor.gov](mailto:jhalb@central.unicor.gov)

The Sign Post is produced by the National Sign Program Center for Expertise (MCX).  
Rick Magee, National Sign Program Manager  
USACE St. Paul District  
190 East Fifth Street, Suite 401  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101  
Phone: 651-290-5578  
E-Mail: [Rick.Magee@usace.army.mil](mailto:Rick.Magee@usace.army.mil)

### Final Thought:



(From Frank Star, St. Paul District)