# USACE Headquarters Natural Resources Program Update

Jeff Krause – HQUSACE Heather Burke - HQUSACE Pep Persio – Corps Foundation

February 9, 2021

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."









## **Today's Topics**

- USACE Natural Resources Management Updates Jeff Krause, Chief Natural Resources Management, HQ USACE
- USACE Partnerships/Volunteer Program Updates Heather Burke, National Partnerships and Volunteer Program Manager, HQ USACE
- USACE NRM and Partnership/Volunteer Resources
- Corps Foundation Updates Pep Persio, Corps Foundation Board Member and PLA Board Member

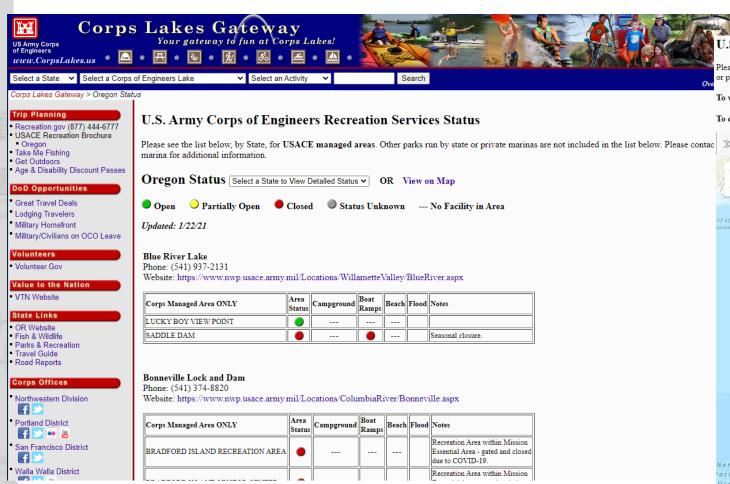




# **USACE COVID Response**

- Joined Recreate Responsibly coalition
- Created public website with recreation area status



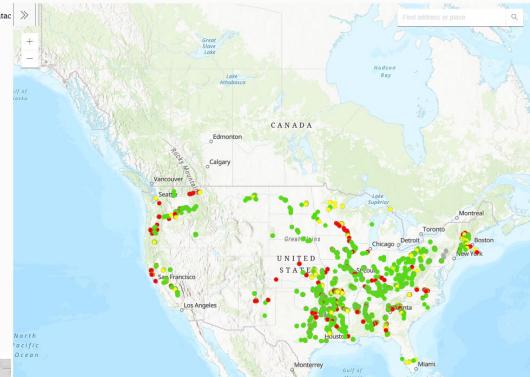


### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Services Status

Please see the Map for USACE managed areas. Other parks run by state or private marinas are not included in the list below. Please contact the state or private marina for additional information.

To view in a Table Display Select a State to View Detailed Status >

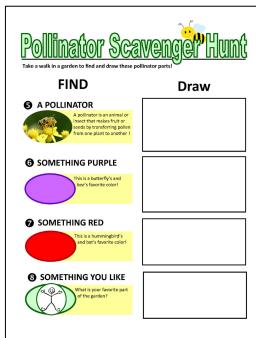
To control the map: use +/- to zoom, >> to view legend, and use mouse to drag/move map



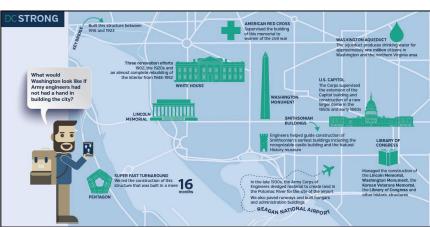
### **#USACE Educates**

- Grassroots effort by park rangers in response to COVID restrictions
- Created 28 weeks of online content for families to engage with at home
  - Let's Explore, Earth Day, Dams, Pollinators, Invasive species, Water safety,
     NRM Careers, Fishing, Trails, Army birthday, Every Kid Outdoors, Wetlands, Outdoor safety,
     Herptiles, Nocturnal animals, Ranger week, Extreme weather, Insects and bees, Back to school,
     Night sky, Biotic communities, Hunting, National Public Lands Day, Trees, Fossils, Spiders, Owl-ween









EXPAND YOUR WORLD

oin the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as we highlight a different educational topic each week complete with fun activities for everyone to enjoy!

#USACEeducates





## NRM Strategic Plan 2021 - 2031

- Replaces 2011 Recreation Strategic Plan
- 10-year plan expands focus to include national efforts and activities that support the field in the recreation and environmental stewardship programs
- 4 goal areas:
  - Workforce Build and cultivate a world-class team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.
  - **Communication** Effectively communicate the NRM mission to enhance understanding, support, and appreciation of the program by internal and external audiences.
  - Resourcing Apply consistently informed decision-making practices, adaptive approaches, and
    efficient use of available resources to deliver a quality NRM program.
  - **Program Delivery** Support and deliver innovations that sustain the NRM program to meet current demands and future challenges.
- Status: Final draft currently circulating for edits.
   Goal is to publish by April/May.









# FY 20 Partnerships/Volunteer Program

FY20 total partners: 2,528 (6% increase from FY 19)

Corps projects with partnerships: 254 of 403 (63%)

Total value of partnerships: \$ 113,077,957

(Corps: \$24.8 million investment/

Partner investment:

\$88.2 million)



**FY20 volunteers**: 20,437 vols, 1.07 million hours served, with a value of \$21.9 million





# FY 20 Partnerships & Volunteer Program Summary (Produced by the USACE Partnership Advisory Committee)

US Army Corps

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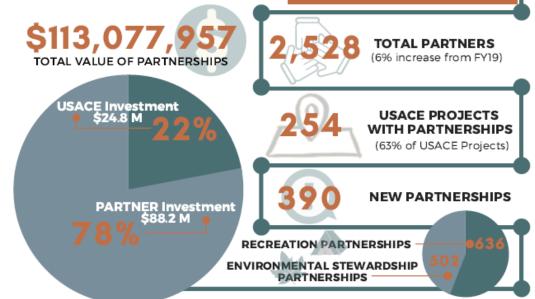
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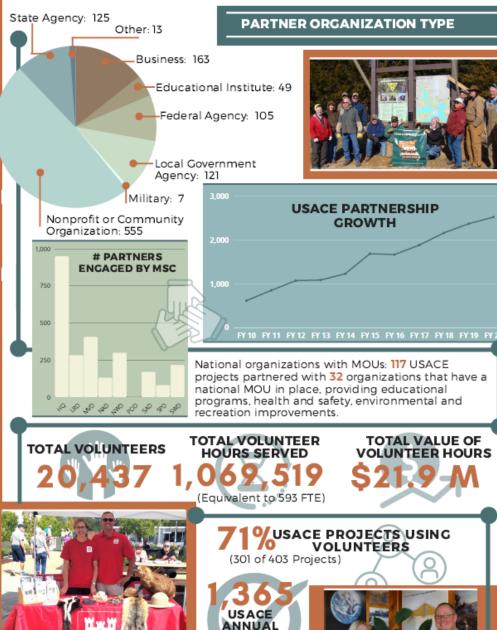
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Annual
Partnership
and
Volunteer
Program
Summary
sheet

At the start of FY 20, USACE and our partners could never have predicted what was on the horizon halfway through the year with the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the unique challenges that were presented, in typical fashion our partners and volunteers rose to the occasion and persevered through the difficult times to continue to provide vital services to the public and their communities. It is a true testament to the relationships and trust built over the years that USACE and our partnering agencies and organizations tackled the situation head on and collaborated in unprecedented ways to develop shared messaging, procedures, and innovations to meet the increased public demand and access needed as record numbers of returning and new visitors sought to improve their mental and physical health while visiting our nation's public lands and waters.







PASSES ISSUED

(for 100 hours of

volunteer service)

**US Army Corps** 

of Engineers

# Partnership Program Update

- Handshake Program: FY 21 winners announced in January. 206 partnerships funded since 2004. Total value \$16.4 M, 61% partner share (\$10 M).
  - Next request for nominations will be sent out in June/July. Due September 30.
- 2020 Excellence in Partnerships winner: Sesser-Valier Outdoorsmen Club, partner at Rend Lake (St. Louis District, MVD)
- 2020 Volunteer of the Year winner: James Zueger, Youghiogheny Lake (Pittsburgh District, LRD)



- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Legends/Beacon Award nominations: Due date TBD
  - Legends = lifetime achievement of Corps employee for recreation
  - Beacon = individual from the public or private sector leading the way on innovative partnerships, technologies or projects that improve recreation access, infrastructure, or funding solutions to recreation program needs
  - Will be awarded at the Partners Outdoors conference in Fall 2021





# Partnership Program Update

- ER/EP 1130-2-500 Chapter 11, Contributions Program: Consolidating ER/EP and 2008
   Contributions, Fundraising and Recognition Guide into an updated EC to address changes in the program
- New national cooperative agreement for youth conservation corps services: Signed agreement with SCA on February 1, 2021 (1 year plus 3 option years)
- PAC team member changes: Phil Manhart (MVD) and Taylor Baughn (SPD)
- Upcoming National MOUs
  - Outdoor Alliance
  - YMCA
  - (Pursuing new MOUs with National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and updating MOUs with Boys Scouts/Girl Scouts







### Benefits of Partnering with the Corps

- Potential for national exposure by partnering with a federal agency
- Variety of partnering opportunities because of the Corps' diverse missions
- Potential market branding to reach out to new customers
- One of the nation's leading federal providers of recreation
- We manage more than 400 lake and river projects equaling more than 12 million acres of land and water in 43 states.
- Our parks have significant economic impact, with visitors spending upwards of \$10.7 billion on trip expenses, strengthening the environmental, social and economic health of communities.
- 5,000 recreation sites with more than 93,000 campsites, 3,700 boat ramps, 7,800 miles of trails, of which 90% are within 50 miles of a metropolitan area

### Connecting with the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages some of the most cherished lakes, rivers and lands near your cities and towns. Communities are proud of their special place in our parks. Great family memories are created during a boating, fishing, camping trip, or after a quiet day of hiking or biking on one our many trail systems. These experiences are important in strengthening families and organizations. Our parks also have significant economic impact, with 250 million visits per year supporting 180,000 jobs in communities near Corps lakes.

With the help of our partners, we can provide more service to the public than without you by our side.

To find out more about partnering with the Corps please visit: https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/visitors/partners.cfm.





AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

Connecting with Communities

Mitchell, and Mary Coulombe presented the Excellence in Partnerships Award to the Okaw Valley School District for their partnership with Lake

Shelbyville in Illinois. Over 300 middle and high school students, project partners, teachers, and

elected officials were present for the award. The

school district leases land from the project which

provides a learning environment for the students

facility maintenance and operations. Businesses

equipment, and financial support. This partnership

funds which are matched by the partner, and in this

was started with Corps Handshake program seed

in land and water stewardship, recreation, and

in the local communities donate materials,

case significantly exceeded. This award is

sponsored by the Corps Foundation.

Natural Resources Management Excellence in Partnership Award: General Wehr, Colonel

### Partner Spotlight

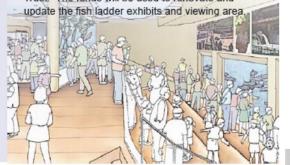
The Corps Foundation assists by partnering with a wide range of organizations including local Friends groups, private individuals and businesses to support educational activities which enhance our visitor's experiences.

To learn how you can work with our national foundation, visit the Corps Foundation website: http://corpsfoundation.org





\$400,000 Grant from Birkenfeld Trust
Provides Major Upgrades to Support Visitor
Education at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks
Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander,
acknowledges the single largest gift nationally
to a Corps of Engineers facility. Jim Adams of
Discover Your Northwest and Rich Deline of the
Corps Foundation, two non-profits supporting visitor
education at the Locks, accept the check from
Claire Bishop of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial
Trust. The funds will be used to renovate and



Partnering with the Corps information sheet



### A Final Note

In a time of decreasing federal funding, America's lakes and waterways are at risk of reduced access, eliminated programs, and closures. By partnering and working together, we can help maintain and improve programs and facilities and keep these treasured resources healthy and vibrant.



# US Army Corps Bridging the Gap

'Bridging the Gap' is an electronic publication produced biannually by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership **Advisory Committee** (PAC). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about partnerships and volunteer programs around the country. For more information, or to submit stories for future editions, contact your PAC team representative.

Volume 4, Issue 2

September 2020

### Your Partnership HQ Update

Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, HQUSACE

### Partnerships During a Pandemic

A lot has changed in the world since our last issue of 'Bridging the Gap' was released. We were in the very early stages of grasping the concept of a global pandemic and unknowingly about to shift into a completely different mode of operation. Many lake projects were just

gearing up to get ready for the busy recreation season, selecting volunteers, and working out the logistics of new spring partnership projects. None of us were truly prepared for what laid ahead, but in typical fashion our NRM team jumped right in and adapted to the changing situation! Many of our partner organizations have been economically hard hit by the pandemic. It is more important than ever that we keep open lines of communication and seek ways to work together to find 'wins' to get through these difficult times.

An example of one of the positive outcomes from COVID-19 has been the development of the Recreate Responsibly coalition. This partnership of more than 600 nonprofits, government agencies, outdoor businesses and individuals has created guidelines for getting outside and maintaining access to public lands. Between Memorial Day and July 4th weekend, the campaign reached more than 100 million people and continued to grow throughout the summer. This level of collaboration is unprecedented, and something that should pay dividends into the future for partnership projects.





Do you know who the PAC team representative is for your district? Find yours on page 8 of this newsletter!

### **Partnership Newsletter:**

### Saylorville Lake Archery Range

Justin Roy Edwards, Natural Resource Specialist, Saylorville Lake, Rock Island District

In FY 19, Saylorville Lake was a selected recipient of the Handshake Program funding. Saylorville Lake is located on the Des Moines River in central lowa, just north of the city of Des Moines. Partnerships and funding from the Handshake program have supported the development of an archery range in the Bob Shetler Recreation Area. The range will serve as a public space for archery practice, as well as an area for youth/adult archery programs with focused curriculum that teaches proper use and techniques of archery and other related outdoor recreation.

The Saylorville Lake Archery Range will feature a vault restroom, handicap accessible walkways, a small pavilion, nine ground level shooting stations and a three station elevated shooting structure. Located at the end of each shooting station are covered target structures which will be ranged at 10/20/30/40/50 yards. The construction of the range would not have been possible without the ongoing support of local partners who are dedicated to assisting us with providing this new outdoor recreation amenity. Several of our partners, such as the Carpenters Union - Local 106 and Boy Scouts continues show unwavering commitment towards of America - Troop 202, donated in-kind services to construct the elevated shooting and wooden target structures. Manatt's Inc. and Martin Marietta, building material companies, donated rock, concrete and other

materials. Sportsman's Warehouse. Bass Pro. and the National Wild Turkey Federation donated archery

supplies (bows, arrows, and targets) to support programming at the range.

Saylorville Lake is committed to providing quality outdoor experiences and recreation opportunities for all park visitors. This project supports the Saylorville Lake Master Plan vision and the newly signed Greater Des Moines Urban Wildlife Conservation Partnership MOU; which will engage a diverse urban community to nurture and instill an appreciation of wildlife conservation as well as provide the delivery of environmental education, interpretation and outreach programs. Ultimately, the archery range is just the beginning of what can be accomplished when partners work together, USACE environmental education as well as providing safe, fun and engaging recreation opportunities for park visitors in the surrounding Des Moines metropolitan area.

(A great way to find more about our outstanding partners and volunteers!)



https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/newsletter.cfm

# Resource: **Corps Lakes Gateway**

https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/ visitors/visitors.cfm

### Corps Lakes Gateway

Your gateway to fun at Corps Lakes! US Army Corps of Engineers

www.CorpsLakes.us

Select a State 

Select a Corps of Engineers Lake





Select an Activity







Over 400 lakes in 43 states!



January 14, 2021

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Services Status

Select a State to view current status of USACE lake or river project | Select State | View on Map

As America confronts the challenges of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), protecting the health and safety of the recreating public, volunteers and our government personnel is our highest priority. USACE is maintaining access to our projects by keeping day use facilities and lake access areas open such as boat launches, picnic areas, fishing piers, and viewing areas. These areas are, however, subject to evolving conditions related to COVID-19 and decisions may have to be made locally to close specific areas. For more information on the current status of USACE recreation area closures, we ask that you Select a State above to see current status of the USACE lake or river project before your visit. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

### Trip Planning

- Plan Your Trip!
- Recreation.gov (877) 444-6777
- USACE Recreation Brochures
- Day Use and Discount Passes
- New Senior Pass Information

### DoD Opportunities

- Lets Move

### Become a Volunteer

- Partnerships

### Educational Resources

- National Water Safety Program
- Office of Boating Safety
- White House for Kids

Social Media

- Corps Lakes Photo Album

- Gold Medal Award
- Great Travel Deals
- Lodging Travelers
- Military Homefront
- Military/Civilians on OCO Leave
- Every Kid Outdoors
- National Public Lands Day Sept 28
- Get Outdoors
- Take Me Fishing
- Discover Boating

Volunteer.Gov

### Become a Partner

- Natural Resources Management
- Corps Foundation

Recreation Strategy!

The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water

those natural resources, consistent with the ecosystem management principles, while

waters. Welcome to the Corps Lakes Gateway and please be sure to see our National

resources projects. It's Natural Resources Management mission is to manage and conserve

providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and

future generations. This site is your gateway to recreation opportunities at Corps lands and

Corps Lakes Corps Lakes on Your Phone! Get all Corps Lakes information while on the go On The Go

Learm more about Every Kid Outdoors!



KID OUTDOORS

Share Your Experience at Corps Lakes via Hash Tags

USACE Recreation Brochure - Enjoy Your National Lakes and Rivers



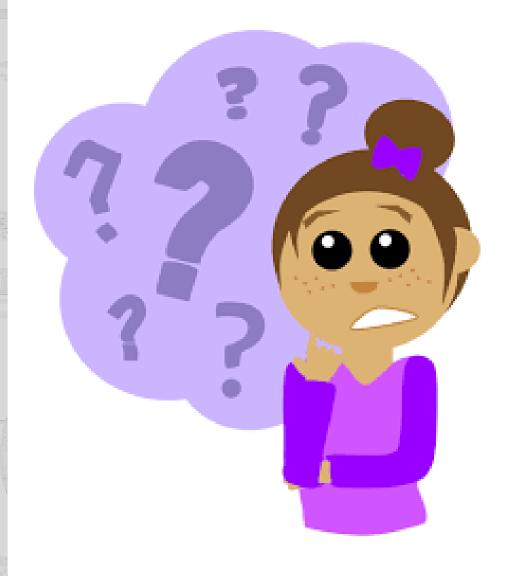
Recreational opportunities with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers! View Brochure by State



Corps Lakes Photo album Click on the photo album to view the Corps Album.

Happenings Around the Lake....

## Questions?



- What would you like to know about?
- How can we improve the NRM program? What are your needs?
- How do you see the Corps partnership program from the field/partner perspective?





# CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

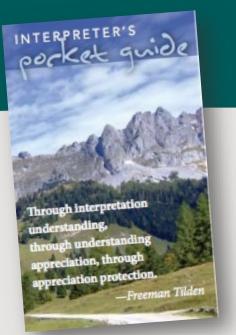


www.CorpsFoundation.org

## Corps Foundation Update



- Engages the public to support recreation, education, and stewardship at our nation's lakes, lands, and waterways administered by USACE.
- Purpose: Outreach, Education, and Advocacy:
  - Educate stakeholders about the USACE NRM program and how they can support it
  - Support projects through donations and grants
  - Facilitate partnerships and local friends groups
  - Serve as connection/hub for partner groups
  - Advocacy
- Products/Activities:
  - Recognition and award program support/funding
  - Cooperating association toolkit
  - Water safety campaign Over \$1 million in grants
  - Fundraising at Chittenden Locks for salmon viewing room upgrades Over \$1.1 million
  - Park Ranger Stories book
  - NRM Innovations Team support





TOOL KIT FOR DEVELOPING A COOPERATING ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



H US Army Corps of Engineers =





### **Park Ranger Stories**

"Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Carps of Engineers" b. a. diverse anthology of stories, interviews, and memories from Corps park rangers and other natural resource management 60 years. The stories range from program leaders in Washington, DC to seasonal employees and many people in between. Many of the stories are from people who helped shape what it means to wark as ranger and in natural resource management. This is an effort to



### Park Ranger Stories from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A Collection of Stories, Interviews, and Memories from Corps Park Rangers and Other Natural Resources Management Professionals

Joseph Patrick "Pat" Barry











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PANGER





## Corps Foundation Advocacy

### Our Advocacy & Areas of Emphasis

Lead efforts to encourage and support new legislative authorities for USACE NRM program by engaging in strategic partnerships with nonprofits, cooperating associations, the public and diverse like-minded groups, interests and organizations such as PLA, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, and National Marine Manufacturers Association

- Raise awareness about USACE NRM program at lakes, rivers and waterways
- Communicate our partnership role to enhance the visitor experience and help stretch limited federal dollars
- Educate public and partners about threats to access and use at USACE lakes, rivers and waterways
- Educate elected leaders about a piece of legislation and it's positive or negative impact
- Influence and reflect a view of a specific legislation through direct communication



# Corps Foundation Advocacy – 2020 Priority

### 2020 Priority during 116th Congress

Request legislative authority to conduct a study to quantify the infrastructure and unfunded maintenance needs in USACE NRM program, identify possible solutions, amendments to existing authorities and identify areas of revenue to fund required needs.



- \*\* FY2021 Appropriations Bill, House Report 116-449, July 15, 2020, Recreation Task Force
  - Develop a plan to maintain and enhance public recreational opportunities at Corps projects
  - Not later than 1 year provide initial report with historical review of recreation use and funding within Corps and assessment of overall condition of Corps recreation assets, including deferred maintenance and repair backlogs
  - Not later than 2 years provide final report including proposals to address needs identified. Corps is encouraged to solicit input and participation from outdoor recreation stakeholders and public

# 2020 Water Resources Development Act, House Congressional Record 166-134, July 29, 2020, Report on Recreational Facilities

No later than 18 months submit a report that contains (1) inventory of all recreational infrastructure and facilities; (2) assessment of annual operation and maintenance needs; (3) assessment of deferred operation and maintenance needs to operate safely at full capacity; and (4) assessment of economic benefits of recreation to local and regional economies and benefits of sustaining and improving public access at recreational infrastructure and facilities





# Corps Foundation Advocacy – 2021 Priorities (cont.)

### 2021 Priorities during 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

- FY 2022 Appropriations Bill
  - Provide funding to complete and submit the Recreation Task Force study to quantify the infrastructure and unfunded maintenance needs
  - Provide \$40 million additional funding in Annual Appropriations that specifically identifies an annual line item in Operation and Maintenance Account for Recreation program
    - » Establishes a directed amount of funding to Recreation program above that recommended by the Administration
    - » Funds the operation, maintenance, and care of existing recreation facilities and public access; and reduce unfunded infrastructure repairs needed to sustain existing facilities at their full capacity





# Corps Foundation Advocacy – 2021 Priorities (cont.)

### 2021 Priorities during 117<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Water Resources Development Act 2022
  - Amend WRDA 2016 cooperative management language to:
    - » Expand authority to nonprofits
    - » Allow handling/processing partner collected fees and return fees to partner for reinvestment
    - » Allow partners to set up agreements for multiple parks and reinvest fees collected in any park under the agreement
  - Establish a fund for USACE similar to the Great American Outdoors Act for recreation maintenance backlog





# Corps Foundation Advocacy – 2021 Priorities (cont.)

### **2021 Priorities during 117th Congress**

- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) 2022
  - Request reauthorization of FLREA and inclusion of the USACE in the scope of its authority. This retention of fees (~\$45-50M annually) should not create an offset of annual appropriations to the Corps Recreation budget.
     Legislation must include the prohibition of an offset
- Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act
  - Request USACE \$20M-\$30M set aside for roads, parking, bridges, trails and boat ramps deferred maintenance
  - FY2020 Funding (\$375M) Distribution:
    - » By statute the NPS (\$300M), FWS (\$30M), and USFS (\$19M) receive annual sums
    - » Based on application submissions from BLM, BOR, USACE (\$5M), and eligible Independent Federal Agency's, allocation amounts (\$26M) are determined by the Office of the Secretary of Transportation by use of a performance management model





## How to Help the Corps Foundation

### **JOIN US!**

### Consider an Annual Membership

- Individual (\$25-250/year)
- Business (\$500/year)
- Lifetime (\$1,000 One Time)



Be sure to put the Corps Foundation in your Amazon Smile account



The Corps Foundation is 100% volunteer operated



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