

NRM Partnership Agreement Approval Levels

This document is intended to provide a brief overview of available partnership authorities and approval requirements.
Corps personnel should coordinate all proposed agreements with their Office of Counsel.

Agreement Type	Authority	Special Considerations	\$ Value	Signature*
Contribution	33 USC 2325, Sec 203 of WRDA 1992	Acceptance level based on \$ value	< \$2,500: Any staff member \$2,500 to < \$100K: District NRM Chief/ OPM/ Park Manager \$100K to < \$500K: District Ops Chief \$500K to \$1M: District Commander >\$1M: Division Commander	No agreement to sign. District Contributions Plan provides authorization. *Reference: ER 1130-2-500, Ch 10, April 2025
Challenge Partnership	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992		< \$100K: District NRM Chief/ OPM/ Park Manager \$100K to < \$500K: District Ops Chief \$500K to \$1M: District Commander >\$1M: Division Commander	Signature based on \$ value *Reference: ER 1130-2-500, Ch 11, April 2025
Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management	WRDA 2016, Sec 1155		N/A	District Commander *Reference: ER 1130-2-500, Ch 14, April 2025
Cooperating Association	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992		N/A	District Commander
Economy Act	31 USC 1535		N/A	District Commander
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	No explicit authority required. MOUs are non-binding agreements that do not commit either party to do anything. However, the Corps must have authority to perform the activities or carry out the intentions referenced in an MOU.	Level of signature depends on complexity of agreement and level of partner signature	N/A	OPM, Operations Chief, District Commander or higher official - depends on which authority is cited (if any) and/or level of signature at partner organization. Agreements with regional or national implications should be coordinated with affected MSCs and HQUSACE.
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	Authorities vary. MOAs are used to document binding agreements between parties based on specific statutory authority (e.g., Economy Act agreements).	Depends on authority	Depends on authority	Depends on authority
Volunteer	33 USC 569c		N/A	Designated volunteer coordinators *Reference: ER 1130-2-500, Ch 9, April 2025
Cooperative Agreement - Noxious Weed Management	7 USC 2814	All cooperative agreements must be signed by a certified grants officer, regardless of \$ value. The authority for who can enter into the cooperative agreements varies depending on the specific law.		District Commander has authority to enter into the agreement once approved by HQUSACE. Grants Officer signs the agreement.
Cooperative Agreement- Educational/Training Activities	33 USC 2339, Sec 213 of WRDA 2000 as amended by Sec 1047(e) of WRRDA 2014			District Commander has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officer signs the agreement. *Reference 31 Aug 2015 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(e) Training and Educational Activities, of WRRDA 2014, PL 113-121 and Delegation Memos to all District Commanders
Cooperative Agreement -with Indian Tribes for fish/ wildlife, water quality, cultural resource protection	WRRDA 2014, Section 1031(b)			Director of Civil Works has authority to approve district MOAs and delegate authority to Division and District Commanders to enter into cooperative agreements. District Grants Officer signs the agreement. *Reference 03 August 2016 CECW-P Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1031(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, Cooperative Agreements (CAs) With Indian Tribes
Cooperative Agreement- Collaborative Research & Development (CESU Program)	10 USC 2358			Director of Army lab has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officers who have received delegated authority sign the agreement.

*Note: Signature levels listed are national standards. District Commanders have the authority to set stricter standards within their command. Check with your District Office of Counsel for further guidance.