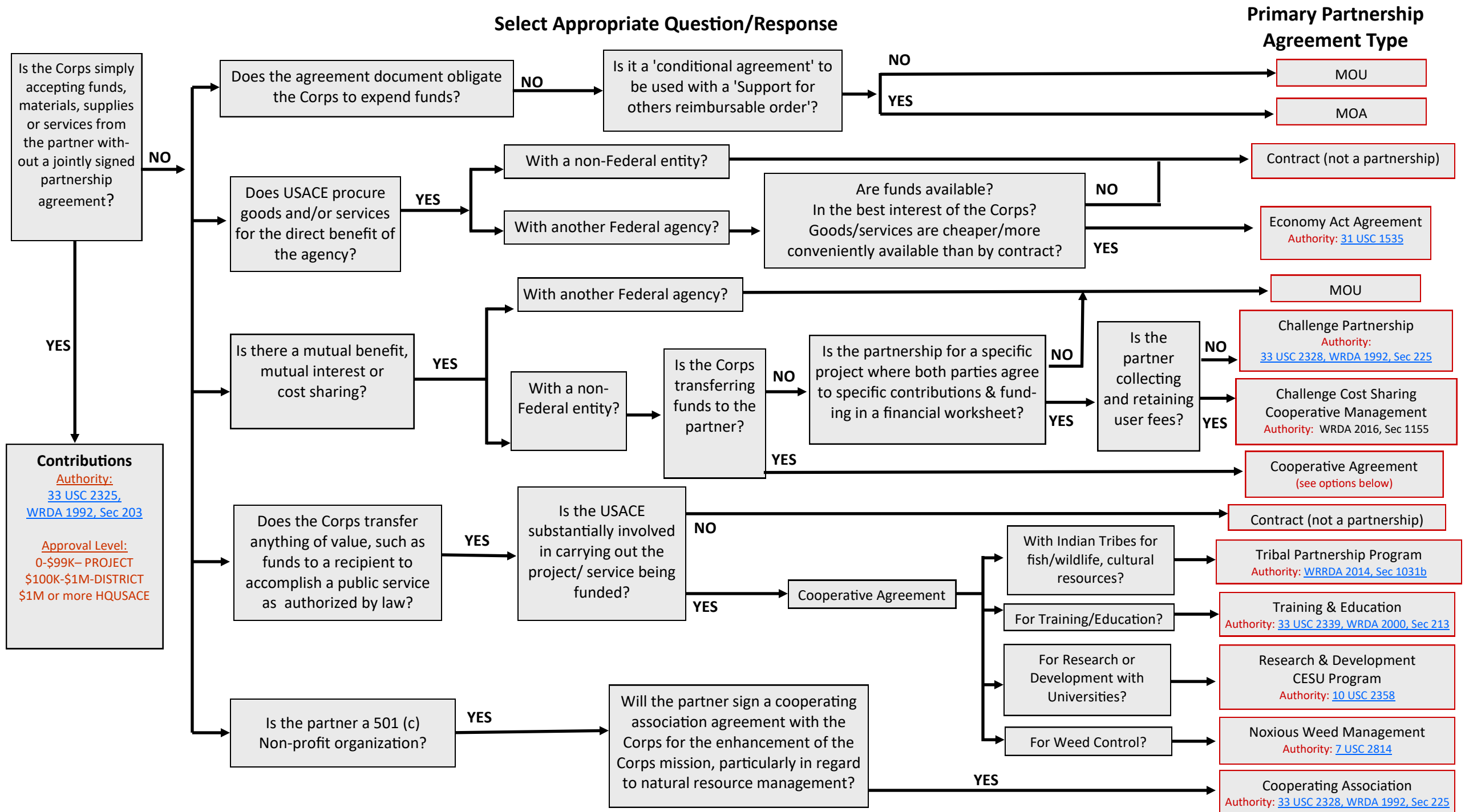


# USACE NRM Partnership Agreement Decision Tree

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)



# USACE NRM Partnership Agreements - Flow of Money/Contributions

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)

USACE ← \$\$\$ to us

**Contributions**  
(anyone except the project sponsor)  
  
Authority:  
[33 USC 2325](#)  
[WRDA 1992, Sec 203](#)

**Challenge Partnerships**  
(non-federal entity)  
  
Authority:  
[33 USC 2328](#)  
[WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#)

**Cooperating Association**  
(non-profit entity)  
  
Authority:  
[33 USC 2328](#)  
[WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#)

USACE ← \$\$\$ to us

**Challenge Cost Sharing  
Cooperative Management**  
(non-federal public entity)  
  
Authority:  
[33 USC 2328 WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#)  
amended by WRDA 2016, Sec 1155

USACE → \$\$\$ to partner

**Cooperative Agreement for Research  
& Development CESU Program**  
(Universities)  
  
Authority:  
[10 USC 2358](#)  
[WRDA 1996](#)

**Cooperative Agreement  
with Indian Tribes for fish,  
wildlife, water quality,  
cultural resources**  
(Indian Tribes)  
  
Authority:  
[WRRDA 2014, Sec 1031b](#)

USACE → \$\$\$ to partner

**Cooperative Agreement  
for Training/Education**  
(non-federal or non-profit)  
  
Authority:  
[33 USC 2339](#)  
[WRDA 2000, Sec 213](#)  
amended by [WRRDA 2014, Sec 1047\(e\)](#)

**Cooperative Agreement  
for Weed Management**  
(any State Agency)  
  
Authority:  
[7 USC 2418](#)

USACE ↔ \$\$\$ both ways

**Economy Act**  
(federal agency)  
  
Authority:  
[31 USC 1535](#)

## 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*
<b>Contribution</b>	<a href="#">33 USC 2325, Sec 203 of WRDA 1992</a>	Acceptance level based on \$ value	< \$2,500: Any staff member \$2,500 to < \$100K: Manager \$100K to < \$1M: District NRM and OC \$1M or >: HQUSACE OC, NRM, DCW *Reference 2008 Contributions, Fundraising and Recognition Reference Guide, Sections 5.2 and 5.3	No agreement to sign. District Contributions Plan provides authorization.
<b>Challenge Partnership</b>	<a href="#">33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992</a>	Signature based on \$ value	\$25K or <: delegable to OPM > \$25K to \$200K: delegable to Ops Chief > \$200K: District Commander *Reference ER 1130-2-500, Ch 12-2.k.	District Commander unless delegated to Operations Project Manager and/or Chief of Operations per ER 1130-2-500. Agreements involving projects in more than one district must be approved by MSC Commander or their delegate.
<b>Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management</b>	<a href="#">WRDA 2016, Sec 1155</a>		N/A	District Commander *Reference 30 Mar 2018 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1155, Management of Recreation Facilities, of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, PL 114-322
<b>Cooperating Association</b>	<a href="#">33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992</a>		N/A	District Commander
<b>Economy Act</b>	<a href="#">31 USC 1535</a>	Agreements w/ DoD entities	N/A	District Commander *Reference ER 1140-3-1, para. 6.
		Agreement w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the servicing agency	N/A	MSC Commander unless delegated to District Commander. *Reference ER 1140-1-211, para. 8.
		Agreements w/ non-DoD agencies where the Corps is the ordering agency	N/A	SES or General Officer. *Reference DoD FMR Vol. 11A, ch. 3, para. 030304.
<b>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)</b>	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.
<b>Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)</b>	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
<b>Volunteer</b>	<a href="#">33 USC 569c</a>	Delegation memo on file	N/A	District Commander unless delegated. *Reference 12 Aug 2016 CECW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, PL 113-121
<b>Cooperative Agreement - Noxious Weed Management</b>	<a href="#">7 USC 2814</a>	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.		ASA (CW) has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officer signs the agreement.
<b>Cooperative Agreement-Educational/Training Activities</b>	<a href="#">33 USC 2339, Sec 213 of WRDA 2000 as amended by Sec 1047(e) of WRRDA 2014</a>			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
<b>Cooperative Agreement -with Indian Tribes for fish/ wildlife, water quality, cultural resource protection</b>	<a href="#">WRRDA 2014, Section 1031(b)</a>			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
<b>Cooperative Agreement-Collaborative Research &amp; Development (CESU Program)</b>	<a href="#">10 USC 2358</a>			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.