

America's Great Outdoors

Connecting People to the Great Outdoors

Conserving & Restoring America's Great Outdoors

Working together—How the Federal Government Can Be a
Better Partner

AGO Process

- President's Roll Out—April, 2010
 - 700 Organizations and Individuals
 - 4 Principal Departments: CEQ, EPA, DOI, USDA
 - Other Departments: DOD, HUD, Education, DOT, DOC, **USACE**
- Listening Session
 - Over 50 nationwide
 - 105,000 comments
- Report to the President—February, 2011
 - First set of recommendations on the most “urgent” issues
 - Goals, Recommendations, Action Items
- Post Report Listening Sessions

What Did People Say?

- People want to enjoy and conserve the outdoors
- Need for access to safe, healthy, close to home, and easy to get to recreation opportunities
- Need to improve partnerships at all levels
- Need for better coordination and cooperation at all levels of government
- Youth are very concerned about not having access to the outdoors
- Youth want environmental education

Provide Quality Jobs, Career Pathways and Service Opportunities (1)

- 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC) to engage young people in public lands and waters restoration (1.1)
 - Interagency working group (USDA, DOC, DOD, **USACE**, EPA, DOL, OPM, OTHERS)
 - FACA advisory committee

- Improve federal capacity for recruiting, training, and managing volunteers and volunteer programs (1.3) and Partnerships for restoration and education (USDA, **USACE**, DOI, DOL, CNCS) (1.3b)

- Easy to use job locator web portal (1.2b)

Enhance Recreational Access & Opportunities (2)

- Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (USDA, DOC, **USACE**, DOI-multiple agencies) (2.1)
 - Coordinate and streamline recreation management, access, and policies
 - Recreation.gov improvements and expansion (**USACE** chairs management committee)

- Partner with schools for support outdoor activities (USDA, DOD, **USACE**, DOI, DOT) (2.2b)

Chapters With Limited Corps Actions

- Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors (3)
- Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors (4)
- Strengthen the Land & Water Conservation Fund (5)
 - Broaden guidelines for Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPS). *Corps relies on SCORPS for input into outgrant proposal reviews.*
- Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces (6)
- Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives (7)
 - Support the expansion of environmental markets through legislation, authorities, and coordination across agencies (USDA, DOC, DOD, **USACE**, DOI, EPA) (7.4a)

Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors (3)

- Action Items in this Chapter are primarily under the AGO Council (see 10)
- Activities include:
 - Public awareness campaign initiative (3.1)
 - Advance education of benefits of nature (3.1a)
 - Integrate outdoors, nature, place-based experiences in school and summer programs (3.2)

Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors (4)

Strengthen the Land & Water Conservation Fund (5)

- Action items may generally involve the Corps
- Fully fund the LWCF (\$900 million) (5.1a)
- Focus federal funds on landscape conservation, urban parks, green spaces, and river restoration and access (5.2)
- Invest a portion to increase recreation access to federal lands (5.2b)
- Broaden guidelines for Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPS). *Corps relies on SCORPS for input into outgrant proposal reviews.* (5.3)

Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces (6)

- Action items do not involve the Corps
- Activities include:
 - New Great Urban Parks Initiative
 - Priority areas for investments
 - Increase grants to states
 - Align federal programs to promote parks and green spaces (investments, technical assistance) (6.2)

Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests through Partnerships and Incentives (7)

- Coordinate and align federal programs for technical and financial assistance to support landscape-scale collaborative conservation initiatives (7.2a)
- Continue DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative to conserve land with value for military mission in partnership with governmental and non-governmental organizations (7.2c)
- Support the expansion of environmental markets through legislation, authorities, and coordination across agencies (USDA, DOC, DOD, **USACE**, DOI, EPA) (7.4a)

Conserve and Restore Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands and Waters (8)

- Manage federal lands and waters within a larger landscape context to conserve and restore ecosystems and watershed health (8.1)
 - Integrate large, landscape-scale conservation into federal land management plans and actions (USDA, DOD, **USACE**, DOI) (8.1a)
 - Through **USACE** *environmental stewardship programs* at existing facilities, plan and implement projects to restore and sustain critical watershed, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive areas (**USACE**) (8.1a)
 - Cultivate and support public agencies, non-profits and private landowners to conserve and restore landscapes (USDA, DOD, **USACE**, DOI) (8.1d)

Conserve and Restore Our National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands and Waters (8)

- Build climate change adaptation and mitigation into federal land management plans and practices (USDA, DOC, **USACE**, DOI) (8.2b)
- Develop science-based inventories and monitoring programs to assess the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife habitat regardless of ownership (DOI, USDA, **USACE**) (8.2b)
- Update water project master plans and shoreline management plans to identify and sustain important wildlife and fisheries habitats and corridors at **USACE** and BOR facilities (DOI, **USACE**) (8.3b)
- Elevate the importance of cultural resources planning, protection, and interpretation in federal land management agencies (USDA, DOD, **USACE**, DOI, ACHP) (8.7a)

Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters (9)

- Establish an AGO National Recreational Blueways Trail Initiative to increase access to recreation (9.1)
 - Develop transparent process to designate waterways (USDA, DOI, with DOD, **USACE**, EPA, and others) (9.1a)
 - Provide technical assistance and leverage investments to help plan and implement the initiative (9.1b)

- Increase access for water-based recreation (USDA, DOC, DOD, **USACE**, DOI) (9.2a)

Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters (9)

- Coordinate and align federal water resource management programs and resources (9.4)
 - Reduce fish passage barriers on federal lands, restore water quality and critical endangered aquatic species AND expand recreational fishing (USDA, DOD, **USACE**, DOI) (9.4a)
 - Develop a pilot project with state and local partners to integrate land conservation with watershed-scale water management (USDA, EPA, **USACE**, DOI) (9.4c)

Working Together for America's Great Outdoors (10)

- Make the federal government a more effective partner
- Establish an Interagency AGO Council (10.1a)
 - Chair—CEQ and OMB
 - DOI, USDA, EPA with DOC, DOD, **USACE**, HHS, HUD, DOL, DOT, CNCS, ACHP
 - One-stop access for federal agency rules, procedures, programs and information

Summary of Corps Action Areas

- Incorporate AGO messages into our programs
- Interagency Committees—FICOR, 21CSC, etc
- Landscape conservation partnerships
- Inventories, environmental markets, landscape planning, master plans and shoreline plans
- National Blueways Initiative
- Increase access to water-based recreation
- Expand recreation fishing
- Volunteers program improvement
- Pilot project for large-scale watershed planning

Legislative Proposals and Recreation Strategy

- Recreation Fee Retention (FLREA)
- Joint Cooperative Management of Parks
- Partnerships: expand authorities to improve partnership processes and capacity
- Volunteer program

Issues and Concerns

- HQ capacity for participation on national interagency committees
- Field capacity to develop and implement action items
- Field “initiative fatigue”
- Monitoring and reporting implementation activities
- Limited budgets and capacity at projects for new activities
- Leadership support

Next Steps

- Prepare information packages for MSC's, Districts, and Operations Managers
- Webcasts to inform field level managers
- Identify capabilities within existing budgets
- Identify gaps due to budgets
- Identify Action Item leads/POC's
- Work with other federal agencies on implementation plans
- Work with OASA(CW) on events

Information for ASA(CW)

- Potential Post Meetings with Stakeholders
- Congressional Calls
- Phone calls to key stakeholders—ASA(CW), HQ, Districts, Projects,
 - 1 pagers
 - Q&A's
- Press Releases—CEQ and **USACE**
- Social Media Updates—**USACE** website, Facebook
- ASA(CW) Schedule—Stakeholder, Youth events