

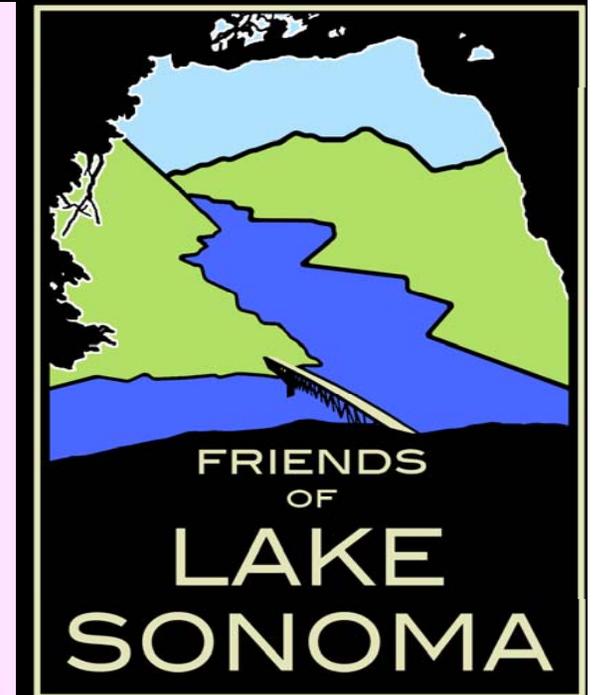
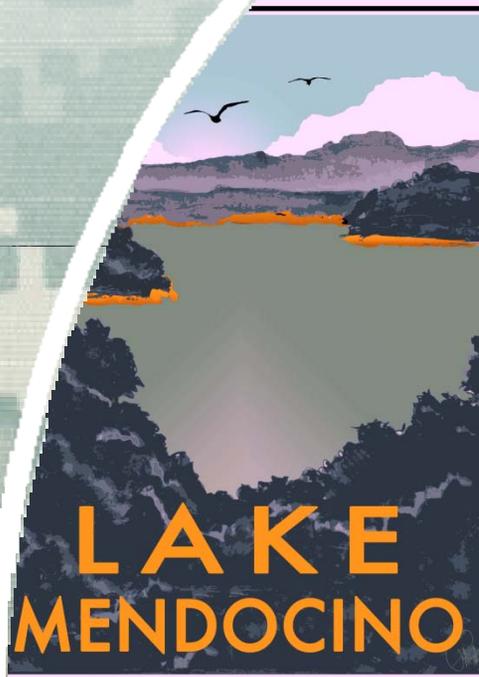
Creating a Cooperating Association at your Project

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US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG

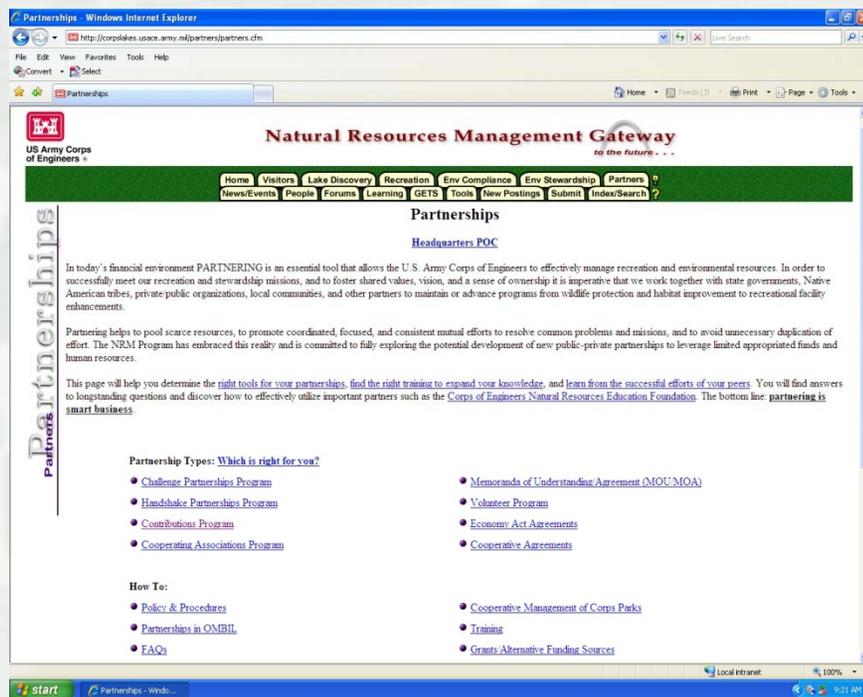
How do you eat an elephant?

- One bite at a time!
- Forming a cooperating association 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization to operate at your project is not easy, but can be done.



Resources available to you

- NRM Gateway
- Google is your friend!



Google™



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Choose your recruiter

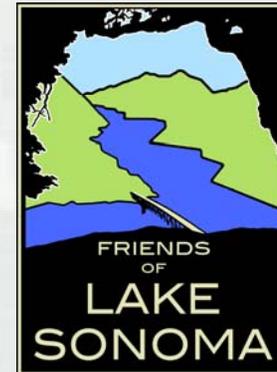
- Find “the party planner”.
- Who is your social butterfly?



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Recognizing potential board members

- Look to other organizations
- Look at your park visitors
- Look to your existing park partners
- Send in the social butterfly to begin informal discussions



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Advertizing

- Posters
- Flyers
- Press releases
- Word of mouth



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The first meeting



- Meet at a time that is convenient to most people.
- Food is your friend.
- Discuss what a friends group is.
- Ask for a vision of what the park could be.



The second meeting

- Find out who is willing to be an acting board member
- Begin to discuss the first steps to becoming a 501 (c)(3).
- Show a sample registration form for a tax payer ID. (the least intimidating of the IRS forms)
- Pass the hat.



IRS form 1023

Eating the elephant

- Very intimidating at first glance
- Provide all the “assistance” you can
- Commercial sales license etc.
- Attorney / accountant review



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Make the group aware of your park's potential



- Most “ideas” cost money
- Begin exploring revenue generating activities that your friends could use to make those “ideas” happen.
- Firewood, hunting, fund raising, grants, special events, etc.



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