

WRDA 2016, SECTION 1155 MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION FACILITIES: CHALLENGE COST SHARING COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS



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Authority



Amends WRDA 1992 Section 225 (33 USC 2328) Challenge Cost-Sharing Program for the Management of Recreation Facilities (also known as Challenge Partnerships), by inserting:

USER FEES:

- **Collection of fees:** The Secretary may allow a **non-Federal public entity** that has entered into a challenge cost sharing agreement to collect user fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, **whether developed or constructed by that entity or the Department of the Army.**
- Use of visitor **reservation services****: The non-Federal public entity may use, to manage fee collections and reservations, any visitor reservation service that the Secretary has provided for by contract or interagency agreement.
- Use of fees: The non-Federal public entity that collects the user fees **may retain up to 100 percent** of the fees collected, and shall use any retained amount for operation, maintenance, and management activities **at the recreation site (PSA)** at which the fee is collected.



Eligibility



Eligible non-Federal public entities for Cooperative Management:

- State governments
- County governments
- Municipality or local governments
- Public institutions of higher education
- Indian Tribes *(NOTE: There is strong emphasis by ASA(CW) to actively reach out to Tribes and explore opportunities for co-management)*

Eligible areas:

- Project Site Areas (PSAs) on Corps fee-title land (or any land on which the Corps fully operates and maintains PSAs, including Tribal lands)
- PSAs that the Corps has historically fully operated and maintained (never outgranted)
- Previously outgranted PSAs where the lease was terminated prior to 4 April 2018
- PSAs that are outgranted where the lease was terminated after 4 April 2018 must receive written approval from the Assistant Secretary of Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)). *** (This requirement will be removed in ER update)*



Competition Requirement



- Notice to eligible non-Federal public entities:
 - Criteria and evaluation method for the notice to be developed by Operations Project Manager (OPM) with input and review by District Operations Chief and District Commander
- Notice distributed by District Commander
 - Avenues for distribution may include, but are not limited to district/project websites and social media pages, press releases through local/regional news media outlets, newsletters, PSA bulletin boards, etc.
 - Notices must be posted for a minimum of 10 calendar days
- Multiple public entities may submit a joint proposal to co-manage and operate one or more PSAs



Press Release/Public Notice Examples



The US Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Sidney Lanier is seeking non-Federal public entities to submit proposals for the co-management of certain recreation areas at Lake Sidney Lanier. Non-Federal public entities are limited to state, county, municipal or local governments, public institutions of higher education, and Indian Tribes.

These partnerships will be entered into under a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement made possible by authority established under Public Law 114-322.

The purpose of the agreements is to “share the cost” of operations and maintenance of the recreation areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Sidney Lanier is “right sizing” the federal recreation program to remain within appropriated funds received. Options to accomplish this goal are: 1) a direct lease, 2) a cooperative management agreement, or 3) close some recreation areas. “The cooperative management option appears to be the best option, it is a win, win, win” said XXXXXXXXXXXX.

Benefits in cooperative management include:

USACE Benefits:

- Cost savings for current management, operations, and maintenance expenses.
- Sharing costs maintains eligibility of the recreation site to receive Corps appropriations.
- User fees collected will be reinvested in the recreation site instead of being deposited in the US Treasury. (User fees collected stay local)

Partner Benefits:

- Partners may retain up to 100% of the user fees collected to offset their costs of management, operation, and maintenance of the recreation site and will reinvest any retained amount for the management, operation, and maintenance of the recreation site. (User fees collected stay local)
- May serve to satisfy partners mission of increasing their recreational opportunity and/or greenspace inventory for quality-of-life improvements.
- Cost sharing instead of the full burden of management, operation, and maintenance on the Partner.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, is seeking proposals from Non-Federal Public Entities to enter a Challenge Cost-Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA) for the purpose of co-managing recreational sites with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The recreational sites under consideration are located at Lake Sidney Lanier and include the following areas:

- Bald Ridge Campground – Forsyth County, GA
- ~~Sawnee~~ Campground – Forsyth County, GA
- Toto Creek Multi-Use (Campground and Day Use) Park – Dawson County, GA
- Thompson Creek Day Use Park – Dawson County, GA
- Nix Bridge Day Use Park – Dawson County, GA
- Bolding Mill Campground – Hall County, GA
- Bolding Mill Day Use Park – Hall County, GA
- Duckett Mill Campground – Hall County, GA
- Duckett Mill Day Use – Hall County, GA
- Old Federal Campground – Hall County, GA
- Van Pugh South Campground – Hall County, GA

Non-Federal public entities include a state, county, municipality or local government, public institutions of higher education, and Indian Tribes.

USACE Benefits:

- Cost savings for current management, operations, and maintenance expenses.
- Sharing costs maintains eligibility of the recreation site for Corps appropriations.
- User fees collected will be reinvested in the recreation site instead of being deposited in the US Treasury. (User fees collected stay local)

NOTE: Advertising a PSA does not mean they will all get picked by a partner. Some of these were not selected.



Selection of Cooperating Partner Entity



- Evaluation of proposals
 - Applicant must have management capability and adequate financial and technical resources to execute the program
 - Must have satisfactory record of executing recreation/natural resource programs
 - Past experience with the applicant should be a consideration factor
- Selection
 - OPM will review proposals and make recommendations to the District Operations Chief and District Commander based on selection criteria provided in the notice
 - District Commander has the final partner selection approval and signature authority for the Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA)



Selection of Cooperating Partner

Example from Lake Lanier

CESAM-OP-SL

21 July 2023

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MEMORANDUM THRU Chief, Operations Division

FOR Commander, Mobile District

SUBJECT: Recommended Selection of Partners for Challenge Cost Sharing
Cooperative Management Agreements

1. FOR DECISION.

2. PURPOSE: To provide results of the selection process.

3. RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commander, Mobile District approve the selections of: Dawson County Parks and Recreation Department, Forsyth County Parks and Recreation Department, and Hall County Parks and Leisure Services as partners for Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreements. Rationals for selections are discussed in Tab A for all selectees.

APPROVED _____ SEE ME _____ OTHER _____

4. REFERENCE:

a. Memorandum dated 4 April 2018, Subject: Implementation Guidance for Section 1155 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Management of Recreation Facilities.

b. Memorandum dated MAR 30, 2018, Subject: Implementation Guidance for Section 1155, Management of Recreation Facilities, of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Public Law 114-322.

5. BACKGROUND:

a. A Press Release was issued by Mobile District PAO announcing the request for proposals Notice for non-Federal Public entities to submit proposals for entering a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the cooperative management of certain recreation sites located at Lake Sidney Lanier.

b. The Notice was placed on the Project website.

c. Three proposals were received from three non-Federal Public Entities.



Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA)



- Required document to establish the terms, conditions, administration, and responsibilities of the Corps and the partner(s)
- Must use model agreement template
 - Model specifies areas where the Corps and partner have discretion to determine their respective operation and management responsibilities and contributions via negotiation
 - Any substantive deviations from all other provision of the model must be approved by the ASA(CW)
- Signed by District Commander (cannot be further delegated)
- Term:
 - Limited to an initial term of 5 years, with additional 5 option years without need for further competition
 - Option years must be executed within 30 days of initial term expiration
 - Beyond 10 years, partner must re-compete for opportunity



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**CHALLENGE COST-SHARING COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT
(CCSCM)
FOR RECREATION FACILITY
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AND
(ENTER NON-FEDERAL PUBLIC ENTITY HERE)**

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this day of ____, 20__, by and between the Department of the Army (hereinafter the "Government"), represented by the District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District ____, and ____, (hereinafter the "Partner"), represented by _____.

WITNESSETH, THAT:

WHEREAS, the Partner is a non-Federal public entity that desires to assist the Government in the operation and management of *[insert Project Site Area(s)]* at *[Insert Corps project name]* (hereinafter referred to as the "Project Site Area") by providing goods and services specified herein at no cost to the Government;

WHEREAS, Section 225 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, P.L. 102-580, as amended, authorizes the Government to enter into agreements with non-Federal public entities to provide for the operation and management of recreation facilities and natural resources at civil works projects where such facilities are being maintained at complete Federal expense and permit the non-Federal public entities to collect and utilize user fees for the operation, maintenance, and management activities at such sites, and,

WHEREAS, the Government and the Partner have the full authority and capability to perform as hereinafter set forth and intend to cooperate in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, the Government and the Partner agree as follows:

ARTICLE I – SCOPE



CCSCMA Required Template



Partner Operations Plan (POP)



- Required document **developed by the OPM and partner (no national template)** that outlines the respective operations, management, and development activities to be undertaken by the Corps and the partner(s) over a specified period of time (*Lanier POPs ranged from 15-29 pages for 5-year terms. Allatoona POP is 2 pages for 1 year term*)
- May span the entire duration of agreement or a shorter period of time agreed upon by parties
- May be modified at any time by mutual written agreement approval by the OPM and partner representative
- Annual budget: Partner must submit a proposed annual budget to OPM for review and approval
- Partner is limited to activities and funding limits set forth in the Partner Operations Plan and Annual Budget.
- **NOTE: It is also important to work in close coordination with your District business line managers to identify how any cost savings will be used/reinvested.**

ENCLOSURE 2

Partner Operations Plan – Dawson County

Pursuant to Articles I and II of the Challenge Cost Share Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA) dated November 14, 2023 between the US Army Corps of Engineers and Dawson County Parks and Recreation for the Operations and Management of Toto Creek Multi-Purpose Park, Thompson Creek Park, and Nix Bridge Park at Lake Sidney Lanier, this Partner Operations Plan is jointly developed and mutually agreed to describe the responsibilities and authorities of the parties.

For the five year term

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance:

- Maintenance of buildings, structures, facilities, trails, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Maintenance of signs, barricades, bumper blocks, posts, guardrails, gates, fencing, and traffic counters as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Natural resource management and pest control services as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Maintenance and repair of paved roads, parking areas, launching ramps, road shoulders, and drainage structures as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Dead and/or hazardous tree removal as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Provide potable water service.
- Provide electric service.
- Provide Park Ranger Patrols as executed under the Corps Visitor Assistance Program including enforcement of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes campground rules.
- Non-household refuse removal.

Dawson County Parks and Recreation will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance of Nix Bridge Park:

- Cleaning, custodial, and refuse removal services similar to that described in Enclosure 2 Tab B.
- Grass mowing, weeding, edging, and pruning of shrubs and plants similar to that described in Enclosure 2 Tab B.
- Park Host duties similar to that described in Tab C
- Collect recreation user fees.
- Perform reservation services operation and management.
- Provide an internet-based reservation system/platform.

ENCLOSURE 2

Partner Operations Plan – Hall County

Pursuant to Articles I and II of the Challenge Cost Share Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA) dated November 14, 2023 between the US Army Corps of Engineers and Hall County Board of Commissioners for the Operations and Management of Bolding Mill Multi-Purpose Park, Duckett Mill Multi-Purpose Park, and Old Federal Campground at Lake Sidney Lanier, this Partner Operations Plan is jointly developed and mutually agreed to describe the responsibilities and authorities of the parties.

USACE will maintain complete responsibility for the management, operations, and maintenance of the Day Use portions of Bolding Mill and Duckett Mill Multi-Purpose parks.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Campground portions of Bolding Mill Multi-Purpose Park, Duckett Mill Multi-Purpose park, and Old Federal Campground:

- Maintenance of buildings, structures, facilities, trails, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Maintenance of signs, barricades, bumper blocks, posts, guardrails, gates, fencing, fire extinguishers, and traffic counters as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Beach maintenance as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Natural resource management and pest control services as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Maintenance and repair of paved roads, parking areas, launching ramps, road shoulders, and drainage structures as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Dead and/or hazardous tree removal as described in Enclosure 2 Tab A.
- Provide potable water service.
- Provide electric service.
- Provide Park Ranger Patrols as executed under the Corps Visitor Assistance Program including enforcement of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes campground rules.
- Non-household refuse removal.

Hall County Parks and Leisure Services will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Campground portions of Bolding Mill Multi-Purpose Park, Duckett Mill Multi-Purpose park, and Old Federal Campground:

- Cleaning, custodial, and refuse removal services similar to that described in Enclosure 2 Tab B.
- Grass mowing and pruning of shrubs and plants similar to that described in Enclosure 2 Tab B.
- Park Attendant duties similar to that described in Tab C:
- Collect recreation user fees.
- Perform reservation services operation and management.
- Provide an internet-based reservation system/platform.
- Provide internet or satellite services – (anything that will allow the operation of the reservation system in the gatehouse.)
- Provide communications service to the gatehouse for public communications (Telephone, Voice Over Internet Protocol, etc...)



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Fee Collection and Fiscal Management

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- Partner may collect Recreation Use Fees and Special Use Permit Fees (as defined by ER 1130-2-550 Chapter 9)
- Partner may retain up to 100 percent of the fees for Operation, Maintenance, Management activities at the PSA where the fees were collected
- Sites/facilities where fees are collected can be developed by the partner or the Corps
- May only charge fees according to Chapter 9 guidance, utilizing Corps fee schedule
- Partner must accept America the Beautiful (ATB) and Corps Annual Day Use passes and discounts
- Partner may charge fees for outdoor recreation equipment and services provided for visitor use (i.e firewood, ice, laundry, shower, dump station, rent-a-tent, kayaks)
- All monies received must be used by the partner in accordance with the Partner Operations Plan and approved annual budget
- Partners may use fees to fund contractors and partner staff (term, temporary, seasonal or permanent)
- **Partner must provide annual statement of receipts and expenditures to District Commander (via the OPM and District Operations Chief)**



Construction and Equipment



- Partner may construct facilities and acquire equipment to operate/maintain the PSA, as approved in the Partner Operations Plan
- All partner constructed facilities and equipment funded from user fees will become property of the Corps
- The Corps may provide/loan equipment, materials, and supplies to the partner to operate and maintain the PSA
- Partner staff may operate Government-owned vehicles, vessels, and equipment with proper training/licensing according to Corps standards
- Partner may procure and manage contracts for services as required under the CCSCMA and the Partner Operations Plan



Other Key Points



- **Use of R1S reservation service: Need to get new legislative authority to handle the fee collection and disbursement to the partner or Booz Allen Hamilton needs to handle all fees.** In the meantime, partner can use their own reservation system (with information and link/phone number on Rec.gov website) or collect fees on first come-first served/no-reservation basis.
- **CCSCMAs do not require a partner to receive an outgrant or other form of real estate interest**
 - The Corps reserves the right to grant real estate interests within the co-managed PSA and it is the Corps' sole responsibility to administer requests, make awards, and manage grants for real estate interests within the co-managed area.
 - If the partner desires to receive a real estate interest from the Corps to perform activities beyond the scope of the CCSCMA (such as a concessionaire lease), districts and project offices will handle those requests in accordance with existing real estate regulations. The partner will not receive preference or an advantage as a result of a CCSCMA.
- **No fixed rate of cost share.** Percentages are determined by mutual agreement between the Corps and the partner(s). The roles of each entity are flexible. At the very minimum, the Corps must continue to provide visitor assistance ranger patrols.



Required Documents



- CCSCMAs do not involve a contract or Real Estate Instrument.
- Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement (CSCMA) template: The template must be used. This is the overarching agreement. **It must be executed (signed) by the District Commander after District Ops Chief and Office of Counsel review.**
- Partner Operations Plan (POP): This describes in detail the responsibilities and duties of each party. It is developed jointly between the partner and the OPM. **It is signed by the partner representative and the OPM** after execution of the CCSCMA.
- Partner Budget: Developed by the partner and approved by the OPM.



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Potential Benefits of CCSCM Agreements

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To the Corps:

- Cost savings: Partner takes over some of the O&M costs
- Less contracts: Partner can potentially take over some/all contracts within the PSA
- Better services/longer seasons: Diminished budgets = diminished services/park closures. This may be a way to keep areas open that are at risk of closure or shorter seasons.
- Visitation: In contrast to a full outgrant, the Corps gets to count their visitation at a co-managed PSA
- Fee retention: Partner collected fees get reinvested into the PSA for operations and upgrades

To the Partner:

- Fee collection/retention: Can use to pay for more staff, increase operational capacity of their organizations
- Partners that might not be able to afford O&M of a full outgrant, might be able to co-manage a PSA with the Corps
- Similar mission: Desire to provide quality recreation opportunities for the public beyond what they already own, operate and maintain
- Hands on experience: If a public university partners to co-manage, provides recreation students real life experience and funds their salaries.

To the Public:

- Park improvements
- Longer seasons, better services, open parks



CCSCMA in action: Allatoona

- USACE signed CCSCM agreements with Bartow County in January 2024
- Co-management of:
 - McKinney Campground (CG)
 - McKaskey Creek CG
 - Old 41 #3 CG
 - Upper Stamp Creek CG
- First year POP, partners will provide:
 - Fee collection
 - Reservation services
 - Internet for gatehouse
 - Water/electric service
 - Trash collection
 - Septic pumping

Partner Operations Plan – USACE and Bartow County

Pursuant to Articles I and II of the Challenge Cost Share Cooperative Management Agreement (CCSCMA) dated XXXXX between the US Army Corps of Engineers and Bartow County for the Operations and Management of McKinney Campground, McKaskey Campground, Upper Stamp Creek Campground and Old 41 #3 Campground, this Partner Operations Plan is jointly developed and mutually agreed to describe the responsibilities and authorities of the parties.

For the initial term (year 1)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance of McKinney Campground, McKaskey Campground, Upper Stamp Creek Campground and Old 41 #3 Campground:

- Maintenance of buildings, structures, facilities, trails, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems.
- Maintenance of signs, barricades, bumper blocks, posts, guardrails, gates, fencing, fire extinguishers, and traffic counters.
- Beach maintenance.
- Natural resource management and pest control services.
- Maintenance and repair of paved roads, parking areas, launching ramps, road shoulders, and drainage structures.
- Dead and/or hazardous tree removal.
- Provide potable water service.
- Provide electric service.
- Provide Park Ranger Patrols as executed under the Corps Visitor Assistance Program including enforcement of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes campground rules.
- Non-household refuse removal.
- Cleaning services for all facilities
- Mowing once per 3 weeks during recreation season

Bartow County will provide the following services for the management, operation, and maintenance of McKinney Campground, McKaskey Campground, Upper Stamp Creek Campground and Old 41 #3 Campground.

- Collect recreation user fees.
- Perform reservation services operation and management.
- Provide an internet-based reservation system/platform.
- Provide internet or satellite services in the gatehouse – (anything that will allow the operation of the reservation system in the gatehouse.)
- Provide potable water service.
- Provide electric service.
- Provide dumpster service for trash collection/removal.





CCSCMA Success Story: Lake Lanier



Hall County Parks WIN

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1740020473177136&extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing&mibextid=Nif5oz

- USACE signed CCSCM agreements with Hall County, Dawson County, and Forsyth County in 2023
- Co-management of:
 - Toto Creek Multiuse Area
 - Nix Bridge Day Use
 - Thompson Bridge Campground
 - Bolding Mill Campground and Day Use
 - Duckett Mill Campground and Day Use
 - Old Federal Campground
 - Van Pugh South Campground
 - Bald Ridge Campground
 - Sawnee Campground
- Partners will provide maintenance, cleaning, fee collection



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Lessons Learned: Lake Lanier

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- There were not partners knocking on our door to co-manage parks. USACE needed to “sell” the opportunity to them and convince the partner it was in their best interest.
- Items that USACE pulled together to inform the potential partners:
 - “Park cost” data sheet showing historical averages of revenues/expenditures broken out by type and location to show which parks typically operate in the red and which parks typically operate in the black.
 - EC 1130-2-550 Ch. 9 (Highly encouraged them not to take cash)
 - Park maps (master plan sheets)
 - 36 CFR 327
 - Campground rules
 - OMB circular A-87 (costs they incur that are eligible to be costed against the user fees)
 - Information on the ATB passes they would have to honor (Not required to sell, but must honor)
 - Utility maps and information
 - Approved fee schedules (SAD is allowing an out of cycle change)
 - Facility inventories
 - Copies of WRDA
- Walked each park with partners to provide background and history of operational issues and conditions of facilities.



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Lake Lanier Park Improvements

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- Identified infrastructure work recently accomplished:
 - Bolding Mill CG shower house roof replacement
 - Bolding Mill CG dump station septic replacement – in progress
 - Old Federal CG erosion control
 - Sawnee CG site rehabilitation
 - Sawnee CG erosion control
 - Bald Ridge CG shower house replacement
- Identified infrastructure work planned:
 - Duckett Mill dump station septic replacement (funds in hand - planned for next seasonal closure - October 2024)
 - Bald Ridge CG shower house replacement (bid bust - seeking additional funds)
 - Bald Ridge Campground dump station septic replacement (bid bust - seeking additional funds)
 - Sawnee CG connection to City Sewer (bid bust - seeking additional funds)
 - Bald Ridge shower house replacement (bid bust – seeking additional funds)

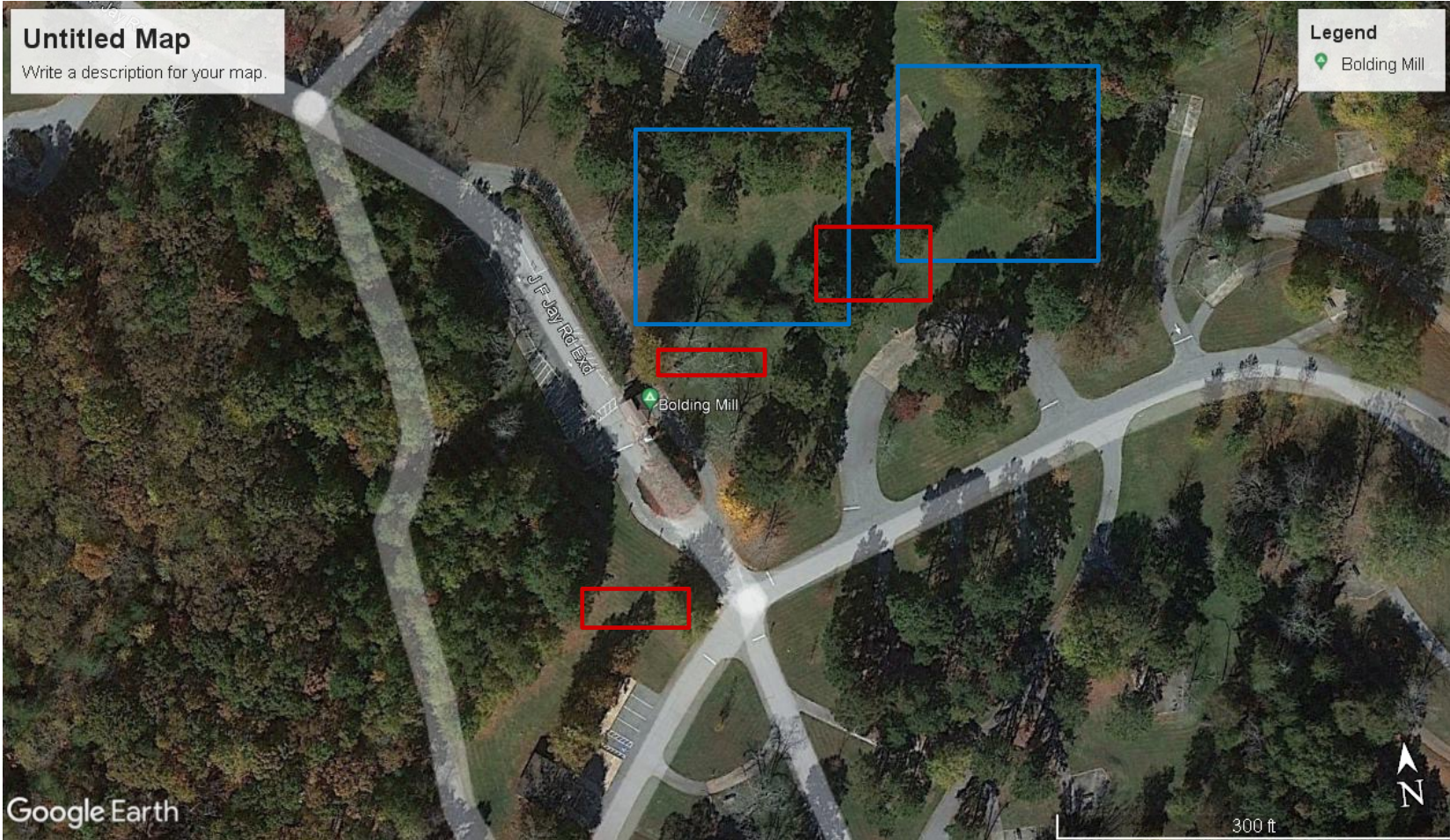


BOLDING MILL SHOWER HOUSE ROOF REPLACEMENT





BOLDING MILL CG SEPTIC REPLACEMENT





OLD FEDERAL CG EROSION CONTROL





SAWNEE CG SITE REHABILITATION





SAWNEE CG SITE REHABILITATION





SAWNEE CG EROSION CONTROL





BALD RIDGE CG SHOWER HOUSE REPLACEMENT





What's Next?



- Seek new legislation to allow full use of reservation system by the partner (or work with BAH to change internal operations/handling of funds), expansion to nonprofits and ability to enter into agreements for multiple PSAs
 - *LAKES Act of 2023 (S.1358 and H.R. 6906): if passed, will address all three issues*
- Update procedures in ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 9 Recreation Use Fees related to fee collection and retention by entities cooperatively managing Corps parks
- Get ASA approval for new ER chapter for CCSCMA program



Recap Questions



Which of the following entities can you NOT enter into a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement with?

- a. State agency
- b. Tribal entity
- c. Nonprofit organization
- d. Public university



Recap Questions



Who can sign a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement?

District Commander



Recap Questions

Which is a required document to set up a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement?

- a. Real estate lease
- b. Contract
- c. Partner operations plan
- d. Both a and c



CCSCMA Gateway Page



US Army Corps of Engineers

Natural Resources Management Gateway *to the future . . .*

- Home
- Visitors
- Lake Discovery
- Recreation
- Env Compliance
- Env Stewardship
- Partners
- News/Events
- People
- Forums
- Learning
- GETS
- Tools
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- Submit
- Index/Search

Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Program

[Headquarters Partnership POC](#)

Declining budgets and a growing demand for safe and updated recreation opportunities have provided Corps projects an opportunity to partner with non-Federal public entities to share management responsibilities. The Corps can benefit by sharing the operation costs and management responsibility of parks and other public areas, and the public can benefit from having improved facilities and services.

Corps facilities may be operated in collaboration with eligible non-Federal public entities through a Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management (CCSCM) Agreement and Partner Operations Plan. Agreements may be entered into with non-Federal entities for the purposes of cooperatively managing public recreation areas, and fees may be collected and retained by the partner for reinvestment at the site at which the fees are collected.

Key Factors in Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management:

- **Collection of fees:** The non-Federal public entity that has entered into a CCSCM agreement may collect user fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities, **whether developed or constructed by that entity or the Department of the Army.**
- **Use of fees:** The non-Federal public entity that collects the user fees **may retain up to 100 percent** of the fees collected, and shall use any retained amount for operation, maintenance, and management activities **at the recreation site** at which the fee is collected.
- Eligible entities for Cooperative Management:
 - State governments
 - County governments
 - Municipality or local governments
 - Public institutions of higher education
 - Indian Tribes
- A competitive notice of eligibility is required
- A model CCSCM Agreement Template approved by the ASA(CW) and HQUSACE is provided for use and required for cooperatively managed sites.
- A Partner Operations Plan that outlines the respective operations, management, and development activities to be undertaken by the Corps and the Partner(s) is required.
- CCSCMAs **do not** require a partner to receive an outgrant or other form of real estate interest.
- Although WRDA 1992 Sec 225 uses the term "cooperative agreement", CCSCMAs are **NOT** cooperative agreements as that term is used in the 1977 Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act.
 - Not subject to Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations
 - Not executed by a certified grants officer
 - Does not transfer a thing of value from the Corps to a non-Federal entity
- There is no fixed rate of cost share. Percentages are determined by mutual agreement between the Corps and the partner(s).
- The roles of each entity are flexible.
- CCSCMAs may involve multiple non-Federal partners.

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [FAQS](#)
- [Existing CCSCM Agreements](#)

- [Template Documents](#)
- [Success Stories](#)

Item is restricted to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and will open in a new window.

Challenge Cost Sharing



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Questions?

