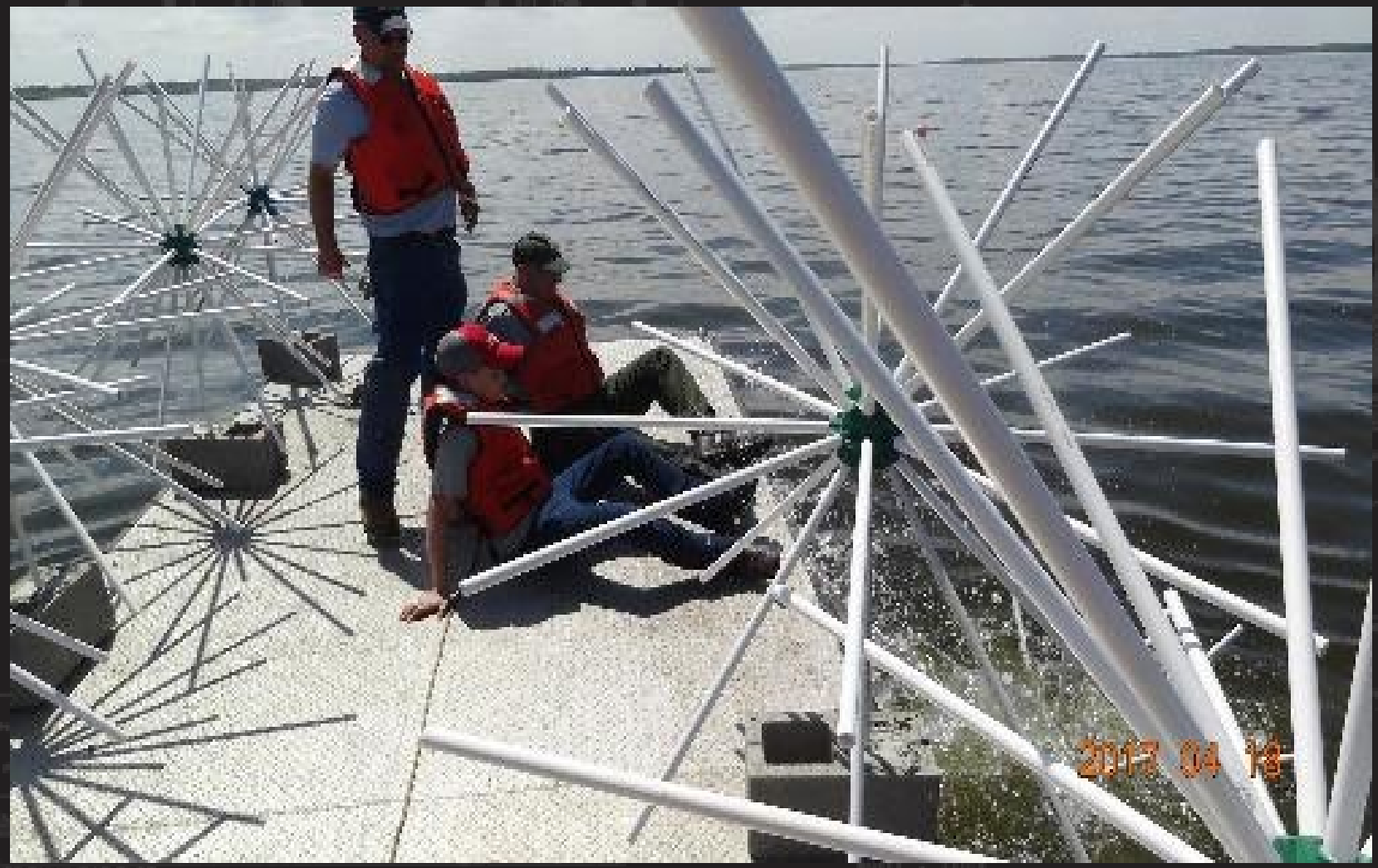
GRANTS/ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES



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Grant Authorities

- Authority – 33 USC 2325 and 33 USC 2328, Water Resources Development Act of 1992

- ER/EP 1130-2-500, Ch. 11 – The Contribution Program provides the means and processes on how to accept donations plus administer any funds the Corps might receive directly or indirectly from a grant.

****NOTE: Grants are considered to be Contributions, not an illegal augmentation of appropriated funds.**

Who Gives Grants?

- Federal, State, Local Governments

- Foundations
  - Typical
  - Family
  - Community
  - Commercial
  - Congressionally chartered

(Foundations gave more than $60 billion last year)

Walmart Giving in
Last Fiscal Year Exceeds
$1 Billion for the First Time

Who Gives Grants?

- Corporations
  - Directly from the company (Wells Fargo, WalMart, Bank of America)
  - From the company's non-profit foundation (Wells Fargo Foundation, WalMart Foundation, Bank of America Charitable Foundation)
- Community organizations: Lion's Clubs, Rotary, etc.
- Individuals

Grants

- Few Federal grants directly available to the Corps
  - DOT and Federal Highways funds
  - US Forest Service Pest Suppression program grants
  - Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

- Some State grants are directly available to Corps, but often require matching funds up front. (State boating and waterway grants)

- Many more grants are available to friends groups/cooperating associations

- Corps Foundation is available to help with seeking grants

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Federal Lands Highways Programs

National Funding under the Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act (FY22-FY26)

Federal Lands Program	Avg Annual Funding ($M)*	Change from FAST Act (FY16-FY20)
Federal Lands Transportation Program National Park Service Fish & Wildlife Service Forest Service Remainder (competitive USACE, BLM, BOR & Independent Federal Land Managers)	**$ 439** $ 346 $36 $26 $31	**+23.7%**
Federal Lands Access Program	$286	+10.0%
Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (General Fund)	$55 + up to $300	+255%

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Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP)

- Maintain good repair, improve safety, reduce bridge deficiencies, provide access to high use recreation or federal economic generators
- Eligible agencies include NPS, FWS, FS, USACE, BLM, BOR, and “Independent Land Management Agencies”
- USACE coordinates through MSC Recreation BLMs for priority improvements to be considered for funding
- FLTP projects are prioritized and selected from OCA data

Recent Success
NWP - Cottage Grove Lake – Pine Meadows

Before

After

Example of Improvements - MVD

West Overlook Day Use, Coralville Lake

- Full depth patch of significant cracks, 2" overlay, shouldering topsoil and striping of roads and parking lots.
- 1.5 miles of roadway, 134,000 sq ft parking surface

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

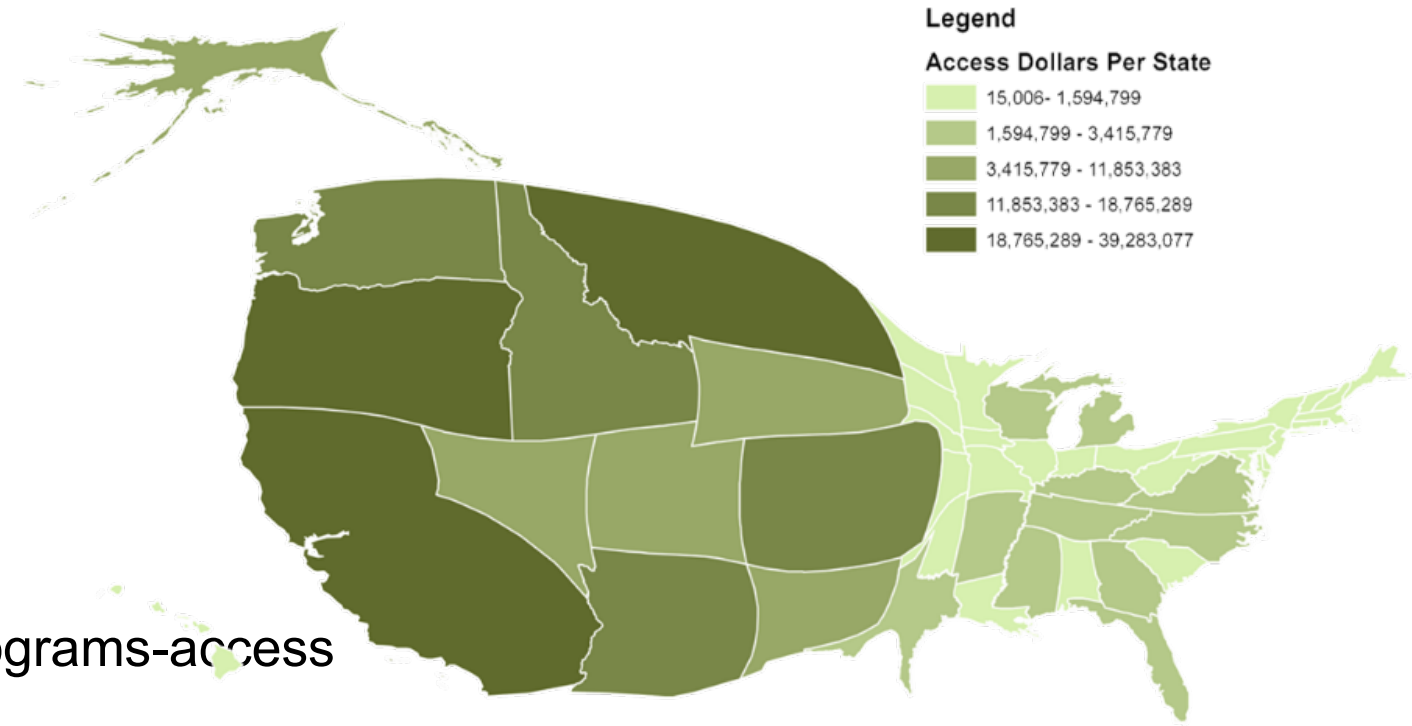
- The goal of the Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program or FLAP) is to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within Federal lands.

- The Access Program supplements State and local resources in 50 States, DC and Puerto Rico

- Eligible applicants:
- State or Local Governments

- No applicant match required.

https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access



Sources:
State Shapefile: US Census
Access Dollars: FLHD, Access Program Funding Table Dated 10/26/2012

Puerto Rico is not represented, but will receive around $78,000 per year in Access Funds

FLAP Eligible Activities

Transportation planning, research, engineering, preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of transportation facilities located on, adjacent to, or that provide access to, Federal lands, and:

- Adjacent vehicular parking areas
- Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Provisions for pedestrians and bicycles
- Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to Federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity
- Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities, and
- Transit facilities (stops, shelters, buses, etc.)

Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads

- Repair federally owned public roads, which are found to have suffered serious damage by a natural disaster over a wide area or by a catastrophic failure.
  - Is not intended to cover all repair costs, nor upgrade facilities…. restore to pre-disaster conditions.
  - Intent notification required step (within 45 days of event)
  - Emergency repairs completed within 180 days (100% DOT funds) or permanent repairs (100% DOT funds)

- Minimum Funding Thresholds
  - $700,000 per natural disaster/catastrophic failure event
  - $5,000 per site repaired

- Online training available
  - https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/erfo/training/

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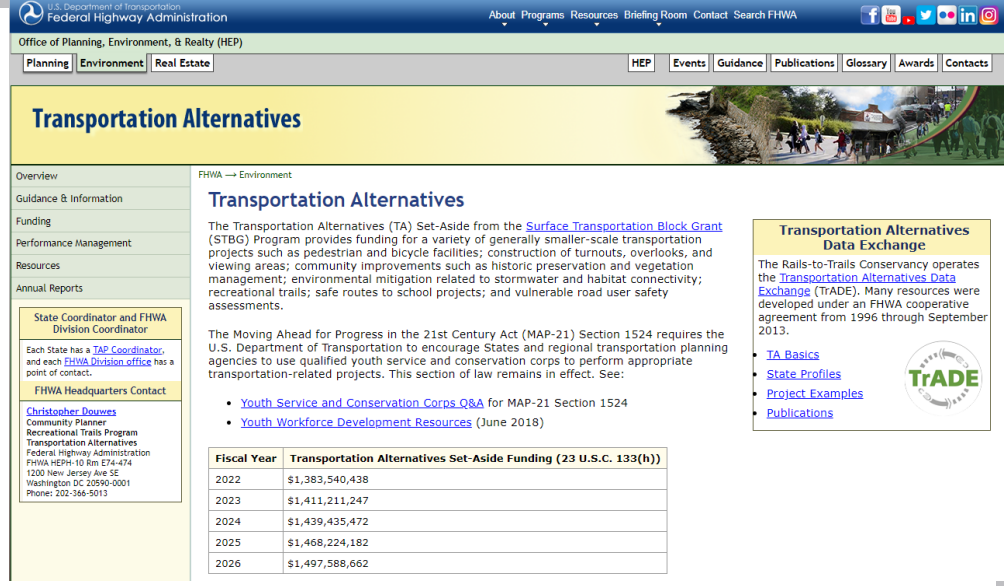
Transportation Alternatives



- Eligible projects include:
  - On- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities
  - Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
  - Preservation of historic transportation facilities
  - Vegetation management
  - Environmental mitigation related to stormwater and maintain habitat connectivity
  - Recreational trail projects
  - Safe routes to school projects
- DOT encourages project sponsors to use qualified youth service and conservation corps.
- Federal or state transportation or natural resource management agencies are eligible
- Match: can vary based on project, typically 20%

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/

USFS Pest Suppression Grants

- 100% funding from USFS for prevention or suppression of:
  - Bark beetle
  - Spongy moth
  - Emerald ash borer
  - Asian long horn beetle
  - Defoliators and other insects
  - Dwarf mistletoe
  - Oak wilt
  - Other disease

- Request for proposals sent out in September
- Proposals due in November
- Recommend coordinating with your local Regional USFS office
- Proposals focused on suppression/eradication typically score higher
- Range of past funding $1,000 - $40,000

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

- National partnership to promote and facilitate the conservation of habitat for fish and other aquatic species in reservoir systems
- Partial funding of reservoir fisheries habitat enhancement projects
- Must have a minimum of 1:1 non-federal contributions
- Request for proposals sent in October
- Proposals due in February
- Proposals must include “on-the-ground” habitat restoration objectives. Research proposals are not acceptable.
- Project must be completed in 18-24 months
- Proposals up to $75,000 for first time recipients, sliding scale for repeat recipients
- Criteria:
  - Aquatic Habitat Restoration/Protection
  - Quality of Life
  - Partnerships/Fund leveraging/Promotion

RESERVOIR FISHERIES HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

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RFHP Grant Received by the Corps

NWK: Smithville Lake Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership grant of $20,000 for enhanced aquatic habitat, shoreline stabilization, jetty repair- 2015

Richard B. Russell (SAS) Project

- Received $16k from RFHP
- Objective – Establish shoreline & littoral zone vegetation purchase
- Enhance over 13K square feet of shoreline
- Aquatic vegetation
- 4,500 water willow plants

Shelbyville Fish Habitat Video (MVS)

https://youtu.be/7tOSg5SsMsg

Important Takeaways

1. It is CRITICAL to have a well-respected individual that is trusted by the fisherman as the leader of the group.

2. Just as important is a GREAT organizer to keep everyone on track.

3. A cooperating association such as Friends of Lake Shelbyville (501c3) to handle the money is very important for transparency.

4. A Placement Committee made up of the most respected fisherman you can find! We (Corps) give them depth parameters for the structure and let them pick the locations. Goes a LONG way.

5. It is a MUST for Corps employees to participate in the builds *in uniform* – I can't stress how much goodwill this builds with the community.

6. A Social Media presence is paramount. We can tout our successes, keep people updated on upcoming projects, solicit help for builds, habitat drops, stocking projects, etc.

7. Think outside the box – who knew a fish banquet would go over so well? Also, the highest auction item was a GPS chip with all the structure pre-loaded – went for $1,000!

8. Support from the bosses! It takes time once all of this starts rolling!

Grants Related to Natural Resources

- Boat US Foundation Grassroots Grants
- Cabela's Outdoor Fund Grants
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants
- National Recreation and Park Association ACHIEVE Grants
- National Water Safety Congress Grass Roots Grants
- NEEF Grants
- North Face Explore Fund Grants
- Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Grants

Grants Received by the Corps

- LRL: Nolin River Lake- National Water Safety Congress grant winner
- MVK: Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake $10,000 grant from ALCOA to control hydrilla via Pakistani fly propagation

- LRP: Various locations- $191,000 in grants from National Audubon Society and NFWF to improve pollinator habitat for butterflies and bumblebees
- SPK: Englebright Lake- Grant from Michael & Ina Korek Foundation Trust for safe boating campaign

Grants Received by the Corps

- LRH: Paint Creek Lake- $6,000 Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft Cooperative Boating Facility Grant to construct river access points

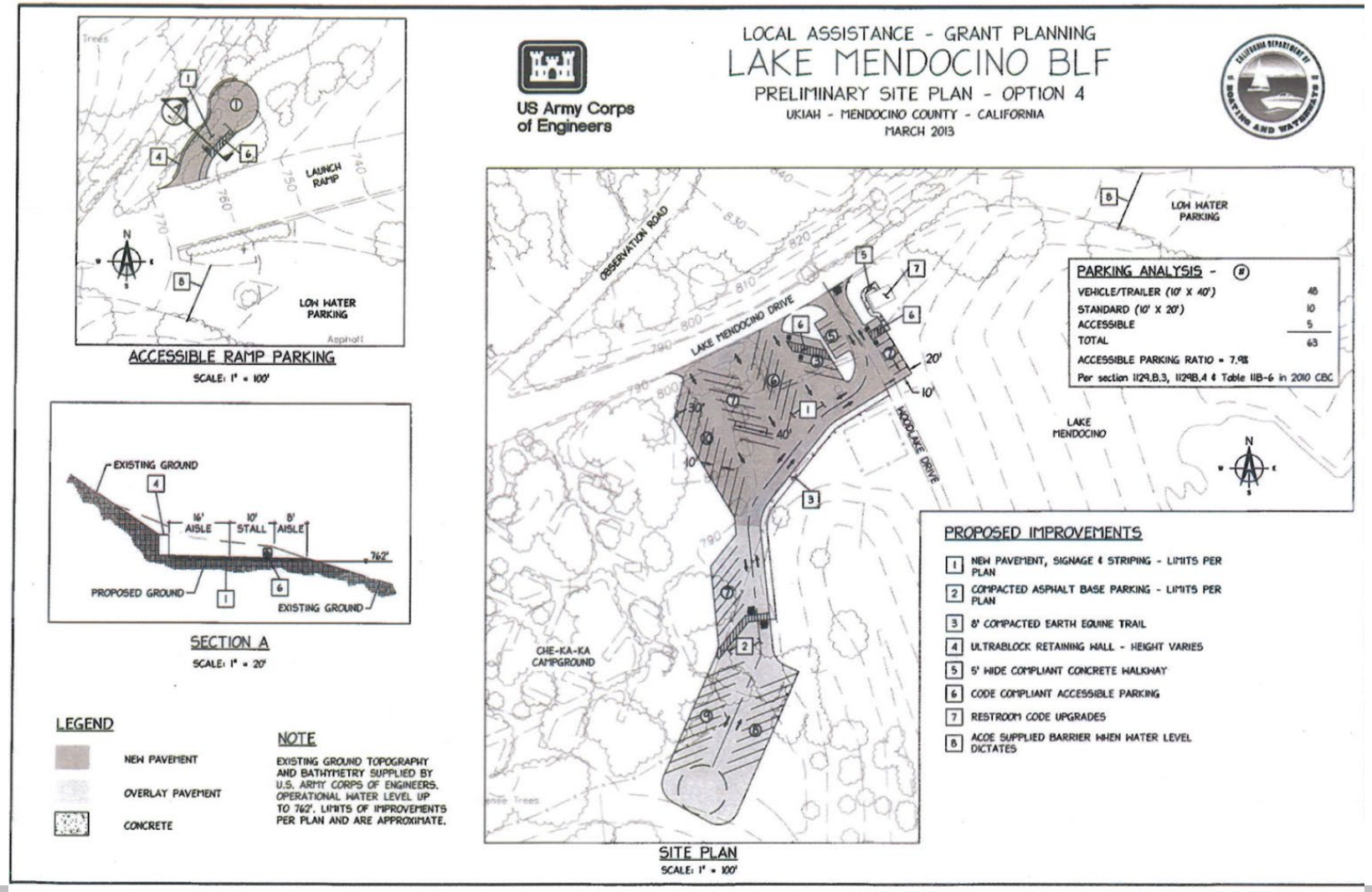
- NAB: Raystown Lake- $854,450 Transit in Parks grant for non-motorized transportation pathway

- SPN: Lake Sonoma- $78,000 for an Interpretive and Education Master Plan; $182,000 grant for Stream Restoration Demo Project; $52,000 grant for trout interpretive murals

Grants Received by the Corps

SPN: Lake Mendocino Cal Boating grant of $1.4 million for parking lot expansion, utility upgrades, accessible walkways, restroom upgrade, and signage.

KEY: Expanded upon previous grants that were successfully received from Cal Boating and executed by the Corps, totaling $688k.



Grants Received by the Corps

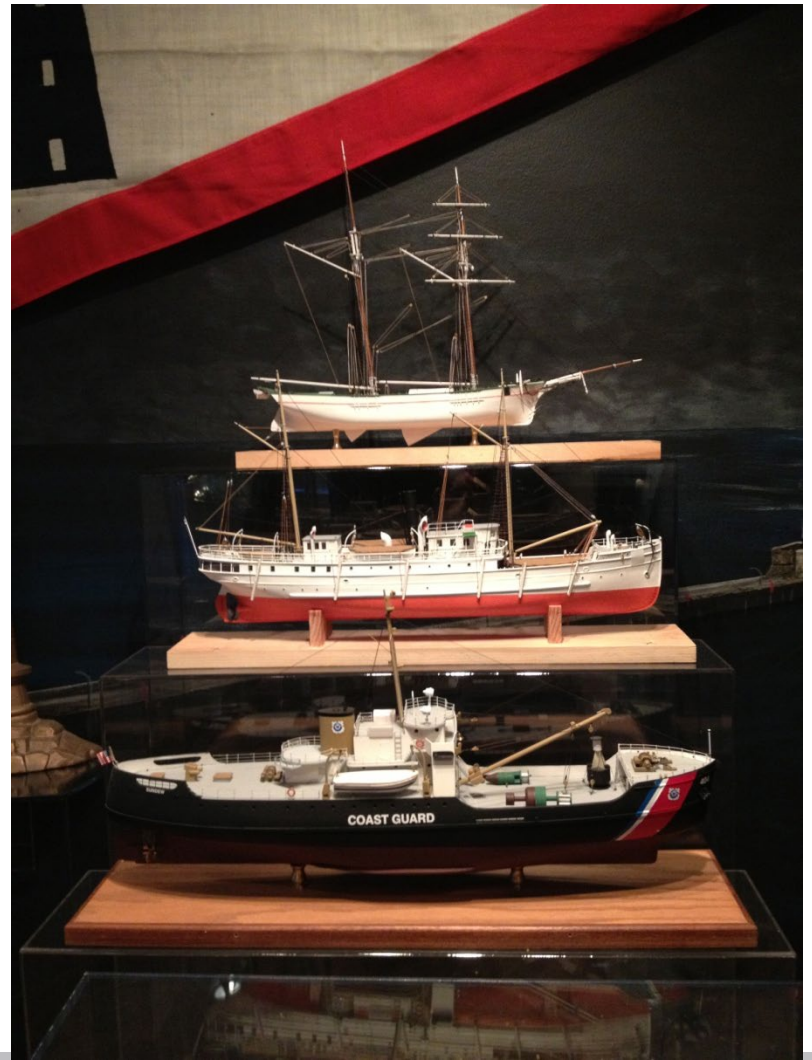
SPK: Success Lake Cal Boating grant of $349k for Quagga and Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention

- Mussel dog teams
- Educational signs, brochures, exhibits
- Additional seasonal staff

Grant Received by a Partner for the Corps

LRE: Lake Superior Marine Museum Association for Lake Superior Maritime VC

- Minnesota Lake Superior Coastal Program (matching grant) for exhibits
- Minnesota Historical Society - for long range conservation plan and artifact restoration



Grant Received by a Partner for the Corps

MVK: Friends of Lake Ouachita applied for a grant from the Arkansas Department of Health

- Two grants ($3500 and $4000) awarded for health initiatives
- USACE provided letter of support and USACE staff installed

Grant Received by a Partner for the Corps

MVK: Lake Ouachita High School Fishing team for Lake Ouachita

- $1,000 grant from Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for fish habitat improvements
- Youth Tournament Organization Habitat Grants Program (under AGFC Black Bass Program)
- Fishing team students heard about grant that shooting sports team had received, looked into opportunities for fishing funds, and contacted the lake to see if we were interested

Photo courtesy of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Members of the Lake Ouachita High School fishing team and officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers help sink brushpiles in Lake Ouachita to create fish habitat in July.

BASSMASTER catch THE ACTION

carhartt BASSMASTER COLLEGE SERIES

Youth bass fishing team earns $1,000 grant for building habitat

Grant Received by a Partner for the Corps

SAM: West Point Lake Coalition (WPLC)/West Point Lake buoy light program

- WPLC provides the lights, Corps installs and maintains
- Started as a 3 year pilot project. Success led to grant funding.
- Received 5 year grant funding of $40,000 from the Callaway Foundation

Working with the Corps Foundation to Apply for Grants

When to ask for the Foundation's help:

1. If there are grants that you are interested in applying for, but only a non-federal or non-profit organization can apply for them
2. You have tried to find a local partner to work with on the application but were unsuccessful.
3. You have identified a donor; however, you would like a non-profit to be the asking organization and fiscal agent.

How to work with the Foundation on a grant proposal:

- Develop a basic outline/proposal of the project you would like funded and identify a grant opportunity that matches the project.
- Contact the Foundation to determine their interest/availability.
- Be prepared to write the grant application. As the lake manager/staff, you know the details of the scope of the project and what resources/$$ you will need.
- The Foundation can help finesse the application and make sure you've covered the key criteria.
- The Foundation will serve as the applicant and administrator of the funds and will typically ask for a fee to serve as the grant administrator. (this can be worked into the grant proposal)

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Grant Tips

- Make sure the Corps or your partner that is applying for the grant meet the eligibility requirements.
- Research your grantors- know what types of grants they have awarded in the past, typical amounts, what they are interested in.
- Start small to get a track record before you try for a big grant.
- Multiple partners strengthen your chance of funding
- Funders prefer to get applications earlier than the deadline.
- If rejected, it is ok to call and ask for feedback to improve future submittals.

Common Elements of a Proposal

- Introduction – brief reiteration
- Partners - Who will accomplish what, and why chosen
- Problem Statement - Why act?
  - Flows from your mission
  - Meeting a need
  - Solving a problem
- Purpose of the Request - Goals/Outcomes that focus on the solution
- Work Plan/Timeline – Give the reason why you chose the steps and the numbers you will serve
- Organizational Capacity – Who will do the work and why qualified
- Sustainability – Who will maintain the program? Can it generate fees?

Common Elements of a Proposal

- Proposal Summary – This may be the 1st (or only) thing read! Include only essential info
- Cover Letter – One page from lead partner or applicant that tells how much and over what period of time
- Program Budget – Full cost of program, direct/indirect costs, in-kind
- Grant Budget – What the grant covers (specific costs)
- Required Attachments – Follow the grantor's list EXACTLY
- Desired Attachments – Support from partners, endorsements, materials from related efforts

Follow Through

- Keep the funder informed of progress and completion!
- Document results
- Grant reporting requirements – Meet the deadlines!
- Photos
- Publicity
- Thank You letters with photos – Keep in touch with interesting materials
- Coordination with partners

**Success breeds more success!

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https://corpslakes.erdc.dren.mil/partners/grants.cfm

Grants/Alternative Funding Sources

Grants can be obtained from public and non-public sources consistent with the purpose of the granting entity. Cooperating associations and friends groups may apply for grants and apply the grant moneys to work activities on Corps lands. The Corps does not usually apply for grants with other Federal agencies unless the legal authority specifically addresses grants between Federal agencies. The Corps can apply for State, local, and private grants if such action does not involve lobbying Congress, the funds will be used for an authorized mission, and the acceptance is consistent with appropriation law. In practical terms, it is much easier for the partner to apply for the grant and accept the funds, so this is the preferred method. Corps employees may help partners write grant proposals, and may conduct training sessions on grant writing.

A third party entity could include a Friends Group, Cooperating Association, Non-Profit, Foundation or local governments. While the third party would usually initiate the grant application, the Corps would maintain oversight of the Project. See the Grants Application & Execution Process flow chart from NWP for a good example of the granting process.

The Corps Contribution Program provides the means and processes on how to accept donations plus administer any funds the Corps might receive directly or indirectly from a grant. A Contribution Plan needs to be consistent with the contents of the Operation Management Plan (OMP).

Helpful Steps to Apply for Grants with a Third Party

1. Identify and plan the project and ensure it is included in the OMP and Contributions Plan. Ensure the project is ready to go including a funding concept with any needed permits, environmental reviews, clearances and cost.
2. Seek a partnership with a non-profit or local government. Explain that the Corps would like to complete a project, but requires assistance that may include fundraising efforts such as seeking grants. Corps staff may be asked by the partner to help locate a potential grant. Corps participation is encouraged, but the non-profit entity would submit the application and be the proponent.
3. Identify potential grant sources: The non-profit may be willing to help or have knowledge of specific grants, but Corps staff could assist with identifying possible sources.
4. Completing the grant application: Most grant application packages have specific guidance which should be followed precisely. If application guidance is more loosely worded, it is advisable for the applicant to call the Grantor and ask for any information and submission advice they may be willing to share.

- Grants and Funding Available to the Corps
- Related Sites/Links
- FAQs
- News and Current Issues
- Success Stories

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Resources

- Your local college/university – Check with Public Administration degree students. Many universities offer grant writing classes where the students are required to submit real grant applications as one of their projects.
- http://www.tgci.com/funding.shtml - grant opportunities/foundations by state
- http://philanthropy.com – go to corporate giving
- http://www.conservationgrants.com/bystate.htm - Conservation Grants Center, list by State
- http://foundationcenter.org/findfunders/topfunders/top50giving.html
- http://grantspace.org