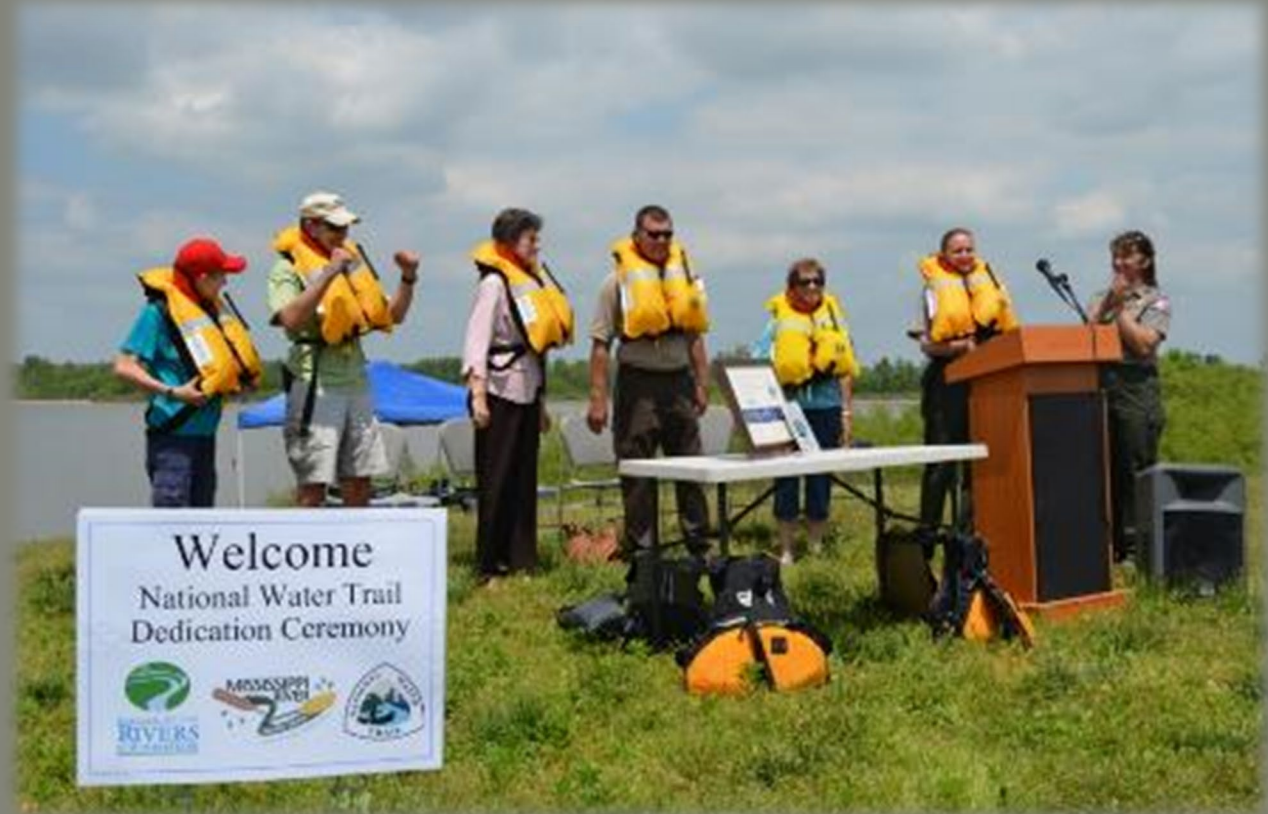


Introduction to the NRM Partnership Program

Partnerships in NRM
PROSPECT Course



"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



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History of the NRM Partnership Program

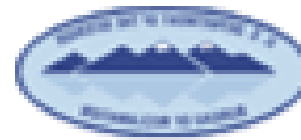
“Let me tell you a little story about how we came to be...”



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Joint Ventures: Partners In Stewardship



- Partnership conference in Los Angeles, November 2003
- First time the 7 land management agencies co-convened an effort of this kind
- One-stop networking between the federal government and partners
- Demonstrated the Chief's commitment to partnering



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“Too often we think of a partnership as a handout instead of a handshake.”

-General Strock



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Outcomes of Joint Ventures Conference

- The Corps of Engineers as a community recognized the value of partnering at all levels and in all business lines
- Stakeholder listening sessions were conducted
- Created HQ senior partnership position (Debra Stokes)
- Partnership Advisory Committee established in October 2003 to evaluate existing policies, authorities and develop new strategies
- Redefined “Partnership”



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The Partnership Philosophy

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a key role in shaping the future of our Nation's water resources. Our **partners are essential** in making this happen. We recognize that partnerships must **flow in both directions**. **Cooperation** and **collaboration** are the keys to innovative solutions to meet a diversity of need. When we put our heads together, we can find answers far better than anything we can think of ourselves.



Partnerships are a smart way of doing business.



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What is a Partnership?

- A relationship where people work together to achieve goals
- Voluntary collaboration working toward a common objective related to the agency/partner's mission
- Combines individual strengths to solve problems
- Builds consensus and broad-based community support



- Leverages funds and resources to meet challenges and improve opportunities
- Appropriate legal authority, consistent with agency policies




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What is a Partnership?



- They may be formal or informal. 
- Can be as simple as a contribution of materials, services, or funds (It is NOT a lease, license, or contract)
- Partnerships grow and change with time.





PARTNERSHIP

"You give me half the fish, and I tell my Mom to let you live."



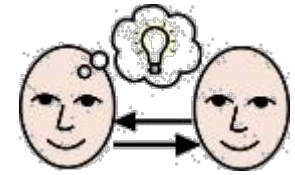
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What's the Big Deal About Partnerships?

- Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and promote coordinated efforts to resolve common challenges
- Partnerships are not only important, they are a necessity!
- Agency culture needs to promote partnering as a part of the management model and encourage training for staff.
- FY 19 Rec/ES budget = ~\$375M (\$260 Rec/\$115 ES). Without sustainable cost-effective partnerships => Decrease in services and amenities and degradation of natural resources



- FY 18 partnerships reported in OMBIL: 2,168 partnerships (14.8% increase from FY 17)
- with a total value of \$70.6 million (8.6% increase from FY 17)
- 31,156 Corps volunteers contributed 1.6 million hours of work with a value of \$40 million



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Partnership Connection to the Recreation Strategic Plan

- Partnerships show up in all four Goals, with heavy focus in Goal 2 and are mentioned in 29 action items (approx. 1/3)
- Ensure access to water resources and quality outdoor recreation opportunities through new authorities and increased partnerships.
- Recreation Strategy action items in progress:
 - Working with Office of Counsel on consistent policies
 - Strengthening military partnerships – Military pass program, CAST Take a Warrior Fishing program, employment of Wounded Warriors
 - Engaging the Corps Foundation
 - Building partnership competencies at all levels – NRMG pages, PROSPECT class, webinars: Please spread the word!



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Building the Partnership Paradigm

- Be proactive. Don't wait until you need something from someone.
- Attend local community events and make personal invitations to potential partners.
- Partnerships are not “free.” They take time and effort to cultivate, and require a foundation built on trust to be successful.
- Where there is a will, there is a way.
- Partnerships are about getting to yes and finding ways to get things done.



Principles for Success

- Partnerships should be treated like a marriage.



- Establish clear expectations of roles and responsibilities at the beginning of the relationships to avoid future trials and tribulations.
- Get to know your partners as people 1st. Build that into the process.
- Use processes such as master plan development as an opportunity to collaborate.
- Federal partners often excel in planning, whereas private partners often excel at implementation.



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Principles for Success

- Engage partners in budget decisions such as park closures, reduced services, etc. Run the scenarios and see how they can help before the final decisions are made. (Rushmore night programs, Arizona Memorial boat tours)



- Never pass up a good catalyst.
- Don't reinvent the wheel. Use the Gateway, the PAC team, and your fellow classmates to find out if someone has done what you'd like to do.
- Share the resources and rewards.
- For a successful partnership, think of volunteers as investors who expect a return on the value they provide.



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Partnering Authorities/Guidance

- **WRDA 2016: Sec 1155, WRRDA 2014: Sec 1047d, WRDA 1992: Sec 203 (33 USC 2325) and Sec 225 (33 USC 2328), PL 98-63 (33 USC 569c):** Authority to accept contributions, volunteers, set up Challenge Partnership, and Challenge Cost-Share Cooperative Management Agreements
- **31 USC 1535, 41 USC 501, 31 USC 6301, 7 USC 2814, WRDA 2000: Sec 213 (33 USC 2339), WRRDA 2014: Sec 1031(b), 10 USC 2358:** Authorities to enter into agreements for services with other federal agencies (Economy Act), cooperative agreements for noxious weed management, education/training, research & development with universities, and agreements with Indian tribes
- **ER/EP 1130-2-500**, Partners and Support, Chapter 9 (Cooperating Associations), Chapter 10 (Volunteers) –replaced by WRRDA 2014 Implementation Guidance 12 Aug 2016, Chapter 11 (Contributions), Chapter 12 (Challenge Partnerships, formerly called Challenge Cost Share)

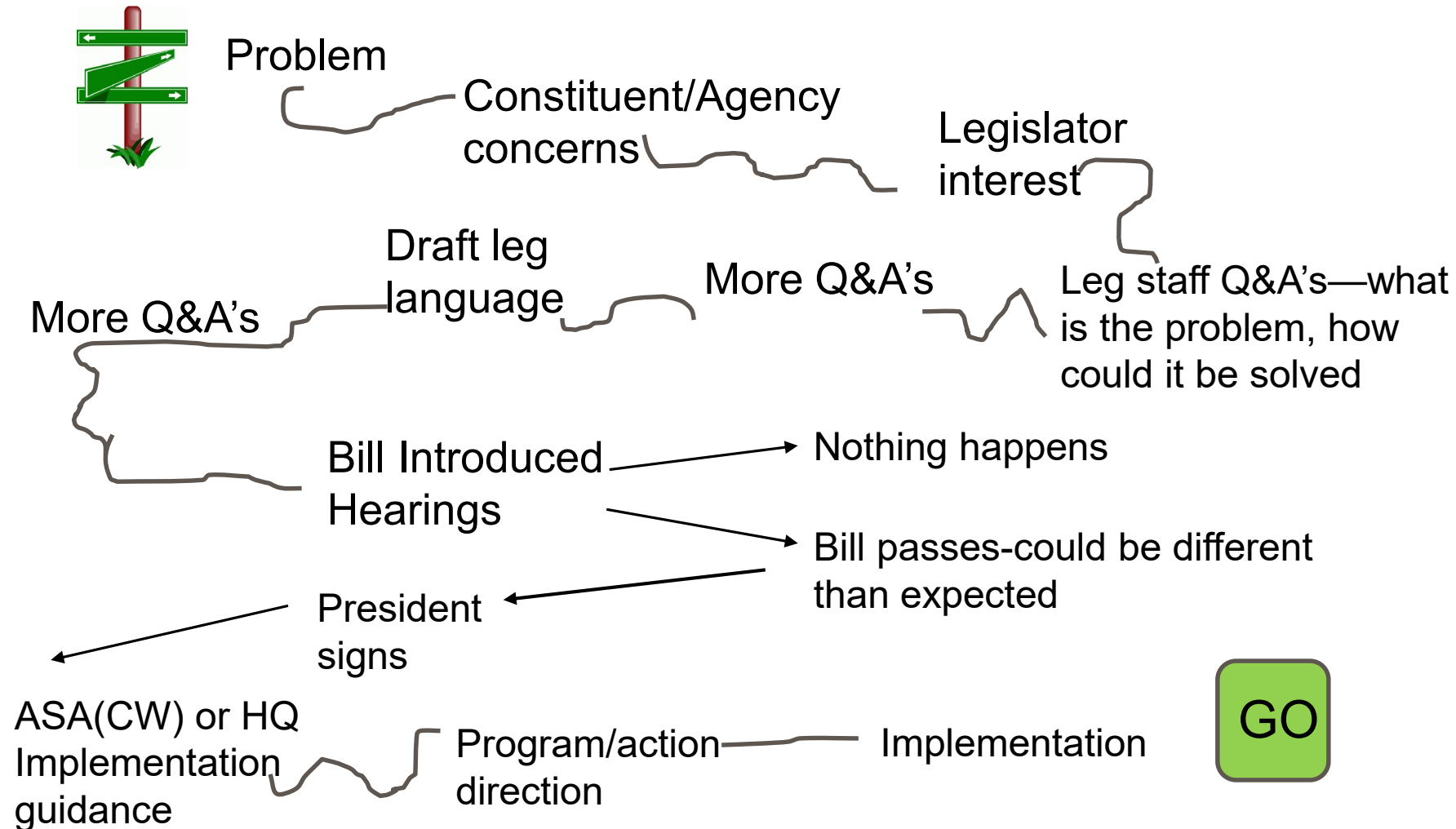


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How Do We Get New Laws & Authorities for Programs?

It's a tortuous path—sometimes with unintended consequences



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Authorized Partnership Types: Choosing the Right Tool for the Job

NOTE: Sometimes, more than one type of agreement will work for your partnership.

- **Economy Act Agreements:** Agreements for services and/or supplies with other federal agencies
- **Cooperative Agreements:** Agreements where the Corps transfers money or a thing of value to a partner for services and/or supplies. Authority for cooperative agreements is limited to specific types.
- **Cooperating Associations:** Tax-exempt non-profit, free-standing corporate entities with boards of directors, set up through a cooperating association agreement
- **Challenge Partnerships:** Agreement with non-Federal public and private entities on facilities and natural resources maintained at full Federal expense



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Partnership Types

- **Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreement:** Agreement with non-Federal public entities to cooperatively manage and collect/retain fees on facilities and natural resources maintained at full Federal expense
- **Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement (MOU/MOA):** “Agreement to agree” but does not obligate funds. MOA establishes legal terms that will be included in a support agreement/reimbursable order to follow
- **Volunteer Agreements:** Allow the Corps to accept services of volunteers for a variety of natural resources work with the exception of law enforcement and policy-making
- **Contributions Program:** Simplest form of partnership. Acceptance of money, materials, or services from groups and individuals for environmental stewardship, restoration, and recreation



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Regulations and Policies

A partnership does not allow the Corps to circumvent applicable legal requirements in areas such as:

- Procurement
- Personnel or labor laws
- Printing, publishing or audiovisual production
- Issuance of special use permits
- Real estate licenses and leases
- Fiscal responsibility
- Environmental regulations

Bottom Line: Regulations and Policies
MUST BE FOLLOWED !



NOTE: It is just as important to build good relationships and trust with your internal partners/support staff such as Office of Counsel, Resource Management, Contracting, Real Estate, etc. These staff members are essential to have on board when developing partnership agreements. Engage them early and often!



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Natural Resources Management Gateway

to the future . . .

Home

Visitors

Lake Discovery

Recreation

Env Compliance

Env Stewardship

Partners



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People

Forums

Learning

GETS

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New Postings

Submit

Index/Search



How To Develop a Partnership

Step 1
Assess Situational Needs



Step 2
What Kind of Partnership
is Right for You?



Step 3
Budget Development and
Financing

Partnerships
How To

Step 2 - What Kind of Partnership is Right for You?

[Back](#)

District Commanders are responsible for approval/execution of most partnering agreements. However, this authority can be delegated to the Chief of Operations or the Operations Project Manager through a delegation of [authority memo](#). The Corps of Engineers has a number of authorities and programs that allow it to provide work or funds or accept work or funds from Federal, State, Tribal, or non-Federal entities. The following list includes the partnership types within our authorities. [Click here for a Partnership Agreement Flow Chart](#)

Challenge Partnerships – The Corps can enter into agreements to accept funds, materials, and services from non-Federal public and private entities to provide for operation and/or management and development of recreation facilities and natural resources at water resource development projects, where such facilities are being maintained at full federal expense. This program allows the Corps to accept services or funds in the above circumstances; it does not permit the Corps to reimburse for services. The contributed resources are combined with regular project resources to accomplish work within current authorities and contained in the annual or five-year plan in the approved operational management plan. ([33 USC §2328](#), [WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#); [EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 12](#); [ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12](#)).

Cooperating Associations – The Corps may enter into agreements with tax-exempt, non-profit organizations that volunteer services to the Corps. Cooperating associations are used to accomplish such broad goals as natural resource management, interpretation and visitor service activities at Corps civil works projects, fee-owned lands, and other areas for which the Corps has administrative and management responsibilities. ([33 USC §2328](#), [WRDA 1992, Sec 225](#); [EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 9](#); [ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 9](#)).

Volunteers – The Corps is authorized to accept the services of volunteers to carry out any Corps activity except policy-making or law enforcement. Volunteer agreements allow the Corps to accept the services of volunteers and to provide for their incidental expenses. ([33 U.S.C. §569c](#); [ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 10](#); [Implementation Guidance for Section 1047\(d\) of WRRDA 2014](#); [EP 1130-2-429](#)).

Contributions Program – The Corps is authorized to accept contributions of cash, funds, materials, and services from persons, including governmental entities but excluding the project sponsor, in connection with carrying out a water resources project for environmental protection, restoration or recreation. Contributions must be used for work items within current authorities and contained in an approved annual five-year operational management plan. A contributions plan serves as the agreement for this program. Note: Real estate cannot be accepted under this program. ([33 U.S.C. §2325](#), [WRDA 1992, Sec 203](#); [EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 11](#); [ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 11](#)).

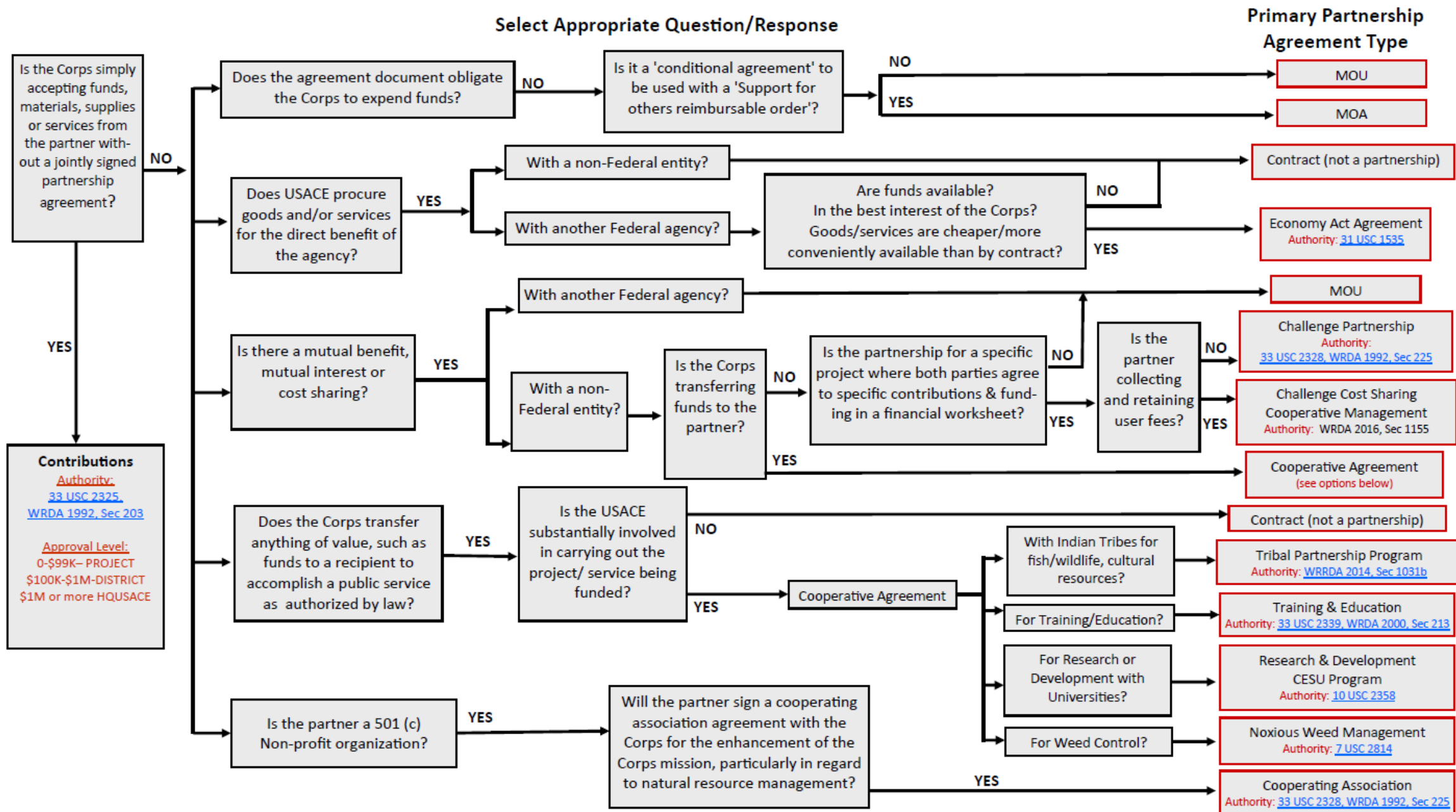
Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)/Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) – These are “agreements to agree” which coordinate the Corps’ authorized activities with another entity. MOUs often state common goals and nothing more. Thus, MOUs do not contemplate funds transfers and should usually include language that states something similar to: “This is not a funds obligating document; by signing this agreement the parties are not bound to take any action or fund any initiative.” They may be used to run a program a certain way so that it functions better with the program of a sister agency, for example.

MOAs, on the other hand, often establish common legal terms that will be read into every Support for Others reimbursable order that follows. MOAs do not obligate any funds of themselves but they establish the terms for future service and cite one of the appropriate authorities to do so.

Economy Act Agreements – The Economy Act of 1932, ([31 U.S.C. 1535](#)), authorizes an agency to place orders for goods and services with another Federal agency (or a major organizational unit of an agency). It can be used when: 1) funds are available, 2) the head of the ordering agency determines that it is in the best interest of the government, and, 3) the head of the ordering agency decides that ordered goods or services cannot be provided as conveniently or cheaply by contract with commercial enterprise. These must be shown by a Determination and Findings (D&F), prepared by the ordering agency. The performing agency must be able to provide the goods or services in-house or by contract, and parties should

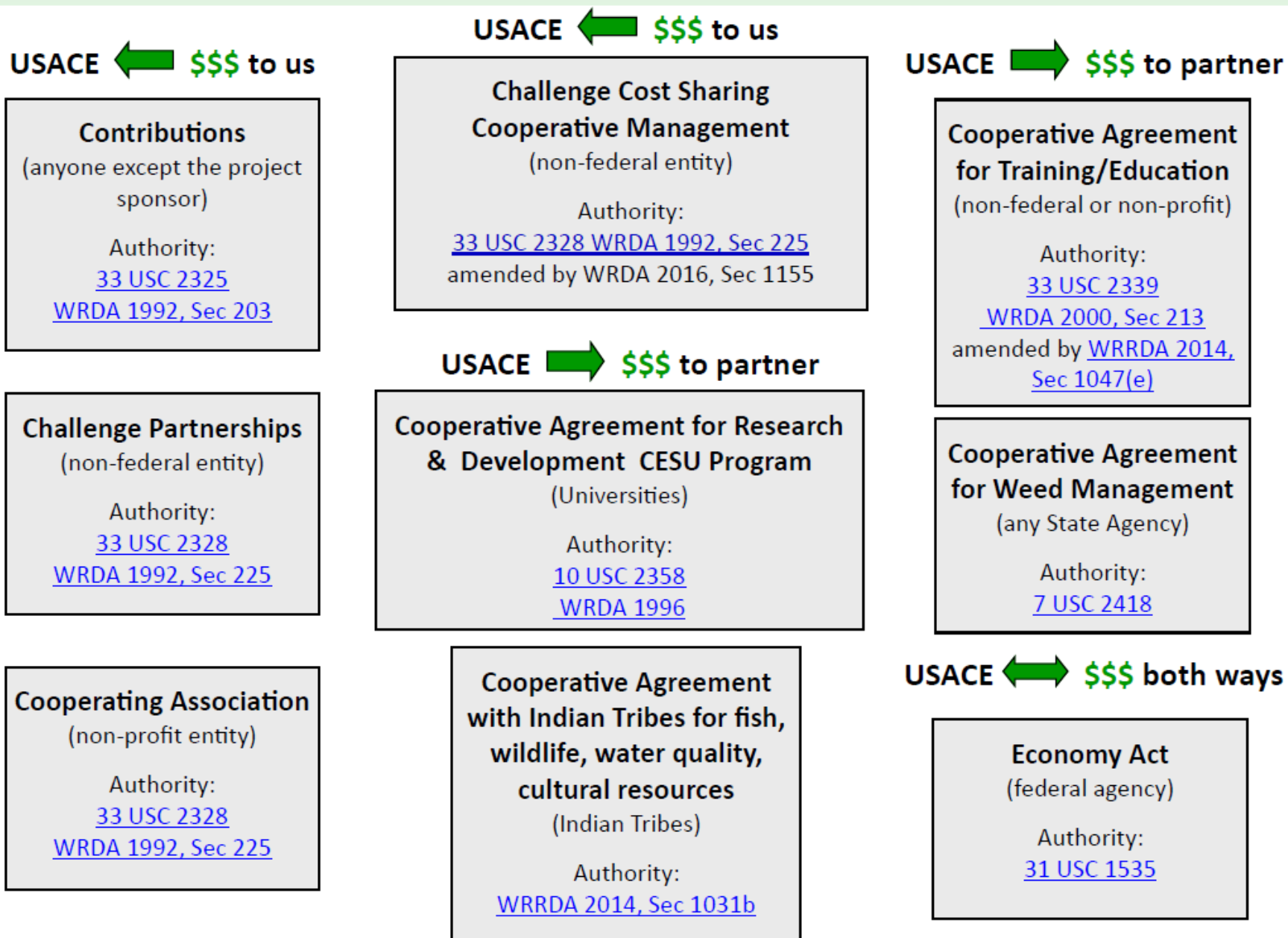
USACE NRM Partnership Agreement Decision Tree

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)



USACE NRM Partnership Agreements - Flow of Money/Contributions

(for Recreation and Environmental Stewardship Partnerships)



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*
Contribution	33 USC 2325, Sec 203 of WRDA 1992	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.
Challenge Partnership	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992	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.
Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management	WRDA 2016, Sec 1155		N/A	District Commander *Reference 30 Mar 2018 CDCW-CO Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1155, Management of Recreation Facilities, of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, PL 114-322
Cooperating Association	33 USC 2328, Sec 225 of WRDA 1992	A moratorium is currently in place for cooperative agreements and associated leases that allow CAs to collect and retain fees for use of Corps facilities. *Reference CDCW Memo dated 12 September 2018.	N/A	Agreements that do not involve fee collection/retention may be approved by District Commanders. Until further guidance is issued, all agreements involving fee collection/retention for use of Corps facilities must be approved at HQUSACE.
Economy Act	31 USC 1535	Agreements w/ DoD entities	N/A	District Commander *Reference ER 1540-1-1, 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 1540-1-211, 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.
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	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 MSGs and HQUSACE.



Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	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
Volunteer	33 USC 569c	Delegation memo on file	N/A	District Commander unless delegated. *Reference 13 Aug 2016 CEOW-CD Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(d) Services of Volunteers, of the Water Resources and Reform Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, Pl. 112-121.
Cooperative Agreement - Noxious Weed Management	7 USC 2814	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.
Cooperative Agreement-Educational/Training Activities	33 USC 2339, Sec. 213 of WRDA 2000 as amended by Sec.1047(e) of WRRDA 2014			District Commander has authority to enter into the agreement. Grants Officer signs the agreement. *Reference 30 Aug 2015 CEOW-CD Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1047(e) Training and Educational Activities, of WRRDA 2014, Pl. 112-121 and Delegation Memos to all District Commanders
Cooperative Agreement -with Indian Tribes for fish/wildlife, water quality, cultural resource protection	WRRDA 2014, Section 1031(b)			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 09 August 2016 CEOW-P Memo: Implementation Guidance for Section 1031(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014, Cooperative Agreements (SAs) With Indian Tribes
Cooperative Agreement-Collaborative Research & Development (CESU Program)	10 USC 2355			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.

Resources: NRM Gateway

<https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/partners/partners.cfm>

Partnerships

[Headquarters POC](#)

[Partnerships Pages Quick-finder Index](#)

In today's financial environment PARTNERING is an essential tool that allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to effectively manage recreation and environmental resources. In order to successfully meet our recreation and stewardship missions, and to foster shared values, vision, and a sense of ownership it is imperative that we work together with state governments, Native American tribes, private/public organizations, local communities, and other partners to maintain or advance programs from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements.

Partnering helps to pool scarce resources, to promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. The NRM Program has embraced this reality and is committed to fully exploring the potential development of new public-private partnerships to leverage limited appropriated funds and human resources.

This page will help you determine the [right tools for your partnerships](#), [find the right training to expand your knowledge](#), and [learn from the successful efforts of your peers](#). You will find answers to longstanding questions and discover how to effectively utilize important partners such as the [Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#). The bottom line: **partnering is smart business**.

Partnership Types: [Which is right for you?](#)

- [Challenge Partnerships Program](#)
- [Handshake Partnerships Program](#)
- [Contributions Program](#)
- [Cooperating Associations Program](#)
- [Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement \(MOU/MOA\)](#)
- [Volunteer Program](#)
- [Economy Act Agreements](#)
- [Cooperative Agreements](#)

How To:

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Grants/Alternative Funding Sources](#)
- [Partnership Advisory Committee](#)
- [Division & District POCs](#) 
- [Partnerships in OMBIL](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Partnership Outreach Sheet](#)





U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Opportunities



Why Partner with the Corps?

Benefits of Partnering with the Corps

- Potential for national exposure by partnering with a federal agency
- Variety of partnering opportunities because of the Corps' diverse missions
- Potential market branding to reach out to new customers
- One of the nation's leading federal providers of recreation
- We manage more than 400 lake and river projects equaling more than 12 million acres of land and water in 43 states.
- Our parks have significant economic impact, with visitors spending upwards of \$10.7 billion on trip expenses, strengthening the environmental, social and economic health of communities.
- 5,000 recreation sites with more than 93,000 campsites, 3,700 boat ramps, 7,800 miles of trails, of which 90% are within 50 miles of a metropolitan area

Connecting with the Corps

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages some of the most cherished lakes, rivers and lands near your cities and towns. Communities are proud of their special place in our parks. Great family memories are created during a boating, fishing, camping trip, or after a quiet day of hiking or biking on one our many trail systems. These experiences are important in strengthening families and organizations. Our parks also have significant economic impact, with 250 million visits per year supporting 180,000 jobs in communities near Corps lakes.

With the help of our partners, we can provide more service to the public than without you by our side.

To find out more about partnering with the Corps please visit: <https://corpslakes.ercd.dren.mil/visitors/partners.cfm>.



Partner Spotlight

The Corps Foundation assists by partnering with a wide range of organizations including local Friends groups, private individuals and businesses to support educational activities which enhance our visitor's experiences.

To learn how you can work with our national foundation, visit the Corps Foundation website: <http://corpsfoundation.org>



Connecting with Communities

Natural Resources Management Excellence in Partnership Award: General Wehr, Colonel Mitchell, and Mary Coulombe presented the Excellence in Partnerships Award to the Okaw Valley School District for their partnership with Lake Shelbyville in Illinois. Over 300 middle and high school students, project partners, teachers, and elected officials were present for the award. The school district leases land from the project which provides a learning environment for the students in land and water stewardship, recreation, and facility maintenance and operations. Businesses in the local communities donate materials, equipment, and financial support. This partnership was started with Corps Handshake program seed funds which are matched by the partner, and in this case significantly exceeded. This award is sponsored by the Corps Foundation.



Okaw Valley students planting trees at Lake Shelbyville.

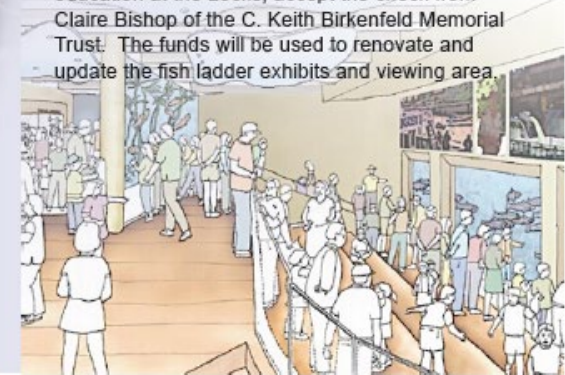
\$400,000 Grant from Birkenfeld Trust Provides Major Upgrades to Support Visitor Education at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks

Colonel John Buck, Seattle District Commander, acknowledges the single largest gift nationally to a Corps of Engineers facility. Jim Adams of Discover Your Northwest and Rich Deline of the Corps Foundation, two non-profits supporting visitor education at the Locks, accept the check from Claire Bishop of the C. Keith Birkenfeld Memorial Trust. The funds will be used to renovate and update the fish ladder exhibits and viewing area.



A Final Note

In a time of decreasing federal funding, America's lakes and waterways are at risk of reduced access, eliminated programs, and closures. By partnering and working together, we can help maintain and improve programs and facilities and keep these treasured resources healthy and vibrant.



Partnering with the Corps information sheet



Bridging the Gap

Volume 3, Issue 2

September 2019

Your Partnership HQ Update

Heather Burke, National Partnership Program Manager, HQUSACE

It's that time of year again... pumpkin spice flavored *everything* is available in the stores, and NRM Assessment is open for data entry! Now is the time to reflect back on FY 19 and recall all the amazing partners and volunteers you had the opportunity to work with and make sure you report your successes to get credit for your hard work. It's important that District, Division, and HQUSACE leadership hears about what you're doing. Partnership data builds internal support for our programs all the way up the line. It helps support our requests for the Recreation and ENS budgets by demonstrating that we have strong and robust NRM programs that should be financially supported.

Most likely you have more partner-

ships than you realize. People often think that you have to have a written agreement to have a partnership, but a large majority of our partnerships are actually relatively informal. Our contributions authority allows us to accept money, services, supplies, and materials from other entities or individuals. If you've done any special events with partners such as a water safety fair, eco meet, National Public Lands Day, FLW Fishing event, CAST fishing event, Kids to Parks Day, boat/RV show, etc., and those organizations have donated booth space, time or supplies to USACE... you have a partnership! Be sure to participate in one of the NRM Assessment Partnership webinars offered on Sept. 18 or Oct. 3 to learn more.

'Bridging the Gap' is an electronic publication produced biannually by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC). The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about partnerships and volunteer programs around the country. For more information, or to submit stories for future editions, contact your PAC team representative.

NRM Assessment News

2018 National Volunteer of the Year Award Nominees

Steve Sporer, Supervisory Park Ranger, NAB

For the past four years beginning in 2015, Don and Autumn Benedict dedicated endless time and support to the Tioga-Hammond & Cowanesque Lakes (THC) within the recreation, environmental stewardship and flood risk management missions, contributing over 3,685 hours of volunteer service with a value of \$87,570. They have served as campground gate attendants, camp hosts, maintenance workers, and visitor center hosts.

The Benedicts are well known for supplementing the project's interpretation program both in the campground and at the visitor center. They provided information and guidance on park rules and procedures, as well as discussing flood risk management topics such as Project construction, water quality improvements, lake level status and damages prevented downstream. *Continued on pg. 7*



We LOVE our volunteers!

Names: Autumn and Don Benedict

Corps project: Tioga-Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes, Tioga, Pennsylvania

Volunteer hours donated: 3,685



USACE volunteers are worth their weight in GOLD!

Mount Morris Dam Recreation Area Partnership Creates Opportunities for Dedicated Volunteers

3

Juliana Smith, NRM Specialist/Ranger and Volunteer Coordinator, LRB



ARC volunteers pick up litter in recreation areas



ARC volunteers performing boundary line maintenance



ARC participants outside MMD VC

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming (The Arc) is a non-profit organization that works toward inclusion of adults with cognitive and emotional challenges as productive members of the community and society at-large. In 2012, The Arc contacted the Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area (MMD), looking for a space to exhibit art created by their clients. After agreeing to display some of their art as part of a rotational exhibit in our visitor center, I chatted with The Arc staff to find out more about what they do. During this casual conversation, I learned some basics about many programs The Arc offers their diverse collective of individuals, and my wheels started turning!

Over the next several years our respective teams worked diligently to develop a meaningful partnership that has flourished for nearly a decade, and has grown over the years to include nearly 100 individual volunteers who have contributed over 15,500 hours of service. Volunteers from The Arc provide invaluable support to the MMD Recreation Program performing litter pick-up, trail maintenance, boundary line maintenance, and special event assistance. To date, The Arc's volunteer effort is valued at over \$366,095!

Most importantly, the value of this partnership is not simply one-sided, and several success stories have been born. While The Arc's volunteer contribu-

tions have certainly increased MMD's ability to provide high quality recreational opportunities to visitors, we have, in turn, provided valuable occupational experience to The Arc. These experiences help build job and life skills that can be used to move individuals toward personal independence by entering the workforce. In fact, many MMD volunteers from The Arc have successfully joined the workforce with paid positions in local businesses. Others have gained college experience through the LIVES Program (Learning Independence, Vocational, and Educational Skills) at the State University of New York. In the LIVES Program, students with all types of disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, speech, intellectual, and physical disabilities learn, work, and socialize with each other, and with students who don't have disabilities.

I consider this partnership a 'win-win' and have learned through my experience working with The Arc that sometimes big ideas start out in unexpected ways; in this case, with a little curiosity, a casual conversation, and an open mind.



(A great way to find out more about our outstanding partners and volunteers!)

We need your stories!

Corps
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Resources: Corps Lakes Photo Album

<https://corpslakes.erc.dren.mil/visitors/album.cfm?Option=View&Id=0&Activity=Volunteers>

Corps Lakes Photo Album
US Army Corps of Engineers
Take a virtual trip of our lakes:
[Corps Lakes Gateway](#) > [Corps Photo Album - How to get photos added?](#)

Volunteers

Select a Corps of Engineers Lake Select an Activity


Photo 1:

Photo by: Mary Margaret Lewis
USACE Volunteers in Action- 1st Place


Photo 2:

Photo by: Eric Haskell
USACE Volunteers in Action- 2nd place


Photo 3:

Photo by: Robert Carr
USACE Volunteers in Action- Honorable Mention


Photo 4:

Photo by: Mindy Cory
Volunteers in Action - 2nd place


Photo 5:

Bardwell Lake


Photo 6:

Bardwell Lake


Photo 7:




Photo 8:


Photo 9:


U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers

www.CorpsLakes.us

Corps Lakes Gateway

Your gateway to fun at Corps Lakes!



Select a State ▼

Select a Corps of Engineers Lake ▼

Select an Activity ▼

Search

370 million visits

Partnerships in Natural Resources Management



Our Nation's lakes, rivers, and parks need you! Imagine yourself creating new recreation opportunities, improving and creating trails, preserving history, protecting wildlife, caring for the environment, ensuring healthy watersheds, expanding learning opportunities, or improving accessibility.

Each year, the Army Corps of Engineers partners with thousands of individuals and organizations on recreation and environmental projects to enhance our nation's natural resources. We are proud of our broad range of existing partners and eagerly seek to expand mutually beneficial relationships with others.

Examples of Successful Partnerships ▼

National Partners with the Corps of Engineers ▼



Resources:

www.Volunteer.Gov



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Youghiogheny River Lake, PA
Volunteers assist park rangers with wood duck box surveys

Featured Opportunities



USGS The National Map Corp - Volunteer Map Editor
The US Geological Survey (USGS) is recruiting volunteers to collect and update USGS geographic data. Similar to how other online crowdsourcing cartographic applications allow anyone to collect, edit, and use geographic data through an online map editor, the USGS has developed an online editor customized to our data needs that allows volunteers[view more](#)

[View Next](#)

Find a Volunteer Opportunity

Keywords

City State

Agency

Interests

Housing/Amenities

Recent Postings

Events Calendar

March 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Find Opportunities by State



Links

Record your Volunteer Time



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U.S. ARMY

PAC 2019

- Stacy Sigman - MVD
(MVK- Lake Ouachita)
- Heath Kruger – NWD
(Omaha District)
- Scott Sunderland – NAD
(NAP- Blue Marsh Lake)
- Heather Burke – HQ
- Allison Walker - LRD
(Nashville District Office)
- Francis Ferrell– SAD
(SAW- Falls Lake)
- Tennille Hammonds- SWD
(SWF- Three Rivers Region)



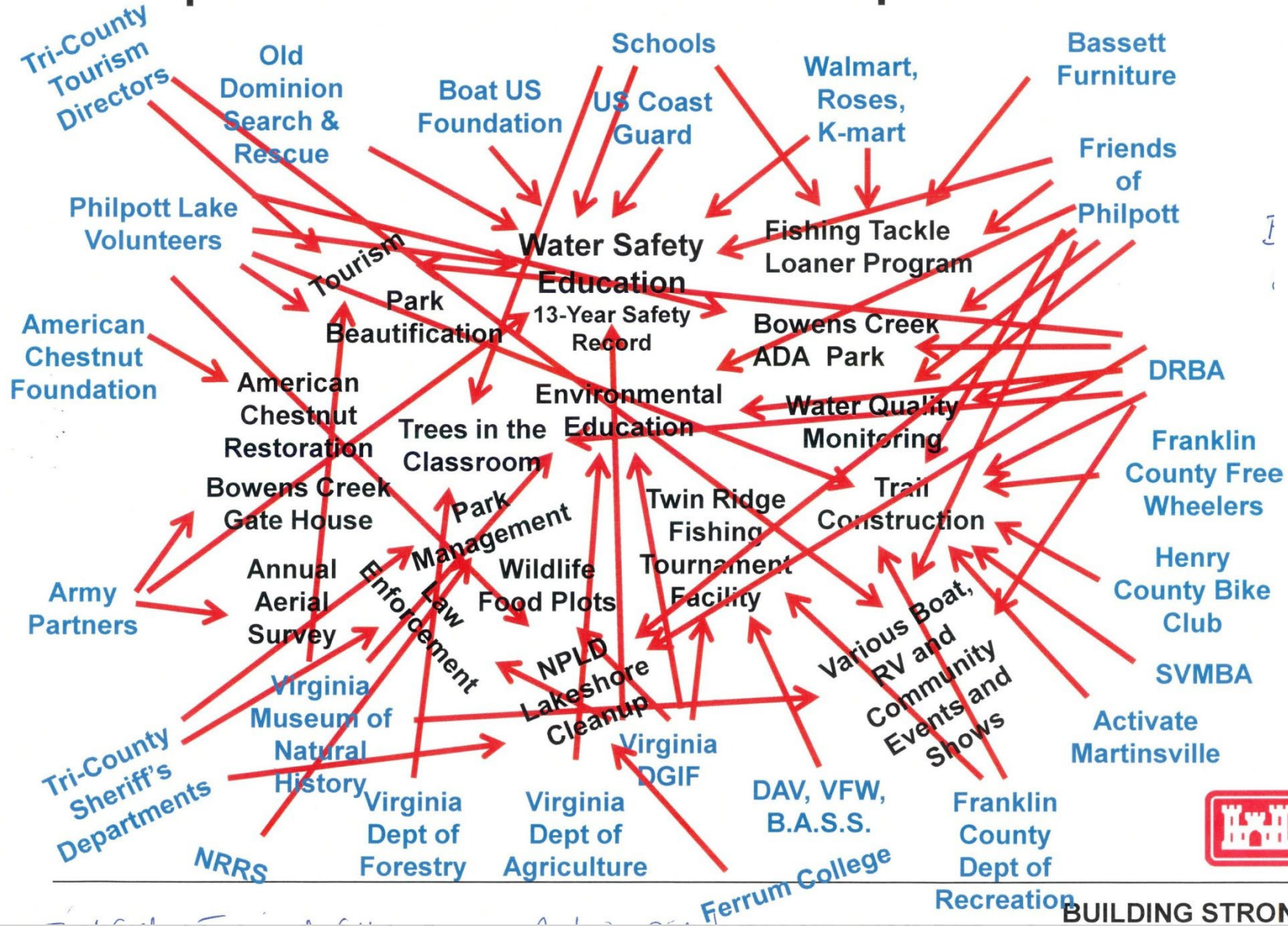
Not pictured:
Taylor Saia - SPD
(SPK- Northern Operations Area)



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Philpott Lake Partnership Flow Chart



*Philpott Lake Partnership Success



Twin Ridge Park
Fishing Tournament
Facility

- \$50,000 from local tourism council
- Led to selection by FLW for college fishing tournament
- Estimated value to local economy = \$500,000 return on investment



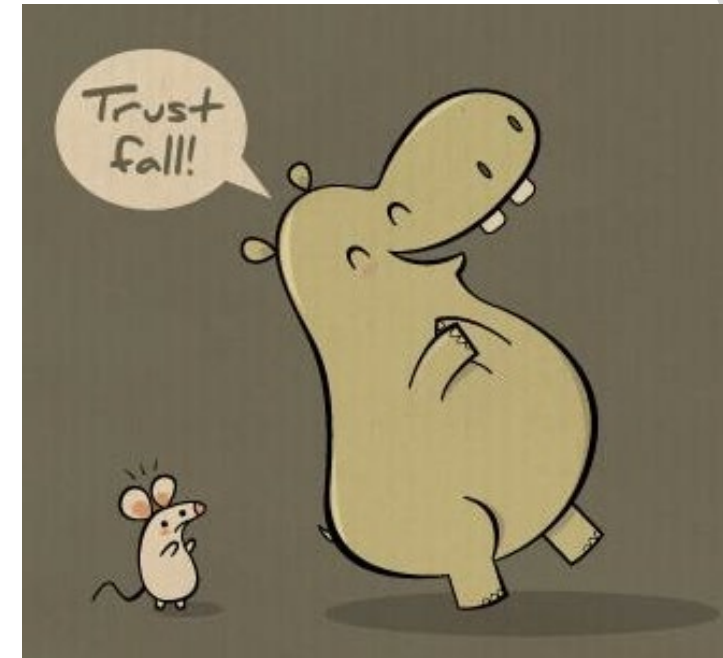
Philpott Lake Partnership Success

You Tube  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGAQaREwD_



Review

- Partnerships are all about relationships, trust, and communication.
- They take an investment of time and commitment, and require flexibility to adapt to change.
- Types of partnerships used by the Corps NRM program: Contributions, MOU/MOAs, Challenge Partnerships, Challenge Cost Sharing Cooperative Management Agreements, Economy Act, Cooperative Agreements, Cooperating Associations, Volunteers
- Although leases, licenses, and contracts may be used as instruments in addition to a partnership agreement, they are NOT partnerships themselves.
- You probably have more partnerships than you realize.



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