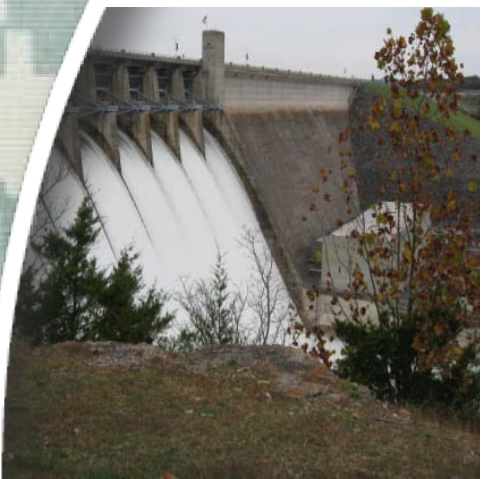


# Cooperating Associations

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# Partnerships

- Traditional Partnerships
  - ▶ State Wildlife and Enforcement Agencies
  - ▶ Municipalities, Civic and Community Orgs
  - ▶ Boy and Girl Scouts
  - ▶ Trail Groups
  - ▶ Volunteers
  
- Recent Partnerships
  - ▶ Hospitals
  - ▶ Non-Profit Organizations
  - ▶ For-Profit (Businesses)



# Cooperative Agreements

- Types of Agreements Used:
  - ▶ MOU/MOAs
  - ▶ Challenge Partnership Agreements
    - Handshake program
  - ▶ Cooperative Agreements
    - w/Non-Profits
    - Law enforcement services
    - Fire protection services
    - Others



# Cooperating Associations

## Authorities:

- [P.L. 102-580](#), Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Section 225
- ER & EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 9-Cooperating Associations



# Cooperating Associations

Cooperating Association vs. Friends Group:

- **Cooperating Association:** refers to a legal entity, organized under state law, which enjoys a non-profit and tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service codes and which operates under the terms of a Cooperative Agreement with the Corps.
- **Friends Group:** generally refers to local volunteer groups of citizens organized for a specific purpose or interest in a particular geographical area. Friends groups may or may not have 501(c) status. A friends group does not become a cooperating association unless a cooperative agreement is signed.



# Cooperating Associations

What are the benefits of partnering with Cooperating Associations?

- ▶ Associations can purchase materials, equipment, programs, exhibits, services, and publications to be used at the project.
- ▶ Fundraising, sponsoring, collaborating
- ▶ Associations can develop an organized constituency not typically accessible to the Corps.
- ▶ Associations can be advocates for the Corps. Some can lobby if they are established with that mission.
- ▶ Can hire support staff to help Corps missions.



# Cooperating Associations

- Getting Started with Cooperating Associations:
  - ▶ Consult with Office of Counsel early in the process of trying to develop a new cooperating association.
  - ▶ Determine if there is an existing association or non-profit group in your area.
  - ▶ USACE employees can facilitate activities that lead to creation of a cooperating association.
  - ▶ Nonprofit groups must have a developed structure and operating procedures.



# Cooperating Associations

- Getting Started with Cooperating Associations:
  - ▶ Provide them resources to assist with forming an association
    - Web resources (IRS.gov, etc.)
    - Supporting associations (APPL)
    - Training
  - ▶ Look for established umbrella organizations or chapters





# Cooperating Associations

- Cooperating Associations must have:
  - ▶ Board of Directors
  - ▶ Complete Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
  - ▶ Incorporation
  - ▶ Non-profit 501 c status
  - ▶ Mission that aligns with the Corps mission



# Cooperating Associations

- USACE Efforts
  - ▶ Provide the Association with Corps' goals, programs and activities.
  - ▶ Provide members with a sample Cooperative Agreement to review
  - ▶ Sign the agreement
  - ▶ Establish annual goals
  - ▶ Now the hard work begins...



# Cooperating Associations

- USACE Efforts
  - ▶ Currently 58 Cooperating Associations in Partnership with the Corps
  - ▶ <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/coopassoc/coopassoc.cfm>



# Cooperating Associations

- Remember: Successful Partners...
  - ▶ Want the partnership to succeed
  - ▶ Seek win-win solutions; being flexible but focused
  - ▶ Are open and clear about their own goals
  - ▶ Listen well and respond to other views
  - ▶ Are prepared to trust
  - ▶ Have integrity and act consistently
  - ▶ Effectively and efficiently carry out tasks and responsibilities
  - ▶ Will not just sweep difficulties under the carpet





# Questions?

