

# NRM Gateway Partnership Pages

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US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG**®





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## Natural Resources Management Notes

### THE NATIONAL RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

View the [Recreation Strategic Plan](#)

The national recreation strategic plan is now available for use by Corps employees.

The [public release](#) is now available.

**Staffing Study Results: An Analysis of Recreation Staffing and Labor Costs at Corps Projects -- A White Paper Prepared in Support of the National Recreation Road Map**

**Survey Results: 2010 Park Ranger & Visitor Safety Survey and 2011 Visitor Assistance Program Manager Survey**

**Lynda Nutt, National Water Safety Program Manager is Retiring**

### Featured/New Websites

- Customer Discussion Guides
- Fire Management
- FY09-10 Visitor Centers - Survey tools and procedures
- FY09-10 Recreation Areas - Survey tools and procedures
- Information on FLREA
- Level One Inventories
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### NRM Gateway Glimpse

- 4 January 2011
- 22 April 2010
- 12 March 2010
- Featured Article

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Partnerships

## Partnerships

### [Headquarters POC](#)

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**.

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## Step 1 - Assess Situational Needs

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### Define what is and what isn't a partnership.

There are a lot of misconceptions about partnerships. Here are some pitfalls you can avoid by knowing what is and what isn't a partnership:

#### A partnership IS:

1. A written agreement between the parties. This can be in the form of a [challenge partnership agreement](#), [MOU/MOA](#), [Economy Act agreement](#), [cooperative agreement](#), [volunteer agreement](#), or a [contributions plan](#).
2. Mutual interest in, mutual benefits from, or mutually desired goals of a common objective related to the mission of the agency.
3. Builds consensus and broad-based community support.
4. Appropriate legal authority.
5. Voluntary participation.
6. Consistent with agency plans, policies, and priorities.
7. Leverages resources to meet challenges and improve opportunities
8. A realistic timeframe with sufficient lead time to acquire funding, materials, and necessary approvals.

#### A partnership is NOT:

1. Conflict of interest, appearance of conflict of interest, or preferential treatment of one entity over another.
2. Endorsement of commercial products, services, or entities.
3. Circumvention of applicable legal requirements in areas such as procurement, personnel, or labor laws; printing, publishing, or audiovisual production; and issuance of special use permits.
4. Marketing or promotion of partners in any way, except for recognition of the contribution.

### Assess the skills and assets of the partnership

Partnerships are not a one-way street. A partnership means you and your partner have joint interests and associations. How do you determine what skills and assets you and your potential partner bring to the table? Ask yourselves these questions:

- o Are mutual needs identified?
- o Are each other's needs compatible with [organizational missions](#)?
- o Does the potential partner's experience match your needs?
- o Does everyone understand the reasons for and goals of the partnership?
- o Is there a visible outcome?
- o Are all affected stakeholders identified?
- o Have mutual benefits been identified?
- o Do you have the legal authority to enter into the partnership?
- o Do you have the resources to fulfill your end of the partnership?

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

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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.

**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 U.S.C. §2328; [EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 12](#); [ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12](#)).

**Cooperating Associations** – The Corps may enter into cooperative 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. ([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](#); [EP 1130-2-500, Chapter 10](#); [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; [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.

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How To Partnerships



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## Step 3 - Budget Development and Financing

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### Basic rules

The most important thing to remember about financing partnership projects is that the Corps does not conduct fundraising activities. Ethics rules prohibit Federal employees from soliciting funds from people outside the Government. However, cooperating associations and Friends groups can solicit funds for their organization and for projects or events that are being conducted jointly with the Corps. A cooperative agreement should be written to detail the funding relationship with the Corps. Public-private partnerships often involve corporations who wish to make donations that are tied to advertising. Recognition of the contribution is important, but must avoid the suggestion of commercialization, advertising, and endorsement of a product, service, or organization.

### Non-profit 501's

Certain tax laws apply to non-profit organizations that affect their ability to raise funds. Exemption from Federal income tax is based on Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code for organizations operated exclusively for charitable or educational status. This affects their fundraising ability, enabling them to accept donations in which the donors can receive a tax "write-off." Some non-profits may not have this status; however, they can still raise funds and contribute to partnerships with the Corps.

### Grant Writing and Assistance

Grants can be obtained from public and private sources consistent with the purpose of the granting entity. Cooperative associations and friends groups may apply for grants and apply the grant monies 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. This is the preferred method. Corps employees may help partners write grant proposals, and may conduct training sessions on grant writing.

### Contributions and Donations

Contributions for operation and management of recreation facilities and protection and restoration of natural resources at civil works water resource projects are accepted in accordance with ER 1130-2-500, dated 27 December 1996, "Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management Policies)." Each location that collects contributions shall have a contributions plan that describes the work that will be accomplished with any potential contributions. The plan shall be reviewed and updated as necessary as work items are completed and new tasks are added.

### What can we do:

- Use donation boxes.
- Talk to organizations about sharing resources, including money, when we are likely to consummate a cooperative agreement.
- Accept contributions at the discretion of the commander or operations project manager when they believe the contribution is consistent with the laws, regulations, integrity, and reputation of the Corps of Engineers and would not give the appearance of a conflict of interest or with

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Challenge Partnerships

## Challenge Partnerships Program

### [Headquarters POC](#)

The Challenge Partnership Program provides opportunities for non-federal public and private groups and individuals to contribute to, and participate in, the operation and/or management of recreation facilities and natural resources at water resource development projects. This program allows the Corps to accept funds, materials, personal property, equipment, and/or services following the approval of a Challenge Partnership [Agreement](#), to accomplish work programs; however it does not permit the Corps to accept real estate from the partner, nor reimburse for services. At this time, USACE has no authority or mechanism to give funds directly to a non-federal partner. The contributed resources are combined with regular project O&M resources to accomplish work within current authorities and contained in the annual or five-year plan in the approved operational management plan. This provides a way to stretch the Corps budget by sharing costs. Work is generally accomplished during one fiscal year, but may be carried over several years. The Corps' Challenge Partnership Program is authorized by [Public Law 102-580, Section 225 of 33 U.S.C 2328, Water Resources Development Act of 1992](#).

In 2002, the Challenge Cost Sharing program was renamed Challenge Partnerships, since challenge partnerships differ from traditional cost-sharing in several ways. [Click here to see the comparison chart](#).

Note: Challenge partnership agreements are NOT [cooperative agreements](#) as described by 31 U.S.C. 6305 or the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA), and therefore are not subject to the FGCAA or the DoD regulations governing the use of FGCAA cooperative agreements.

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Established: November 2001

## Challenge Partnership Program - Policy & Procedures

### Engineer Pamphlets

- o EP 1130-2-500, dated 27 December 1996 revised 1 June 2006  
Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management Guidance and Procedures)
  - [Appendix U](#), Sample Challenge Partnerships Agreement  
*This applies for both Appendices U and T. In 2002, the name of the Challenge Costsharing Program was changed to the Challenge Partnership Program. Until the regulation is updated, the examples cannot be changed. When drafting one of these documents, please replace the word "Costsharing" with "Partnership."*
  - [Appendix T](#), Sample Challenge Partnerships Financial Work Sheet
  - [Chapter 12](#), Challenge Partnerships

### Engineer Regulations

- o ER 1130-2-500, dated 27 December 1996 revised 1 June 2006  
Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management Guidance and Policies)  
This regulation establishes the policy for the management of operation and maintenance activities of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel performing civil works functions related to flood control, navigation, dredging, hydroelectric power generation, environmental stewardship, and recreation services at water resource, waterway, and other USACE projects.
  - [Chapter 12](#), Challenge Partnerships

### Public Laws (P.L.)

- o [P.L. 102-580](#), Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Section 225, October 31, 1992

Section 225 of this law authorized the Secretary of the Army to enter into cooperative agreements with 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 also authorized the Secretary of the Army to accept contributions of funds, materials, and services from non-Federal public and private entities. If your cooperating association wants to contribute funds to the Corps, refer to the Contributions Program section of the Gateway.

### Other Policy

- o [CECC-G Bulletin No. 02-16](#), Acceptance of Non-Federal Funds for Work at Recreation Facilities
- o [CECC-G Bulletin No. 02-12](#), Challenge Partnership Program

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## Challenge Partnership Agreements

Numerous Challenge Partnership Agreements (CPAs) have been set up at lake and river projects around the Corps (not including those related to Handshake Partnerships). Listed below are some examples of CPAs categorized by major project type.

[Click here to submit](#) and share your Challenge Partnership Agreement.

- [Challenge Partnership Agreement](#) - Word document template/fillable form
- [NWP Challenge Partnership Template](#)

### Trails

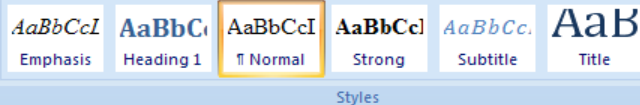
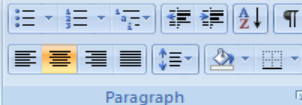
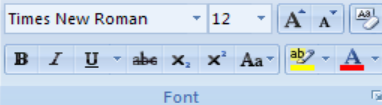
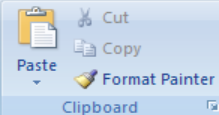
- [New Orleans District, Bonnet Carre Spillway and South Louisiana Trailblazers, Inc.- ATV trail development, July 2000](#)
- [Walla Walla District, Dworshak Reservoir and State of Idaho Juvenile Correction Center- Trail maintenance, June 2010](#)
- [Forth Worth District, Waco Lake, the Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association and the Waco Bicycle Club- Construction of equestrian group camp and trailhead improvements, 2010](#)

### Recreation

- [Kansas City District, Tuttle Creek Lake, Briggs Motor Company, Inc. and Flat Land Jeep Club- ORV recreation area improvements, 2000](#)
- [Little Rock District, Greers Ferry Lake, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, First Electric Cooperative, City of Greers Ferry, Arkansas, Greers Ferry Area Chamber of Commerce; and Greers Ferry Lake Bassmasters- Fishing tournament roads, parking, support building improvements, August 2005](#)
- [Walla Walla District, Lucky Peak Lake and Boise Project Board of Control- Toilet, staircase, parking lot installation and angler access improvements, August 2009](#)
- [Fort Worth District and the City of Colony- Development of low density recreation within wildlife management areas, 2008](#)
- [Savannah District, Hartwell Lake and the Hartwell Ramp Betterment Partners- Boat ramp extension, December 2008](#)
- [Savannah District, Thurmond Lake and Sportsman's Corner- Sale of annual passes, December 2010](#)
- [Savannah District, Thurmond Lake and Clatt's Crossing- Sale of annual passes, December 2010](#)
- [Savannah District, Thurmond Lake and West Marine- Sale of annual passes, December 2010](#)
- [Savannah District, Thurmond Lake and August Marine- Sale of annual passes, December 2010](#)
- [Nashville District, Lake Barkley and Lyon County Tourism Commission- Boat ramp and parking improvements, October 2004](#)
- [Nashville District, J Percy Priest Lake and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency- Accessible fishing pier, jetty, parking, trails improvements, September 1996](#)
- [Walla Walla District, Dworshak Dam and Reservoir and the Orofino Chamber of Commerce- Pack It In/Pack It Out litter bag program, April 2011](#)

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Challenge Partnerships Agreements



CHALLENGE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
AND  
EXAMPLE modify as appropriate

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 Government manages lands and waters at Beautiful Lake which includes recreational opportunities for the public, and

WHEREAS, the installation of an accessible fishing platform at Scenic Recreation Area on Beautiful Lake will increase the recreational opportunities for the public, and

WHEREAS the Partner is interested in promoting and assisting the Government in providing this accessible fishing platform, and

WHEREAS, it is mutually beneficial to the Government and the Partner to work cooperatively to make this accessible fishing platform available to the public, and

WHEREAS, the Partner, in order to assist the Government in this project has voluntarily agreed to pay a portion of the cost, and

WHEREAS, Section 225 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, PL 102-580, (Oct 31, 1992), authorizes the Secretary of the Army to accept contributions from the Partner and apply those contributions to the Project, and

WHEREAS, the Government and the Partner have the full authority and capability to perform as hereinafter set forth and intend to cooperate in financing and challenge cost-sharing in accordance with the terms of this agreement;

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



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## Handshake Program

The Handshake Program offers a source of seed money to Corps installations for worthwhile partnership projects. The intent of this program is to initiate new, or enhance existing recreation and natural resources management opportunities. The objective is to provide an incentive to Corps projects to utilize partnering initiatives to their fullest potential. In addition, this funding is intended to encourage local organizations to partner with the Corps to construct, operate, and/or maintain local partnering projects. The Handshake Program is a way for the Corps to demonstrate our recognition that partnerships flow in both directions (i.e. partnerships are a "handshake," not a handout). Corps leadership has demonstrated their commitment to a partnership culture by establishing this program.

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, USACE has no authority or mechanism to give a non-federal partner funds. Contact your district partnering POC or division Partnership PDT member if you have questions concerning this issue.

Questions about this program should be directed to [Allen Gwinn](#), Handshake Program POC at 814-658-6810.

- [Handshake Program Fact Sheet](#)

- [Applications and Agreements](#)
- [Program Presentations](#)
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### Handshake Program Recipients

- [Summary of 2004 – 2012 Recipients](#)
- [2012 Recipients](#)
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- [2004 Recipients](#)

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Updated December 2011

Handshake Partnership

Contributions

## Contributions Program

### [Headquarters POC](#)

The contributions program was authorized by Public Law 102-580, Water Resources Development Act, 1992 (106 Stat. 4838), and 33 USC 2328, Sec. 203 to allow the acceptance of contributions from groups and individuals to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and protection and restoration of natural resource at civil works water resource projects. Contributions must be within current authorities, consistent within the Corps mission, and for work items contained in an approved annual 5-year operational management plan. A project or district- level contributions and recognition Plan serve as the agreement in this program to receive funds, materials, and services.

Contributions include, but are not limited to cash, funds, materials and services for:


- The protection, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation, or interpretation of natural resources, environmental features, recreation areas and facilities, or cultural resources.
- Improvement of accessibility for disabled persons
- Rehabilitating existing facilities
- Improving wildlife habitat
- Producing interpretive and water safety brochures, publications and videos
- Plant native plants and trees
- Supporting endangered species recovery plans
- Maintaining trails


Note:

- All facilities and work accomplished become the property of the Corps.
- Real estate cannot be accepted under this program.
- Recognition shall be encouraged as a way to express appreciation to contributors and acknowledge the public support that has been received.
- Contributions are not an augmentation of the budget.

The contribution plan provides a formal document that describes in general terms the categories or types of work that have been identified in the Operational Management Plan (OPM) and are eligible for being accomplished under the authority of the Corps' Contributions Program. In conjunction with describing the general nature or categories of work to be accomplished, the plan also addresses the following: general procedures and methods for receiving and accounting for monetary contributions; methods for providing recognition to contributors and acknowledging public support; and designation of the individual responsible for assuring overall proper management and administration of the contributions program. These plans do not require a signature from the donor.

Accepted contributions shall be recorded into the OMBIL tracking system to provide historical documentation of past distribution and designation of services.

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Contributions and Recognition Guide and Example Plans](#)
- [Success Stories](#)
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## Contributions and Recognition Guide, and Example Plans

[Contributions, Fundraising and Recognitions Reference Guide](#) - October 2008

[Contribution and Donor Recognition Plan template](#) - Approved by HQUSACE Office of Counsel

Supporting documentation/memos from Office of Counsel and CECW-CO

- o [8 Dec 2011 - Contributions & Donor Recognition Plans; Clarification of Construction Services as Contributions](#)
- o [21 Nov 2011 - Construction by Non-Federal Entities at USACE Civil Works Properties](#)
- o [12 Oct 2011 - Draft Contributions and Recognition Plan](#)

- LRH, [John W. Flannagan Dam and North Fork of Pound Lake Contribution Plan](#), August 2002
- LRH, [Burnsville Lake Contributions Plan](#), May 2008
- LRH, [Contributions Plan for Sutton Lake](#), March 2008
- LRL, [C.J.Brown Reservoir Contributions Program Plan](#)
- LRL, [Rough River Lake Contribution Plan December 2011](#)
- NWO, [Contribution Plan for Omaha District, December 2011](#)
- NWP, [Contribution Plan for Portland District](#), November 2010
- NWP, Memo: [Use of Park Contribution Box](#)
- NWS, [Delegation of Signature Authority for Contributions](#)
- NWW, [Lucky Peak Lake Contributions Plan](#), June 2009
- NWW, [Policy for Acceptance and Disbursement of Natural Resources Recreation Funds Received Under the Contributions Program](#), November 2008
- SAW, [Wilmington District Contributions and Recognition Plan](#), August 2011

Recognition is encouraged as a way to express appreciation to contributors and acknowledge the public support that has been received. The Corps will acknowledge its appreciation in a manner consistent with the mission and goals of the Corps and the standards of ethical conduct. This may include letters or certificates of appreciation (ENG Form 4883-R as in Appendix S or locally designed certificate), news releases, photo opportunities, ribbon cutting ceremonies, articles in the project news briefs, or other appropriate means.

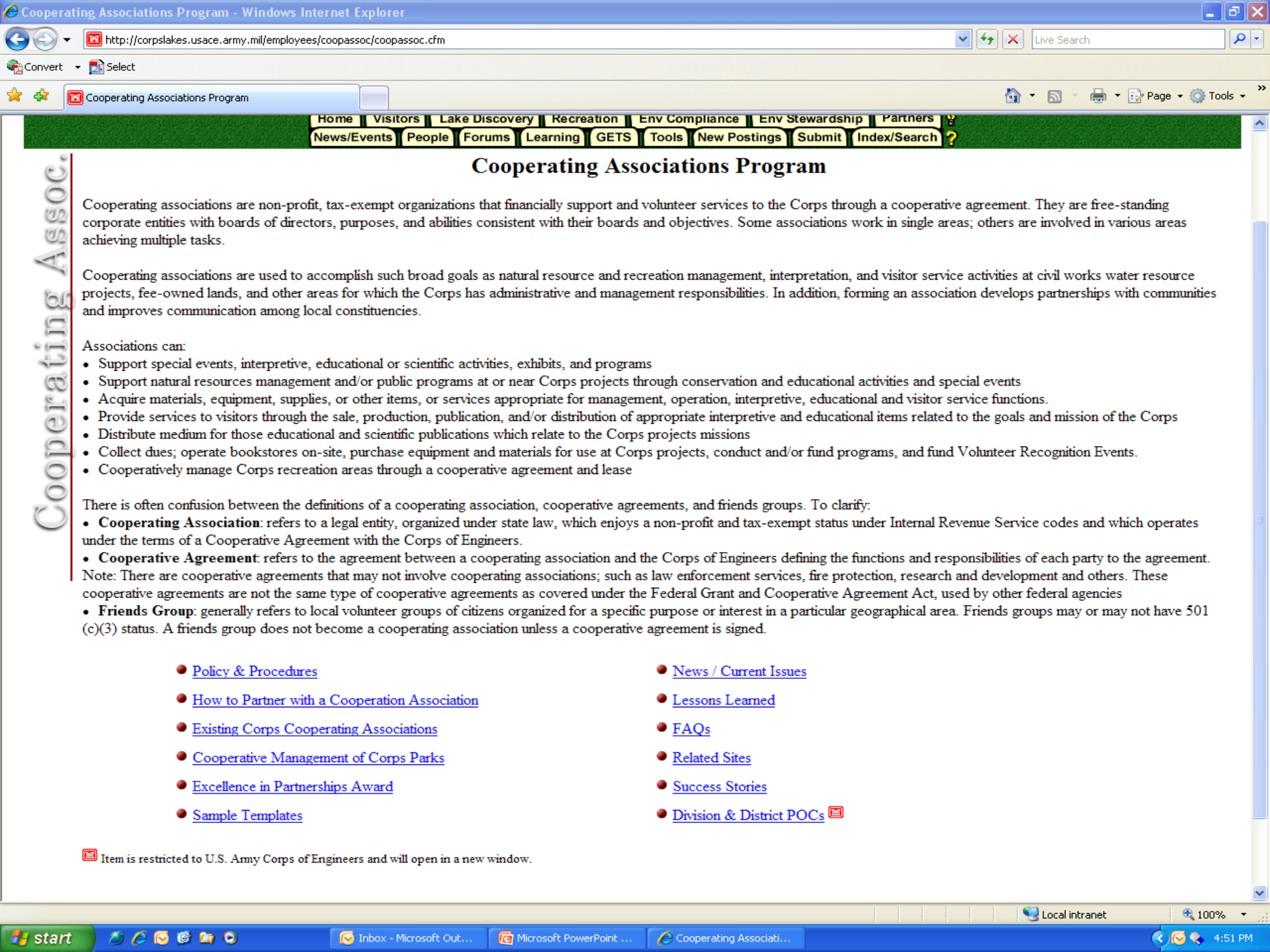
- [Sample Certificate EP 1130-2-500, Appendix S](#)

Project OMPs must include a statement about the Contributions Program if the site intends to accept donations and contributions. An example of an acceptable statement is "It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that contributions to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and protection and restoration of natural resources at civil works water resource projects shall be accepted and used, as provided by PL 102-580, Water Resources Development Act, 1992 (106 Stat. 4838, 33 United states Code (USC) 2328, Section 203). Contributions which are within current

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Contributions Recognition





Cooperating Assoc.

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## Cooperating Associations Program

Cooperating associations are non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that financially support and volunteer services to the Corps through a cooperative agreement. They are free-standing corporate entities with boards of directors, purposes, and abilities consistent with their boards and objectives. Some associations work in single areas; others are involved in various areas achieving multiple tasks.

Cooperating associations are used to accomplish such broad goals as natural resource and recreation management, interpretation, and visitor service activities at civil works water resource projects, fee-owned lands, and other areas for which the Corps has administrative and management responsibilities. In addition, forming an association develops partnerships with communities and improves communication among local constituencies.

Associations can:

- Support special events, interpretive, educational or scientific activities, exhibits, and programs
- Support natural resources management and/or public programs at or near Corps projects through conservation and educational activities and special events
- Acquire materials, equipment, supplies, or other items, or services appropriate for management, operation, interpretive, educational and visitor service functions.
- Provide services to visitors through the sale, production, publication, and/or distribution of appropriate interpretive and educational items related to the goals and mission of the Corps
- Distribute medium for those educational and scientific publications which relate to the Corps projects missions
- Collect dues; operate bookstores on-site, purchase equipment and materials for use at Corps projects, conduct and/or fund programs, and fund Volunteer Recognition Events.
- Cooperatively manage Corps recreation areas through a cooperative agreement and lease

There is often confusion between the definitions of a cooperating association, cooperative agreements, and friends groups. To clarify:

- **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 of Engineers.
  - **Cooperative Agreement:** refers to the agreement between a cooperating association and the Corps of Engineers defining the functions and responsibilities of each party to the agreement.
- Note: There are cooperative agreements that may not involve cooperating associations; such as law enforcement services, fire protection, research and development and others. These cooperative agreements are not the same type of cooperative agreements as covered under the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act, used by other federal agencies
- **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)(3) status. A friends group does not become a cooperating association unless a cooperative agreement is signed.

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [News / Current Issues](#)
- [How to Partner with a Cooperation Association](#)
- [Lessons Learned](#)
- [Existing Corps Cooperating Associations](#)
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### Existing Corps Cooperating Associations

This is a list of non-profit, tax-exempt Cooperating Associations that assist the Corps in natural resource and recreation management, interpretation, and visitor service activities as described in a cooperative agreement and real estate instrument (where applicable). They are freestanding corporate entities with Boards of Directors, purposes, and abilities consistent with their boards and objectives and have a signed agreement with the Corps.

This list does not include other types of partnering agreements e.g. cooperative agreements for single events/activities, memorandums of understanding, or challenge partnership agreements.

- [Spreadsheet of Cooperating Associations](#) – Updated August 2011
- [Cooperative Agreement template](#)

#### Great Lakes & Ohio River Division

- [Lake Superior Marine Museum Association](#): Lake Superior Maritime Visitor Center (LRE)
- [Friends of Caesar Creek Cooperating Association](#): Caesar Creek Lake (LRL)
  - [Bylaws, 1999](#)
  - [Cooperative Agreement, 2011](#)
  - [Articles of Incorporation, 2008](#)
- [Friends of Barren River Lake, Inc.](#): Barren River Lake (LRL)
- [Friends of Dale Hollow Lake](#): Dale Hollow Lake (LRN)
  - [Bylaws, 1993](#)
- [Conemaugh Valley Conservancy](#): Conemaugh River Lake (LRP)
  - [Lease, September 2000](#)
- [Friends of Berlin Lake](#): Berlin Lake (LRP)
  - [Bylaws](#)
  - [Cooperative Agreement, January 2010](#)
- [Friends of Rough River Lake](#): Rough River Lake (LRL)
  - [Cooperative Agreement, February 2011](#)

#### Mississippi Valley Division

- [Keeping DeGray Lake Beautiful](#): DeGray Lake (MVK)
- [Paul Bunyan Scenic Byways](#): Cross Lake (MVP)
  - [Cooperative Agreement, 2004](#)
- [Eastern National](#): Illinois Waterway Visitor Center (MVR)
  - [Cooperative Agreement, November 1993](#)

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Existing Cooperating Assoc.



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### Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement (MOU/MOA)

MOUs and MOAs are used to coordinate the Corps' authorized activities with another entity. These "agreements to agree" or umbrella agreements are often used interchangeably, although they are distinctly different. MOUs tend to be used for simple common-cause agreements which are not legally binding. MOAs, on the other hand, establish common legal terms that establish a "conditional agreement" where the transfer of funds for services are anticipated.

#### The Difference between MOUs and MOAs

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** defines a "general area of understanding" within both parties' authorities and no transfer of funds for services is anticipated. 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." An MOU may be used to outline the operation of a program so that it functions a certain way. For example, two agencies that have similar goals may agree to work together to solve a problem or support each other's activities by using an MOU. The MOU is nothing more than a formalized handshake.

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)** is a "conditional agreement" where the transfer of funds for services are anticipated. The MOA is prepared in advance of a "Support for Others Reimbursable Order" form. MOAs often establish common legal terms that will be read into every reimbursable order that follows. MOAs do not obligate any funds themselves, but they establish the terms for future service and cite one of the appropriate authorities to do so.

Note that neither MOUs nor MOAs can to be used independently to receive services or obligate funds beyond those separately authorized, and that any MOU or MOA with outside entities should be made in accordance with USACE District policies and authorizations.

- [National MOUs/MOAs](#)
- [Local MOUs/MOAs](#)
- [FAQs](#)
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Updated: July 2011

MOU/MOA Partnerships



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Volunteer

## Volunteer Program

### [Headquarters POC](#)

Corps projects offer many volunteer opportunities in recreation and natural resources management. Volunteers can serve as park and campground hosts, staff visitor centers, conduct programs, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, maintain park trails and facilities, and more. Corps personnel can recruit their own volunteers or get help from the [Volunteer Clearinghouse](#), [www.corpslakes.us/volunteer](http://www.corpslakes.us/volunteer), (1-800-VOL-TEER or 1-800-865-8337), a national information center for people interested in volunteering at Corps projects across the country. Corps offices that have upcoming projects or events that volunteers can assist with may use the Volunteer Clearinghouse to [submit their volunteer projects on-line](#).

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Volunteer Forms](#)
- [Program History](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Volunteer Clearinghouse](#)
- [Related Sites](#)
- [Take Pride in America](#)
- [Corps Photo Album for Volunteers](#)
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- [Good Enough to Share](#)
- [Volunteer Clothing, Posters, and Brochures](#)
- [Volunteer Plans and Handbooks](#)
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## Economy Act

The Economy Act of 1932, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 1535, authorizes the agency (ordering agency) to place orders for goods and services with another federal agency or a major organizational unit of an agency (performing agency). An Economy Act order 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) document, 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 verify under Part 8 of the FAR that the responsibility for this good or service is not assigned to another agency of the federal government. Authority for the ordering agency to do the work in question must be independently authorized. It should be noted that funds made available to the performing agency, but not yet obligated by the performing agency, shall be de-obligated and returned to the ordering agency at the end of their period of availability.

The Economy Act cannot be used for partnerships with non-federal entities, and is only used with federal agencies when another more specific transfer authority is not available. (Some agencies have their own transfer authorities that do not include de-obligation requirements and D&Fs, such as Section 632 of the Foreign Assistance Act, which the Corps may accept under the Chief's Economy Act (see below)). When entering into an Economy Act agreement with a non-DoD entity, the Corps must enter into an agreement by which the ordering agency agrees to pay all costs.

- [Policy & Procedures](#)
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Updated: July 2011

Economy Act Partnerships



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## Existing Economy Act Agreements

- [Omaha District and NPS – Environmental remediation, technical assistance and homeland defense/security activities](#)
- [MVP Lock 5 and US Forest Service – Environmental habitat improvement through the use of dredging](#)
- [Lucky Peak and BOR – Recreational improvements to bring power to recreation area](#)
- [Rogue River and US Forest Service – Forest Health Services](#)
- [Portland District and US Geological Survey - Mercury exposure risk assessment for purple martins at Willamette Valley Projects](#)
- [Portland District and Bureau of Land Management- Prescribed burning](#)

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## Cooperative Agreement

### [Headquarters POC](#)

The Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (FGCAA) sets forth the requirements for using cooperative agreements and grants to transfer funds to non-federal entities. However, use of cooperative agreements must be specifically authorized, and the FGCAA does **not** provide such authority. There is no general authority for the Corps to use cooperative agreements. However, Section 213 of WRDA 2000 provides an exception; which authorizes the use of cooperative agreements for services relating to natural resources conservation or recreation management that involve programs fulfilling educational or training purposes, such as the work of the Student Conservation Association. These agreements are not subject to the FGCAA but are subject to the DoD regulations governing cooperative agreements.

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## Existing Cooperative Agreements

**[Cooperative Agreements for Law Enforcement Services](#)** - District commanders have been delegated the authority to contract and/or enter into cooperative agreements with states and their political subdivisions to obtain increased law enforcement services at civil works water resource projects to meet needs during peak visitation periods and to augment the citation authorities granted to the Corps under 36 CFR Chapter III, Part 327 (Title 36).

- o [Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreement template](#)

**[Cooperative Agreements for Fire Protection Services](#)** - The Corps may enter into reciprocal agreements with fire departments to mutually assist one another in firefights on federal lands and on other lands for which the fire department provides firefighting services. This authority is limited to mutual aid agreements and does not authorize an agency to enter into an agreement to reimburse fire departments for services unilaterally provided to the government.

- o [J Strom Thurmond and US Forest Service](#) - Prescribed burn

**[Cooperative Agreements for Educational and Training Activities](#)** - The Corps may enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal public and nonprofit entities for natural resources conservation or recreation management work that furthers training and educational opportunities. (33 U.S.C. §2339). These agreements are not subject to the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act (FGCAA) but are subject to the DoD regulations governing cooperative agreements

**[Cooperative Agreements for Research and Development](#)** - Corps laboratories may enter into Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs) under certain circumstances. The Secretary of the Army is authorized to use cooperative agreements and grants to engage in research and development projects that are necessary to the responsibilities of the Army in the field of research and development and either relate to military needs or are of potential interest to the Department of Defense.

- o [Bonneville Dam and Pennsylvania State University](#) - Visitor Surveys at Bonneville Dam

### **[Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units \(CESU\)](#)**

- o [CESU Research Cooperative Agreement with National Great Rivers Research and Education Center for Japanese Hops Control and Management](#)
- o [CESU Research Cooperative Agreement with National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology for Protocol Development for Citizen Science Avian Monitoring in Floodplain Forests](#)

### **[Cooperative Agreements with Cooperating Associations](#)**

- o Friends of Caesar Creek Cooperating Association: Caesar Creek Lake (LRL)
  - o [Cooperative Agreement, 2000](#)
- o Friends of Berlin Lake: Berlin Lake (LRD)
  - o [Cooperative Agreement, January 2010](#)

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Existing Cooperative Agreement



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.**

Partnerships

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


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- [Handshake Partnerships Program](#)
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- [Health/Medical Community Partnerships](#)
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- [Partnership Awards](#)
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## Partnerships - Policy & Procedures

### Engineer Pamphlets

- [EP 1130-2-429](#)  
Volunteer Coordinator's Handbook
- [EP 1130-2-433](#)  
Volunteer Brochure: Volunteer for America's Environment: A Shared Responsibility  
Brochures to help recruit volunteers may be ordered by e-mailing [hector.n.hunt@usace.army.mil](mailto:hector.n.hunt@usace.army.mil) or [Antoinette.m.jones@usace.army.mil](mailto:Antoinette.m.jones@usace.army.mil) (Fax 301-394-0081) in the Publications Depot.
- [EP 1130-2-500](#), dated 27 December 1996 revised 1 June 2006  
Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management Guidance and Procedures)
- [EP 1130-2-550](#), dated 15 November 1996 revised 15 August 2002  
Projection Operations - Recreation Operations and Maintenance Guidance and Procedures  
This pamphlet establishes guidance for the management of recreation programs and activities, and for the operation and maintenance of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recreation facilities and related structures, at civil works water resource projects and supplements ER 1130-2-510, "Recreation Operations and Maintenance Policies."

### Engineer Regulations

- [ER 1130-2-500](#), dated 27 December 1996 revised 1 June 2006  
Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management Guidance and Policies)  
This regulation establishes the policy for the management of operation and maintenance activities of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel performing civil works functions related to flood control, navigation, dredging, hydroelectric power generation, environmental stewardship, and recreation services at water resource, waterway, and other USACE projects.
- [ER 37-2-10](#), dated 1 April 1969  
Financial Administration - Accounting and Reporting - Civil Works Activities  
There have been 89 updates to this ER. The above gives specific guidance on accounting and reporting procedures for contributions of cash, funds, materials, and services.
- [ER 405-1-12](#), dated 20 November 1985 revised 15 May 2000  
Real Estate Handbook  
This regulation establishes policy for the management and operation of real estate responsibilities on Military and Civil Works Projects

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## Partnerships in OMBIL

The Operations and Maintenance Business Information Link (OMBIL) was developed to provide a single location for data required to operate and manage the Operations function of the Corps. OMBIL contains modules for each business function, which currently include Navigation, Hydropower, Recreation, Environmental Stewardship, Environmental Compliance, Flood Risk Management, Water Supply, and Safety & Occupational Health. All business functions can be accessed through the [OMBIL Web page](#).

The Partnerships pages in OMBIL are currently located under the Recreation Business Function. Data Input Forms can be found in the Business Function Data Input screen, listed in the drop-down menu under "REC- Partnership Agreements" and Reports are listed in the drop-down menu under "REC- Partnership Detail Report." Access to the Data Input Forms requires special permissions through the OMBIL administrator. Reports can also be accessed through the Business Function Reports screen under "REC- Partnership Detail Report" by anyone with access to a Corps computer (no password or special permissions required).

Annual fiscal data entry for the Partnership pages opens each year October 1 - December 31 (on the REC- Annual Update data input form) to enter the value of each partnership for the prior fiscal year. However, new partnership agreements can be entered or edited at any time during the year.

**Note:** [Partnership data entry involves a two-step process](#). Step 1 (Available anytime during the year): Enter information about the partnership, including agreement type, organization, organization type, date effective, description. Step 2 (Available only during annual update period Sep/Oct): Enter information about the value of the partnership, including number of volunteers, volunteer hours, partner funds invested, professional services provided, materials and equipment donated, Corps contract funds, services, materials and equipment, and additional investments.

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OMBIL Partnerships

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AutoSum Fill Clear Editing

Sort & Find & Filter Select

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	<b>PARTNERSHIP TYPE (MOU/MOA; Contributions, Challenge Partnership, Cooperative Agreement)</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER RATE</b>	<b>VALUE OF SERVICES</b>		
2								\$21.36	\$0.00		
3								\$21.36	\$0.00		
4								\$21.36	\$0.00		
5								\$21.36	\$0.00		
6								\$21.36	\$0.00		
7								\$21.36	\$0.00		
8								\$21.36	\$0.00		
9								\$21.36	\$0.00		
10											
11											
12	<b>PARTNERSHIP TYPE (Handshake)</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER RATE</b>	<b>VALUE OF SERVICES</b>		
13								\$21.36	\$0.00		
14								\$21.36	\$0.00		
15								\$21.36	\$0.00		
16											
17											
18	<b>PARTNERSHIP TYPE (Cooperating Association)</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER RATE</b>	<b>VALUE OF SERVICES</b>	<b>VALUE OF SALES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAID STAFF</b>
19								\$21.36	\$0.00		
20								\$21.36	\$0.00		
21								\$21.36	\$0.00		
22											
23											
24	<b>PARTNERSHIP TYPE (Economy Act)</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>						
25											
26											
27											
28											
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30											
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## Partnerships - Frequently Asked Questions

[Click for Disclaimer](#)

### Q. Which partnership agreement type should I use to enter annual value data for cooperatively managed Corps parks?

A. Corps facilities may be operated in collaboration with cooperating associations through a cooperative agreement and an appropriate real estate lease. Annual partnership values associated with the cooperatively managed areas should be entered under the "Cooperating Association" agreement type.

### Q. I can't find my partnerships when I try to enter the annual value data, but I know I entered them. Where did they go?

A. If your partnerships show up in the list on the opening page of the partnership annual update screen in OMBIL, and they are not checked as "No Activity" or "Terminated," they will also show up in the financial data portion under the category in which you entered the partnership (ie. A MOU will be found in the MOU screen). Some pages are too wide, and you have to SCROLL across the bottom to find the NEXT button. You will receive a Congratulations notice when you have completed all screens.

### Q. Where should I enter Volunteer data in OMBIL?

A. ALL volunteer hours will be captured in the Annual Project Data Update section. In addition, volunteers that are also part of a partnership agreement (Cooperating Association, Challenge Partnership, MOU/MOA, Handshake, Contributions, Cooperative Agreement), should ALSO be counted in the Partnership Update section where they are associated with a partner entry. [Click here](#) for a decision tree/flow chart to walk you through the process.

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## Partnerships - Training

### Ongoing Available Training/Presentations

- [OMBIL Partnerships Training webcast](#)  
Step-by-step instructions on how to enter partnership data in OMBIL for FY 11
- [OMBIL Partnerships Training webcast](#)  
Step-by-step instructions on how to enter partnership data in OMBIL for FY 10

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## News / Current Issues

- News Archive

### Memos & Suspenses

- 02/28/12 National Marina Day: June 9
- 02/08/12 May 19: Kids to Parks Day/Classroom Contest
- 01/24/12 Report on Partners Outdoors 2012
- 01/12/12 APPL registration fees increase after tomorrow!
- 01/06/12 Request for Partnership Success Stories
- Archive

### Web Meetings (Webinars)

- 2011
- Aug 3: Introduction to the Corps NRM Partnerships webinar *Heather Burke*

### 2012 Engineer Update Articles

- Archive

### APPL Training

### Friends of Raystown honored for Excellence in Partnerships

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Partnerships  
Good Enough to Share

## Good Enough to Share

[Click for Disclaimer](#)

- [Submit a Good Enough to Share](#)

This page will be used as a collection point for partnership success stories, lessons learned, and best management practices. After you submit an item on this page, it will be categorized and placed under the appropriate Partnership topic page (i.e. Contributions, MOUs/MOAs, Military Partnerships, Water Safety Partnerships, etc.)

### 21 Partnership Success Factors

by Brian O'Neill of the National Park Service, developed by the NPS Partnerships Office

### Partners in Action - Success Stories

[Submit a Partnership Story](#) - For USACE only. If you are not a USACE employee and have a partnership story, please contact your local USACE project office and work with them.

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# Corps Lakes Photo Album

Take a virtual trip of our lakes!

Corps Lakes Gateway > Corps Photo Album - [How to get photos added?](#)

## Partnerships

Select a Corps of Engineers Lake  Select an Activity



Allatoona Lake  
 Photo by: *Chris Purvis*  
 Annual Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup

Children participate in fun and games at the 21st Annual Great Lake Allatoona Cleanup Picnic. The GLAC is annually one of the top three Public Lands Day events in the nation.



Allatoona Lake  
 Acworth's Annual Professional Wakeboard Tour

In partnership with the City of Acworth, Park Ranger Ginger Bjomson greets the public from the USACE Water Safety Booth during Acworth's Annual Professional Wakeboard Tour Event on Lake Allatoona.



Barkley Lake  
 Photo by: *Kayl Kite*  
 Free Fishing Day

Partnership with the City of Cadiz and KY Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. participants gathered for doorprizes and awards.



Bear Creek Lake  
 Photo by: *Karen Sitoski*  
 Coyote Gulch Partnership Project



Bennington Lake  
 Photo by: *Ranger Nguyen*  
 Cyclo Cross Race put on by Allegro Cyclery



Burnsville Lake  
 Photo by: *C. Scott Hannah*  
 Curry Ridge Water Project  
 West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III congratulates at the opening ceremony of the Curry Ridge Water Project. This project allows Camp Sunshine, a camp for terminally ill children, including other local residents in the Curry Ridge Area to receive clean drinking water. The Corps and Burnsville PSD worked together to bring an existing Corps water line at Bulltown and extend it to Curry Ridge.



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## Cooperative Management of Corps Parks with a Cooperating Association

Declining budgets and a growing demand for safe and updated recreation opportunities have provided Corps projects an opportunity to partner with cooperating associations to share management responsibilities. The Corps can benefit by sharing the management responsibility (costs) of parks and other public areas.

Corps facilities may be operated in collaboration with cooperating associations through a cooperative agreement and appropriate real estate lease. Agreements may be entered into with a cooperating association for the purposes of managing public recreation areas, and fees may be collected. The Corps may retain operation and maintenance responsibilities on an area outgranted to a cooperating association, as long as the responsibilities are explicitly defined in the real estate agreement.

### Key Factors in Cooperative Management:

- Corps facilities may be operated in collaboration with cooperating associations through a cooperative agreement AND an appropriate real estate lease.
- Template cooperative agreement and standard lease documents are approved for use.
- Cooperating Associations can collect fees and keep ALL of them, but they have to use them for purposes on site. This can include their administration expenses.
- The Corps cannot have "constructive control" of the fees collected.
- Cooperative Associations cannot charge fees that are prohibited by law. They CAN charge use fees, but not entrance fees.
- If there is joint Cooperating Association/Corps O&M, the responsibilities shall be clearly spelled out in the lease.

### Guidance Memos

- 06/03/11 [SAD Memo: Approval for Deviation to Model Cooperating Association Lease](#)
- [Combined guidance on Cooperating Associations, Leases, and Cooperative Agreements](#)
- 04/07/11 [Leases and Cooperative Agreements with Cooperating Associations Follow-Up](#)
- 03/15/11 [Guidance Pertaining to Real Estate Instruments and Cooperative Agreements and Cooperating Associations](#) – Follow up to June 25, 2010 legal opinion
- 06/25/10 [Leases and Cooperative Agreements with Cooperating Associations – legal opinion](#)

### Approved Cooperative Agreements/Leases for Joint Management

- Baltimore District, Raystown Lake and Friends of Raystown Lake
  - [Cooperative Agreement, July 2011](#)
  - [Lease, August 2011](#)
- Fort Worth District and Our Lands and Waters Foundation
  - [Cooperative Agreement, September 2011](#)
  - [Lease- Lewisville Lake, September 2011](#)

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Cooperative Management Assoc.



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Grants/Alternative Funding Sources

## Grants/Alternative Funding Sources

Grants can be obtained from public and non-public sources consistent with the purpose of the granting entity. Cooperative 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 has to exist prior to accepting funding and 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.

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## Grants and Funding Available to the Corps

Grants/Alternative Funding Sources

### Grants that the Corps can directly apply for:

- [Federal Transit Administration Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks Programs](#) - a Federal grant program that provides funding for traffic congestion issues in public parks and recreation areas. Entails funding capital and planning expenses for alternative transportation systems such as shuttle buses and bicycle trails.
- US Forest Service Forest Pest Suppression program - provides 100% free funding to Corps projects from the USFS if experiencing problems such as gypsy moths, oak wilt, southern pine beetles, etc. Proposals that are focused on suppression or eradication have a higher chance of getting funded. The range of typical proposals that are funded is \$1,000 to \$50,000.
  - [FY 12 Forest Pest Management Project Proposal application](#)
  - [Forest Service Addresses and Phone Numbers to Call for Assistance](#)
  - [National USFS Priorities for Funding FHP Prevention/Suppression/Restoration Projects](#)

### Grants that require a third party to apply for:

- [Boat US Foundation Grassroots Grants](#)- awards local volunteer organizations up to \$4,000 for the promotion of safe and clean boating education. Over the past 20 years the Foundation has awarded over a million dollars to local community organizations, yacht clubs, flotillas and squadrons. The Foundation is looking for creative and innovative projects that promote safe and clean boating on your local waterway. Past topics have ranged from PSAs on the effects of boating under the influence to signs at boat ramps telling users about invasive species in the area and how to prevent them from spreading. The application process typically begins in January with submissions due in the spring. (Must be applied for by a non-profit friends group/cooperating association. Grants are not awarded to government agencies.)
- [Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#) - provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Each State administers its own program, usually through a State resource or park agency. Each State develops its own procedures to solicit and select projects for funding. Each State has a State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee to assist with the program. [Click here for more info.](#)
  - [Safe Routes to School program includes funding for trails between Schools and Recreation Areas](#)
- [National Forest Foundation Community Assistance Program](#) - provides start-up funds of \$5,000-\$15,000 to newly-forming community groups nationwide. See their website for program requirements - [www.natfforests.org](http://www.natfforests.org). This is a great way for your new Cooperating Association to obtain much needed funds to begin their program.
- [National Recreation and Park Association ACHIEVE grants](#): supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Healthy Communities Program. Applications are accepted from local park and recreation agencies to become an ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation and EnVironmental ChangE) communities. The ACHIEVE grant helps agencies reduce the incidence of chronic disease through policy, systems and

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# Natural Resources Management Gateway

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Partnerships  
Project Delivery Team

## Partnership Advisory Committee

The Chief of the Natural Resources Management (NRM) Community of Practice, Operations Division, USACE, has appointed a permanent committee to expand the role of non-federal entities in serving the public through partnerships to develop innovative ways to overcome challenges, improve opportunities on public lands, and leverage resources. The NRM Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC) exists to encourage a partnership culture and to assist districts and projects in developing that culture. The committee supports the efforts of all NRM personnel by:

1. Providing current guidance and historical examples of sustainable partnering efforts on the Corps of Engineers Gateway.
2. Forming, strengthening, and fostering relationships to accomplish our missions by actively collaborating with customers and stakeholders to build a better partnering environment.

### Partnership Advisory Committee

- o [Charter](#)
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### Meeting Minutes

- o [15 December 2011](#)
- o [15 November 2011](#)
- o [14 October 2011](#)
- o [3-7 October 2011](#)
- o [9 September 2011](#)
- o [5 August 2011](#)
- o [8 July 2011](#)
- o [10 June 2011](#)
- o [13 May 2011](#)
- o [8 April 2011](#)
- o [15 March 2011](#)
- o [Archived Minutes](#)

### Federal Land Management Interagency Roundtable

- o [10 February 2004](#)

[General Riley's Video Conference Call on Natural Resources Management Partnership Program for Division Commanders](#)

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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?](#)**


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



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### National P

This listing includes Partnerships that have a national Memorandum of Agreement with the Corps of Engineers [Natural Resources](#) or [Planning](#) element, or partner at the local level. To see some of these success stories, NRM or Planning element can be found [here](#).

## Natural Resources Proponent

- [American Canoe Association](#)
- [American Chestnut Foundation](#)
- [American Recreation Coalition](#)
- [Association of Partners for Public Lands](#)
- [B.A.S.S.](#)
- [Boat U.S. Foundation](#)
- [Boy Scouts of America](#)
- [Bureau of Reclamation](#)
- [C.A.S.T. for Kids](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Cooperative Conservation](#)
- [Corps of Engineers Natural Resources Education Foundation](#)
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- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area](#)
- [Federal Aviation Administration – Wildlife Hazard](#)
- [Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\)](#)
- [Girl Scouts of the USA](#)
- [General Services Administration](#) - for National Program (HQ) use only
- [International Mountain Bicycling Association \(IMBA\)](#)
- [Leave No Trace](#)
- [National Audubon Society, Inc.](#)
- [National Environmental Education Foundation](#) (Formerly named National Environmental Education and Training Foundation- NEETF)
- [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)
- [National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Council](#)
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- [National Trails System](#)
- [National Wild Turkey Federation](#)
- [Natural Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#)
- [Naval Sea Cadet Corps](#)
- [National Youth Marine Alliance \(NYMA\)](#)
- [Outdoor Alliance](#)
- [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
- [Public Health and Recreation](#)
- [Recreation Fisheries Habitat Initiative](#)
- [Safe Kids USA](#)
- [Southeast Tourism Policy Council \(STPC\)](#)
- [Student Conservation Association](#)
- [Trails Training and Trails Resource Information Exchange](#)
- [Tread Lightly!](#)
- [The Walt Disney Company](#)
- [UNICOR](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
- [U.S. Power Squadrons](#)
- [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#)
- [Watchable Wildlife Incorporated](#)
- [Western States Tourism Policy Council](#)
- [Wilderness Inquiry](#)
- [Wildlife Habitat Council](#)

## Planning Proponent

- [Ducks Unlimited, Inc.](#)
- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#)

*Technical Problems*

*Updated: November 2011*

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## Health/Medical Community Partnerships

In the past decade, rates of obesity and associated chronic diseases have skyrocketed in children and adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) documents that more than one-third of adults in the United States—more than 72 million people—are considered medically obese and therefore more likely to develop major chronic diseases such as type-2 diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. At the same time, there has been a dramatic decline in physical activity.

The current generation of children may be the first at risk of having a shorter lifespan than their parents. Outdoor activity in the natural environment has taken a back seat to television, video games, the computer, and a demanding schoolwork and extracurricular schedule. A growing body of research suggests that exposure to nature and outdoor exercise has significant health benefits such as improved wellness and mental health, reduced stress levels, and lower blood pressure.

Corps lakes and river projects offer prime outdoor recreation opportunities to connect families with nature and lead to improved overall health. Corps NRM managers and specialists are encouraged to connect with the local medical community to educate pediatric and family health care providers about prescribing outdoor activities at Corps recreation sites. Connecting the health care community with Corps sites can also benefit public lands by promoting park stewardship and increasing potential funding sources.

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- [Related Sites/References](#)
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Health/Medical Community Partnerships





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## Health/Medical Community Partnership Success Stories

- [SWL and University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences: Maumelle Park extended-stay campsites for use by Cancer Center patients](#)

[SAS and Children's Wish Foundation](#): Campsite developed at Hartwell Lake for seriously ill children

- [SAS signs partnership agreement with Outdoor Dream Foundation](#)
  - [SAS and Outdoor Dream Foundation MOU, August 2011](#)

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## Health/Medical Community Related Sites/References

- [Park Prescriptions](#) – The Institute at the Golden Gate and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy created the Parks Prescriptions Program in 2010.
  - [U.S. Fish & Wildlife service article about park prescriptions program](#)
  - [NPS Park Prescription report 2010](#)
- [Children and Nature Network](#) - The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) was created to encourage and support the people and organizations working nationally and internationally to reconnect children with nature. The network provides a critical link between researchers and individuals, educators and organizations dedicated to children's health and well-being.
  - [Children and Nature Training PowerPoint presentation](#)
  - [Children and Nature Initiative flyer](#)
- [Kids in Parks](#) - Kids in Parks works with partners throughout the country to increase the physical activity of children and their families, improve nutritional choices and connect kids to nature. Their TRACK Trails program may be of particular interest to Corps lakes, where they take existing trails and turn them into designated hiking TRACK Trails or Nature Trail Disc Golf Course TRACK Trails. [TRACK Trail](#) adventures are designed to help kids explore nature through the use of self-guided brochures. Within the pages of each brochure a different story unfolds. From Nature's Relationships to Fern Identification, each adventure will help build connections to the natural world.
- Richard Louv – author
  - "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder"
  - "The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder"
- Presentations 
  - [Dr. Suk's presentation on health trends and connecting families to nature, March 2010](#)
  - [Children in Nature session at 2010 NRM conference](#)
  - [Finding partners to connect children with nature- 2010 NRM conference](#)

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## Water Safety Partnerships

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed an extensive [national water safety program](#) as well as local community programs to educate visitors about the importance of water safety. Partnerships are a great way to add impact and reach a broader audience with the goal of saving lives. The Corps has partnered with many organizations for water safety product development, special events, and water safety educational programs.

- [Water Safety Success Stories](#)
- [Related Sites](#)
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Partnerships Awards

## Partnership Awards

### Excellence in Partnerships Award

The Corps has established an annual award intended to recognize outstanding contributions by a partner to the Corps recreation and environmental stewardship programs. The Excellence in Partnerships Award is a regular part of the annual APPL convention usually held in February or March, each year. Divisions, districts and projects should be constantly on the lookout for outstanding examples to nominate each year. Headquarters will solicit nominations during the latter part of each calendar year.

[Click here](#) to view a list of past recipients and for application materials.

### Take Pride in America Awards

Take Pride in America sponsors an annual national recognition and awards program. National awards recognize outstanding stewardship for group and individual volunteer efforts in twelve categories. Finalists and winners are selected by a panel of reviewers, and the awards are presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC in September.

National awards: Nominations for the national Take Pride in America awards may be submitted online via the Take Pride website, [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov). Corps volunteers and events are eligible for these awards. Applications are typically due in June.

Federal Land Manager Award: In addition to awards for volunteers and events, one Corps staff member, along with the other federal land management agencies, is honored with the Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award. Nominations are submitted through Corps Major Subordinate Commands and are typically due in the spring.

[Click here](#) to view a list of past recipients and application materials.

### American Recreation Coalition's Legends and Beacon Awards

The [American Recreation Coalition](#) annually honors an outstanding employee from each federal land management agency with the American Recreation Coalition (ARC) Legends Award. This award is presented to recognize extraordinary individual efforts that have expanded and enhanced recreational opportunities, connecting people- especially children- and the outdoors, through public/private partnerships, or have increased participation in outdoor recreation through innovative programs based upon public/private partnerships. Award criteria include:

- o Quantifiable improvements in recreation opportunities or participation in recreation by non-traditional visitors
- o Reliance upon partnerships with the private sector
- o use of creative solutions and programs and sharing news of creative solutions with the agency
- o Community support for the work of the individual

The Beacon Award recognizes outstanding initiatives where new technologies provide improved, cost-effective solutions to recreation program

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## Excellence in Partnerships Award

The Corps and the Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Education Foundation have partnered to present an annual award intended to recognize outstanding contributions by a partner to the Corps recreation and environmental stewardship programs. The Excellence in Partnerships Award is a regular part of the annual APPL convention usually held in February or March, each year. Divisions, districts and projects should be constantly on the lookout for outstanding examples to nominate each year. Headquarters will solicit nominations during the latter part of each calendar year.

- [Excellence in Partnership Nomination Memo and Criteria 2011](#)

### Excellence in Partnership Award Recipients:

- 2011: [Friends of Caesar Creek Lake](#)
  - [Nomination package](#)
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)
- 2010: [Friends of Raystown Lake](#)
  - [Nomination package](#)
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)
- 2009: [Friends of W. Kerr Scott Reservoir](#)
  - [Nomination package](#)
- 2008: [Friends of Lake Sonoma](#)
  - [Nomination package](#)
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)
- 2005: [Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy](#)
  - [Nomination packages](#)
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)
- 2003: [Upper Texas Coast Water-Borne Education Center](#)
  - Nomination
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)
- 2001: [Bay Model Association](#)
  - [Award Selection Announcement](#)

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## Military Partnerships

The Corps of Engineers is dedicated to encouraging the use of Corps recreation resources by the military and their families. Increased public awareness of Corps recreation programs, including increased awareness by Department of Defense and Armed Forces Commands, is a high priority.

Goal 2.4 of the [Corps Recreation Strategic Plan](#) is to "Strengthen relationships with military installations to meet the needs of both military families and the recreating public to foster use of Corps facilities by active duty, retired, and reserve military veterans and families."

The Corps will contribute to the readiness and resilience of military members and their families through their participation in activities and programs at Corps lakes and rivers. The Corps will strengthen its unique relationship with the U.S. Armed Forces by expanding recreation programs and services for military members and their families. The Corps will promote safe and healthy outdoor recreation opportunities at Corps projects to all U.S. Armed Forces personnel, military families, and veterans.

- [Armed Forces Recreation Program](#)
- [Warriors in Transition Program](#)
- [Corps/Military Partnership Success Stories](#)
- [Military Installations on Corps Lands](#)
- [News/Current Issues](#)
- [Operation Honor Card Program](#)
- [Wounded Warrior Program](#)
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Military Partnerships

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### AW2 Leadership

### AW2 Advocates

### Lifecycle

### AW2 Community Support Network

### Symposium

### Careers

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## U.S. ARMY WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM (AW2)

The [Army Wounded Warrior Program \(AW2\)](#) is the official U.S. Army program that assists and advocates for severely wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families, wherever they are located, regardless of military status. Soldiers who qualify for AW2 are assigned to the program as soon as possible after arriving at the WTU. AW2 supports these Soldiers and their Families throughout their recovery and transition, even into Veteran status. This program, through the local support of AW2 Advocates, strives to foster the Soldier's independence.

### AW2 Advocates

Each AW2 Soldier is assigned an [AW2 Advocate](#) who provides personalized local support to the Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families. AW2 Advocates are located at military treatment facilities, [VA Polytrauma Centers](#), VA facilities, and most Army installations.

### Eligibility Requirements

AW2 supports the most severely wounded Soldiers and Veterans who suffer from injuries or illness incurred in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, in support of Overseas Contingency Operations since 9/11. These Soldiers and Veterans must receive or expect to receive an Army [Physical Disability Evaluation System](#) rating of 30% or greater in one or more specific categories, such as:

- [Blindness/Loss of Vision](#)
- Deafness/Hearing Loss



*The program for a Purple Heart ceremony at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.*



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## Corps/Military Partnership Success Stories

- [MVR: Mississippi River Project and Rock Island Arsenal- Fisherman's Corner free camp site for Active Duty Military and their Families](#)
- [LRP: Shenango River Lake and US Navy Seabees- Recreation improvements and construction projects](#)
- [MVR: Rock Island recreation programs with the Military](#)
- [MVS: Lake Shelbyville and Navy- Recreation improvements and accessibility upgrades](#)
- [LRP: Youghiogheny River Lake and Air Force license for Reservist Survival Training, August 2011](#)
- [NWK: Milford Lake and Fort Riley MWR recreation area](#)
- [NWK: Stockton Lake recreation programs with the Military](#)
- [NWP: Portland District and Naval Undersea Warfare Center MOA, July 2006- Underwater inspections, surveys, and repairs](#)
- [POA: Chena River Lakes and Paralyzed Veterans of America wheelchair moose hunt and accessible cabin](#)
- [SWT: Tulsa District and US Army Dive Company MOA, August 2008- Underwater inspections, surveys, and repairs](#)

Military Partnerships



## School/University Partnerships - Success Stories

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- [Submit a Success Story](#)

### Clemson University Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management partnership with Hartwell Lake

In 2009, the Corps and Clemson University signed an MOU to cooperate in areas of facility planning, educational outreach, data collection, program development, materials publication, and educational activities. An example of a project completed by students in this program was to design the Volunteer Village for Hartwell Lake. Four groups of 5 students were given a budget, location, and Corps design standards. The groups presented their proposals and were graded on their presentations. The Corps was able to use some of the student's ideas in the final facility design and construction.

- o [MOU between USACE and Clemson](#)
- o [Volunteer Village designed by students](#)

### Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units

The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network is a national consortium of federal agencies, academic institutions, tribal, state, and local governments, nongovernmental conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support informed public trust resource stewardship. The CESU Network includes nearly 300 partners, including 13 federal agencies, in 17 CESUs representing biogeographic regions encompassing all 50 states and U.S. territories. The CESU Network is well positioned as a platform to support research, technical assistance, education and capacity building that is responsive to long-standing and contemporary science and resource management priorities.

The 17 CESUs bring together scientists, resource managers, students, and other conservation professionals, drawing upon expertise from across the biological, physical, social, cultural, and engineering disciplines (from Anthropology to Zoology) to conduct collaborative and interdisciplinary applied projects that address natural and cultural heritage resource issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context. Each CESU is structured as a working collaborative with participation from numerous federal and nonfederal institutional partners. CESUs are based at host universities and focused on a particular biogeographic region of the country.

- o [CESU Research Cooperative Agreement with National Great Rivers Research and Education Center for Japanese Hops Control and Management](#)
- o [CESU Research Cooperative Agreement with National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology for Protocol Development for Citizen Science Avian Monitoring in Floodplain Forests](#)

### Juniata College and Raystown Lake Field Station

The Raystown Field Station provides exceptional hands-on opportunities for Juniata College students and faculty in environmental research and education. The station also serves the local community by offering environmental education opportunities for visitors to Raystown Lake. The Raystown Field Station was established by Juniata College and the Corps of Engineers in 1974 to provide special opportunities for environmental research and education at the 29,000 acre Raystown Lake Project. The 365 acre reserve lies in the valley and ridge province of central Pennsylvania and offers visitors access to the various aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems of this unique region.

- o [Juniata College lease](#)
- o [Contract for interpretive services](#)



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## Special Events with Partners

There are many opportunities throughout the year to work with partners on special events to promote the Corps natural resource management program, recreation opportunities and environmental stewardship. Working with partners helps to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, pools scarce resources, and fosters a shared sense of stewardship and advocacy. Some events involve a volunteer component to engage the community to work on projects that benefit public lands, while others focus on water safety education and outreach. Below is a list of a few national programs which facilitate partnerships for special events.

### • [Take Pride in America](#)

Corps projects may register their volunteer event with Take Pride in America on their [website](#). Benefits of registering a Take Pride in America event include: Connect Americans with a national partnership; Help recruit volunteers; Bring visibility to the event; Opportunity to order free promotional items from Take Pride in America [www.takepride.gov](http://www.takepride.gov).

### • [National Volunteer Week](#)

For more than two decades, Points of Light Institute has equipped organizations to celebrate National Volunteer Week in April, providing visibility, thematic focus and resources to enable them to commemorate this signature week of volunteer recognition.

Through programs such as the President's Volunteer Service Award, Daily Point of Light Award and the Extra Mile - Points of Light Volunteer Pathway, Points of Light Institute recognizes volunteers and the tremendous impact they are making on our country's most critical challenges year-round.

- o To learn more about these recognition programs and how to nominate volunteers for awards, [click here](#).
- o To tell us about the impact volunteers are having in your community or through your organization, [click here](#).

### • [Earth Day](#)

Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. Earth Day is now coordinated globally on April 22 by the [Earth Day Network](#) and is celebrated in more than 175 countries every year. Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week, an entire week of activities focused on environmental issues.

### • [International Migratory Bird Day \(IMBD\)](#)

IMBD celebrates and brings attention to the annual bird migration in Canada, the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. IMBD officially takes place on the second Saturday in May in the U.S. but most events take place in April and May. Citizens who are enthusiastic about birds, informed about threats, and empowered to become involved in addressing those threats, can make a tremendous contribution to maintaining healthy bird populations. Environment for the Americas develops many educational and promotional materials related to each year's theme. You may use these materials at any time to support your events and programs.

### • [Kids to Parks Day](#)

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Partnerships  
Special Events

## PAC Members

Division/District	POC	PAC term	Phone Number
Great Lakes & Ohio River Division	Chris Rapenchuk - Chair	2009-2014 2011-2013	937-325-2411
Mississippi Valley Division	Jamie Gyolai	2011-2016	641-828-7522
North Atlantic Division	Allen Gwinn	2010-2015	814-658-6810
Northwestern Division	Alana Mesenbrink	2010-2015	406-293-7751Ext 252
South Atlantic Division	Chad Eller	2012-2017	336-921-3390x112
South Pacific Division	Joel Miller	2012-2017	707-431-4554
Southwestern Division	Titus Hardiman	2011-2016	501-324-5899

Business Line	Liaison	Phone Number
Recreation	Pep Persio	202-761-0036
Environmental Stewardship		
RLAT	Mike Vissichelli	347-370-4663
SAT	Jim Jacobson	206-764-6175
Environmental Compliance	John Coho	202-761-4722

Proponent/Subject Matter Experts	POC	Phone Number
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***QUESTIONS?***

