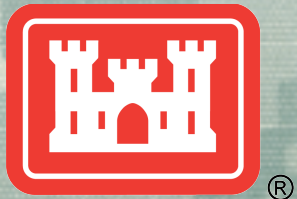


Challenge Partnerships

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What You Will Learn:

- Authorities for accepting funds, materials, personal property, equipment and services to accomplish work plans following the approval of a Challenge Partnership Agreement



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Authorities

- [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.



Policy and Procedures

- [ER/EP 1130-2-500](#), dated 27 December 1996 revised 1 June 2006
Project Operations - Partners and Support (Work Management
Guidance and Policies)

[Chapter 12](#), Challenge Partnerships

- ▶ [Appendix U](#), Sample Challenge Partnerships Agreement
This applies for both Appendices U and T. In 2002, the name of the Challenge Cost sharing 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 "Cost sharing" with "Partnership"



Differences Between Traditional Cost Sharing and Challenge Partnerships

Traditional Cost Sharing	Challenge Partnerships
PL 89-72	PL 102-580*
Fixed % (Normally 50%)	Flexible rate determined by mutual agreement
Rigid roles	Flexible roles
Can accept real estate from sponsor	Cannot accept real estate from partner
Sponsor operates	Corps operates
Cost share for any business function	Only Recreation & Natural Resources
Program management has lead	Operations has lead
Formal contract	Flexible agreement
Cops \$ year by year	Funds must be available in advance from operating funds. Way to stretch available funds.
Work accomplished over several fiscal years	Work generally accomplished during one fiscal year
Cost share only with non-Federal governmental entities	Cost share with non-Federal governmental and private entities
Normally with only one sponsor	May involve multiple sponsors on the same work activity

* Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580) Oct. 31, 1992 (33U.S.C. 2328) Section 225. Challenge Cost-Sharing (renamed Challenge Partnerships) program for the management of recreation facilities.

- (a) **In General.** The Secretary is authorized to develop and implement a program to share the cost of managing recreation facilities and natural resources at water development projects under the Secretary's jurisdiction.
- (b) **Cooperative Agreements.** To implement the program under this section, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with non-Federal public and private entities to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and resources where such facilities are being maintained at complete Federal expense.
- (c) **Contributions.** For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary may accept contributions of funds, materials, and services from non-Federal public and private entities. Any funds received by the Secretary under this section shall be deposited into the account in the Treasury of the United States entitled "Contributions and Advances, Rivers and Harbors, Corps of Engineers (8662)" and shall be available until expended to carry out the purposes of this section.



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How to Keep your Office of Counsel Happy:

- Involve Office of Counsel early in the process.
- Always know the answer to your question before asking!
- Make sure you include copies of sections of the ER, EP, and PL that pertain to any questions they may have.
- Remember, attorneys are like every one else. They can not remember everything. Take the opportunity to remind them of what they already know.
- Don't go with gut feelings, go with the regulations!



What is a Challenge Partnership?

- It's an agreement between the government and a private organization or business and other non-federal agencies.
- Challenge Partnership agreements can be made with international partners.
- Not as rigid as traditional cost sharing agreements.



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What can a Challenge Partnership do?

- Help you accomplish any task that is part of your 5-year Operations Management Plan (OMP)
- Leverage resources normally not considered under typical operations due to budget constraints.
- Foster a sense of community among your project and the surrounding community.



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Who to Partner with:

- Consider your goals
- Who shares your vision?
- Who has the time, energy and resources to commit?
- What's in it for them?
- Once you have the answers to the questions above, look at your users and community.



How to Create a Challenge Partnership Agreement

- Check the NRM Gateway
- Templates are posted
- The agreement needs to be signed at the appropriate level
- OPM \$1-\$25,000
- Chief of Operations \$25,001- \$200,000
- District Engineer \$200,000+



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Examples of Challenge Partnerships



Lake Lanier: Little Hall Tournament Complex

- Pre-CPA: Popular tournament fishing site with inadequate facilities
- Post-CPA: Sheltered pavilion, 3 fish holding tanks with water pumped aeration, seating for 150 spectators, a large courtesy mooring dock, a leader board, and a display area for tournament sponsors and vendors.
- The Corps was able to construct this new facility by accepting more than \$30,000 worth of building materials from various donors.
- Donors are acknowledged at the site on the tournament leader board and also on stamped bricks.



Dworshak Dam and Reservoir: Training Assistance Program

- CPA with Juvenile Correction Center (JCC)- Lewiston, ID
- JCC provides a Trail Crew Maintenance Training Program
- Corps provides materials for improvement projects such as benches, bridges, tools, and logistical support to deliver materials.
- JCC provides a Trail Crew Maintenance Training Program
- Corps provides materials for improvement projects such as benches, bridges, tools, and logistical support to deliver materials.
- Program provides participants the opportunity to learn specific outdoor skills and environmental awareness while providing the community with a valuable service.
- Training opportunities: CPR, map and compass skills, GPS



How to Develop an Agreement:

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the "Natural Resources Management Gateway" website. The URL is <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/partners/partners.cfm>. The page features a green navigation bar with tabs for Home, Visitors, Lake Discovery, Recreation, Env Compliance, Env Stewardship, and Partners. Below the navigation bar, the "Partnerships" section is highlighted. The main content area includes a vertical "Partnerships" sidebar on the left, a "Partnerships Headquarters POC" link, and several paragraphs of text explaining the importance of partnering. At the bottom, there are two columns of links under the heading "Partnership Types: Which is right for you?" and "How To:". The "Partnership Types" section includes links for Challenge Partnerships Program, Handshake Partnerships Program, Contributions Program, Cooperating Associations Program, Memoranda of Understanding Agreement (MOU/MOA), Volunteer Program, Economy Act Agreements, and Cooperative Agreements. The "How To:" section includes links for Policy & Procedures, Partnerships in OMBIL, FAQs, Cooperative Management of Corps Parks, Training, and Grants/Alternative Funding Sources.

- The hard part has been done for you!

- Check the NRM Gateway website

- Look at the Partners tab



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Don't Reinvent the Wheel

- Review the existing boilerplate agreement
- Tailor it to fit your District or Division
- Send it to your Office of Counsel for review
- Get it signed and distributed to the parks
- Inform the other rangers and staff at your project about what you have the authority to do!

