

NRM CAP – Rachel Rush

Serving as the NRM CAP was an invaluable experience—one that will benefit me throughout the rest of my career. It truly is the best opportunity to “spread your wings” and explore new, uncharted territory. This role requires you to be a self-starter who is passionate about the Natural Resources Management (NRM) program. If you're willing to put in the work, the exposure to all facets of the national NRM program is absolutely priceless.

Each day brought new challenges and learning opportunities. I had the privilege of working alongside dedicated professionals who generously shared their expertise and insights. While much of my career has centered around the recreation program, I was excited to broaden my knowledge in areas I was less familiar with—such as the shoreline and sustainability programs.

This experience gave me a much deeper appreciation for the hard work and commitment it takes at the HQ level to keep our national program running successfully. I gained a clearer understanding of the “big picture” of USACE and how NRM fits into the broader mission of the organization.

As I return to my district role, I do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a stronger grasp of how I can support the REC and ENS programs—not just locally, but on a national scale. I'm truly grateful to all the HQ USACE staff who took the time to mentor and support me throughout my CAP assignment.