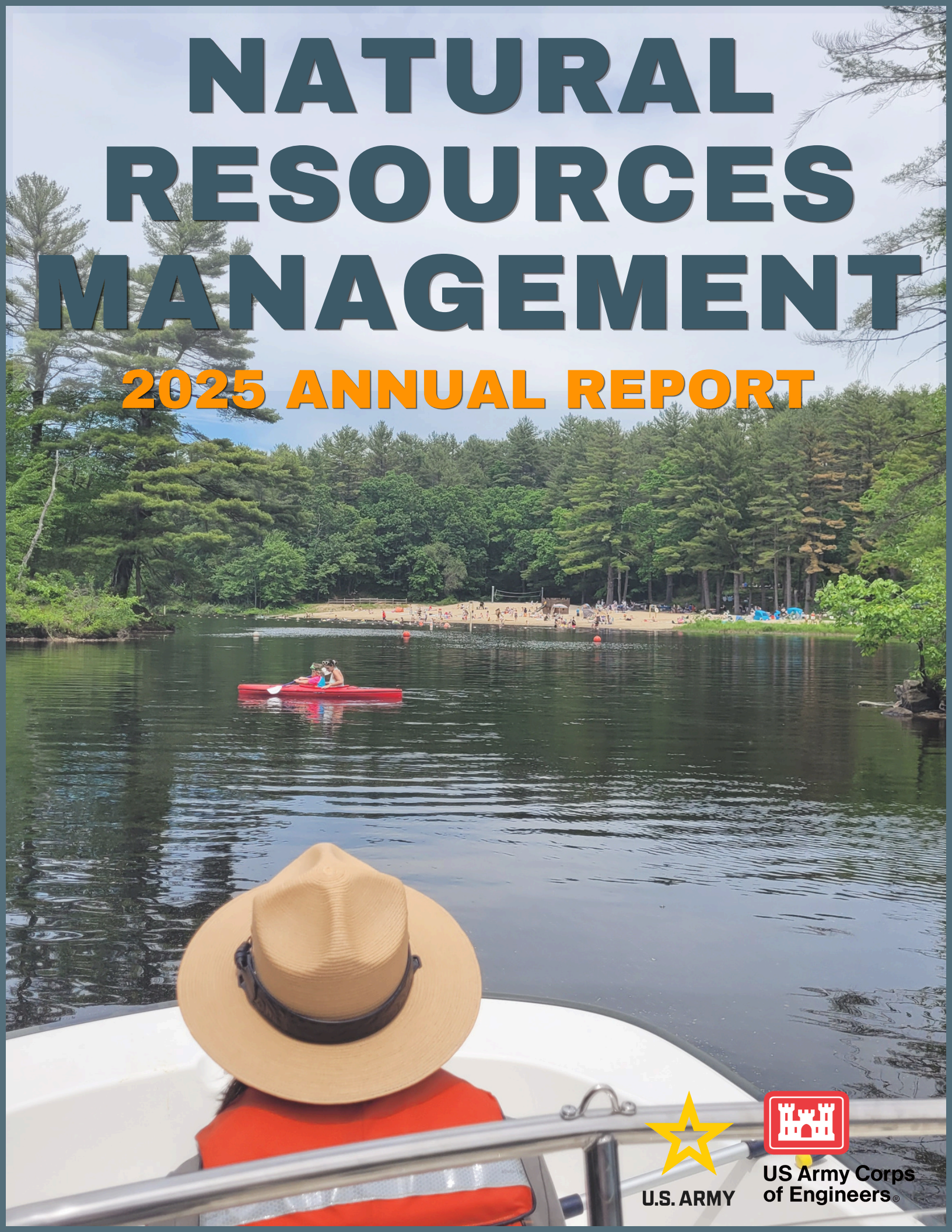


NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

MESSAGE FROM THE NRM CHIEF

2



Team,

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past year we navigated together. As natural resources management professionals, 2025 brought distinct challenges across our operations. Yet, as we managed our public lands and natural resources through evolving conditions, you met every challenge with professionalism, dedication, and purpose.

Through it all, you continued delivering mission-essential services to the public and your local communities while adapting to changing priorities. You kept our sites open, sustained access to recreation facilities, improved visitor safety, and protected the natural resources entrusted to our care. Your resilience reflects the core values and enduring strength of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you for your dedication and for keeping our mission moving forward when it mattered most.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the future of our program. While our operating environment will continue to evolve, so too will the opportunities before us. We are expanding partnerships, embracing innovative approaches to service delivery, and advancing initiatives such as Cooperative Joint Management that will help sustain recreation access and stewardship for future generations. Across the country, new partners, volunteers, conservation organizations, and local communities are stepping forward to help us accomplish our mission in new and exciting ways.

I encourage you to carry forward the same spirit of adaptability and innovation that defined 2025. Continue seeking opportunities to strengthen the NRM mission through collaboration, emerging technologies, and creative solutions to local challenges. Our ability to evolve while remaining focused on our mission has always been one of our greatest strengths.

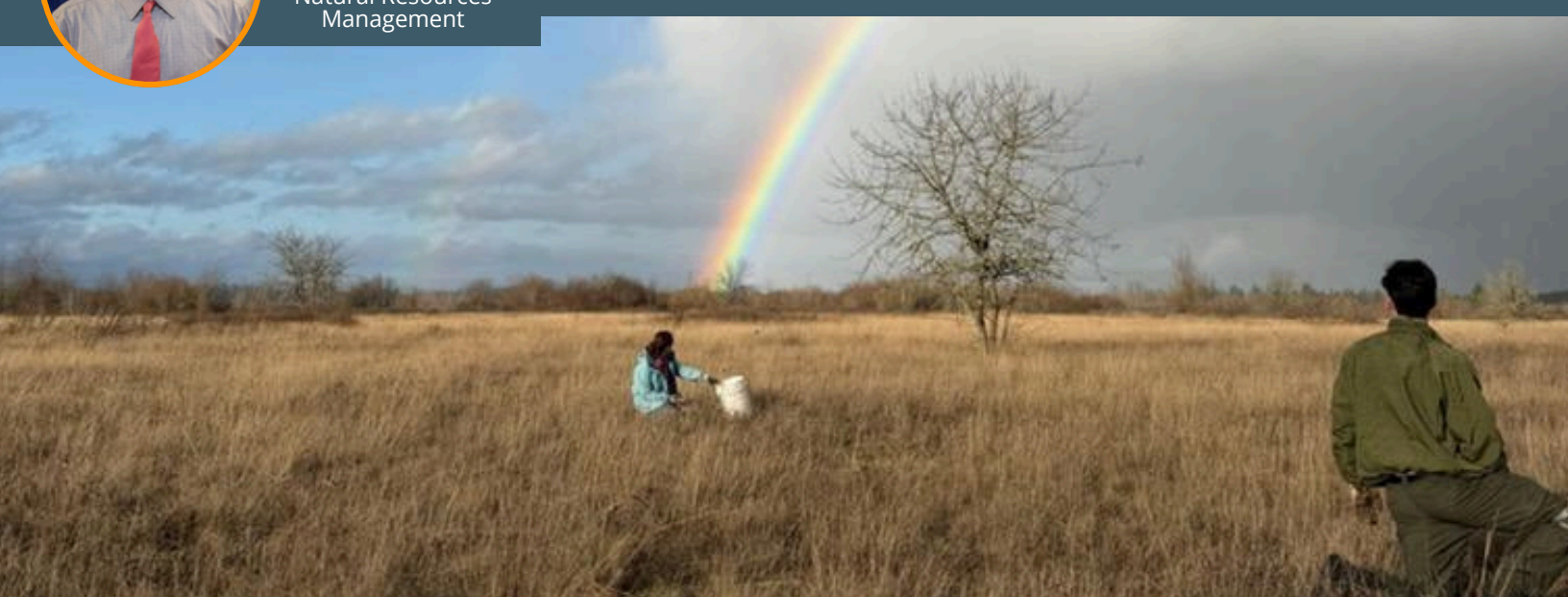
The experiences of the past few years have reaffirmed what I have always known about this community: when faced with challenges, you rise to the occasion. As we move into the year ahead, I am confident our best work is still in front of us.



RYAN HARTWIG

Acting Chief of Natural Resources Management

Together, we will continue providing opportunities for public recreation, strengthening stewardship of our natural resources, and delivering lasting value to the communities we serve. Thank you for all that you do. Keep leading, keep innovating, and keep serving with excellence.



OUR MISSION

The Natural Resources Management Program (NRM) delivers safe public access to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) lands and waters in a manner that protects all project purposes and mission areas through responsible outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, and land use management while partnering with communities to serve the American people.



OUR VISION

Conserve natural resources and provide public recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of American life.

MEET THE TEAM

The headquarters (HQ) NRM team comprises dedicated professionals that are dispersed geographically across the USACE enterprise. This motivated team strives to support staff members at field projects while addressing the fast-paced challenges and opportunities presented to the NRM program.



JEFF KRAUSE

Chief, Natural Resources Management



RYAN HARTWIG

Acting Chief of Natural Resources Management & Recreation Program Business Line Manager



3



Career Assignment Program (CAP)

The NRM and Environmental Compliance CAP provides an opportunity for USACE's future leaders to gain valuable experiences and insights into both the NRM and Environmental Compliance programs. The opportunity allows participants to work directly with headquarters staff and become familiar with various roles and responsibilities.



Chelsea Jones
2025 NRM CAP
Natural Resource Specialist, LRP



Rocky Millenbine
2025 NRM CAP
Chief Natural Resource Manager, SAM



John Drossart
2025 ECC CAP
Natural Resource Manager, LRL



Justyss Watson
2025 ECC CAP
Natural Resource Manager, SWF

Our Leadership Teams

The NRM Program is supported by several national leadership teams. These teams serve in an advisory capacity to Headquarters (HQ) USACE, providing strategic planning, policy guidance, budget recommendations, and much more. Over 150 personnel from across USACE serve and provide the support needed to advance our program.

- ES & REC Budget CATT: Coach, Assist, and Train Teams
- ISLT: Invasive Species Leadership Team
- NRM Innovations Team
- National Water Safety Team
- NRM Users Group
- NRM Uniform Committee
- PAC: Partnership Advisory Committee
- Park Ranger CoP Advisory Board: Park Ranger Community of Practice
- RLAT: Recreation Leadership Advisory Team
- SAT: Stewardship Advisory Team
- SAWG: Sign Advisory Working Group
- VERS CATT: Visitation Estimation & Reporting System



HEATHER BURKE

Partnership & Volunteer Program Manager



AJ JENSEN

National Sign Program Manager



ANNE KOSTER

Energy, Water, and Cost Savings & Environmental Compliance Program Manager



HEATH KRUGER

Senior Policy Advisor for Park Ranger Activities



JASON OWEN

Recreation One Stop Program Manager



MICHAEL RICHARDS

Land Management Program Manager



ALLISON WALKER

Federal Lands Transportation Program Manager



TARA WHITSEL

Environmental Stewardship Program Manager

ACROSS NRM: FEDERAL LANDS HIGHWAYS

4

Federal Lands Highways (FLH) administers numerous programs and types of funds to facilitate transportation improvements for many federal land management agency partners, including USACE. These programs provide a funding source in an environment where funding for transportation improvements in USACE recreation areas is not readily available.



FLH PROGRAM IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

>> FLTP

FLH Programs provide funding and support for repair and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, parking areas, and other transportation features in USACE managed recreation areas through the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP).



\$75.2
MILLION

FLTP DOLLARS RECEIVED (SINCE FY 13)



97

MILES OF ROADWAY IMPROVED (SINCE FY 13)



9.1

MILLION

VISITORS PROVIDED SAFER ACCESS ANNUALLY

>> FLPP

FLH Programs provide funding and support for conducting transportation related research, developing asset management collections and data management systems, and conducting long range planning through the Federal Lands Planning Program (FLPP). FY25 actions included

- Condition Assessment contract using AI and GoPro footage to assess pavement condition for roads and parking areas
- Complete revamp of the Corps of Engineers Bridge Information System (CEBIS)
- Trails Geospatial inventory development in conjunction with the MAPLand Act

>> ERFO

FLH Programs provide funding and support for emergency repairs and recovery from natural disasters through the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) Program.

\$37.8
MILLION

FY25 was a record year for ERFO allocations, with \$37.8M received by USACE for disaster recovery.

12

In total, USACE received FY25 funds for recovery from 12 severe weather events disasters.

51

In total, from FY15 to FY25, USACE received support for recovery from 51 severe weather/disaster events.

>> PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Lewiston Levee Trail Repair Project addressed critical surface deterioration along a 1.78-mile segment of the Clearwater and Snake River National Recreation Trail. The project scope included crack repair, slurry seal application, and asphalt removal and replacement to restore the trail to its original paved design standards. The work primarily focused on addressing transverse cracking and surface raveling present across approximately 8,750 linear feet of the trail. Specific activities included repairing cracks, applying slurry seal, and replacing sections where both fine and coarse aggregates had been lost.

ENERGY, WATER, AND COST SAVINGS & ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

5



\$5.5
MILLION

In FY25, USACE received approximately \$5.5M in appropriated funds for investment specifically in energy, water, and cost savings measures.

ENERGY, WATER, AND COST SAVINGS

USACE Civil Works has been implementing cost savings measures in energy, water, and alternative fuel options across programs and activities in accordance with statutory requirements dating back to 2005.

- The Energy Act of 2020 requires federal agencies to install energy and water meters and implement energy conservation measures.
- The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007 mandates federal agencies to reduce energy and water use intensity.
- The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires federal agencies to incorporate renewable and alternative fuel sources.

Collectively, these requirements direct USACE Civil Works to pursue operational efficiencies and improvements targeting energy, water, and cost savings. Programmatic implementation includes ongoing tracking of operational consumption data, self-funded project-level improvements, and targeted appropriated investments to satisfy statutory compliance and achieve agency progress on associated federal metrics.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

USACE environmental compliance tracking has transitioned to the Army's Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS).

By making this transition, we are gaining significant efficiencies and programmatic improvements that align USACE with Army IT and cybersecurity requirements as well as supporting improved performance on the Risk Management and Internal Control Program (RMICP) goal of correcting 75% of prior year findings.

Progress was also made creating Environmental Compliance Coordinator onboarding support and professional development pathways to serve the Environmental Compliance community and contribute to future programmatic success.



Chicago Harbor Lock

RECREATION

6



USACE is one of the leading federal providers of outdoor recreation in the nation. Over 400 lake and river projects in 43 states provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities. By providing controlled access and management on USACE lands and water, recreation program managers play a key role in the successful execution of all project missions.

RECREATION ECONOMIC IMPACTS



The U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released new data highlighting outdoor recreation's significant contribution to the U.S. economy.



In addition to quality of life benefits to the many Americans that use our lands, the outdoor recreation industry contributed a record \$1.3 trillion in economic output in 2024, supporting 5.2 million American jobs and accounting for 2.4% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product.

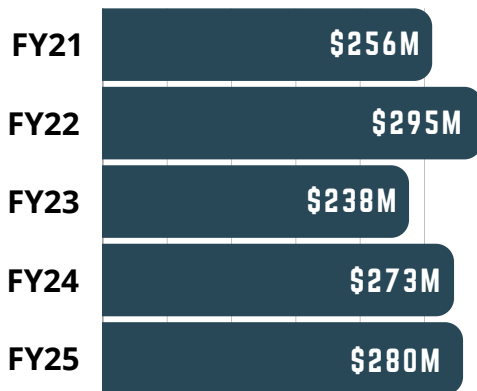


This was the eighth consecutive year the BEA has tracked the outdoor recreation industry, underscoring its resilience and importance to local communities, small businesses, and families across the country.

RECREATION BUDGET

The FY25 appropriated budget for the USACE Recreation Program was just over **\$280 million**, including specific work. Additionally, nearly \$8 million was received through various supplemental programs

FY21-25 BUDGET HISTORY*



* Based on the President's budget for the Recreation Program. Does not include any supplemental program funding that may be received.

RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS



7,400+ MILES OF TRAILS



94,000+ CAMPSITES



33,000+ PICNIC SITES



2,000+ FISHING TOURNAMENTS



1.2 MILLION REC.GOV CAMPING RESERVATIONS IN FY25

RECREATION REVENUE



\$64.7 MILLION SPECIAL RECREATION USE FEES



\$881,000 SPECIAL USE PERMIT FEES



\$1.1 MILLION AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASSES



VISITATION TO USACE

7



VISITATION IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

The money spent by visitors at USACE lakes adds to local and national economies by supporting jobs and generating income.

Value to the Nation benefits are based on FY24 data.

USACE FY25 VISITATION

In FY25 over 257 million visits were recorded at USACE recreation projects. The Visitor Estimation and Reporting System (VERS) is USACE's approved protocol for measuring visitor use at water resource development projects that provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Annual visitation reports are prepared for the U.S. Congress and for the Office of Management and Budget. USACE visitation estimation has evolved over the years, incorporating new features and requirements to meet the changing needs of the USACE Recreation Business Line. Estimates of recreation have been beneficial for planning, management, and reporting purposes for many years.



\$14.8 BILLION

Visitor spending within 30 miles of USACE lakes



\$11 BILLION

Sales within 30 miles of USACE lakes



\$2.7 BILLION

National Economic Development (NED) benefits



84,000

Jobs within 30 miles of USACE lakes



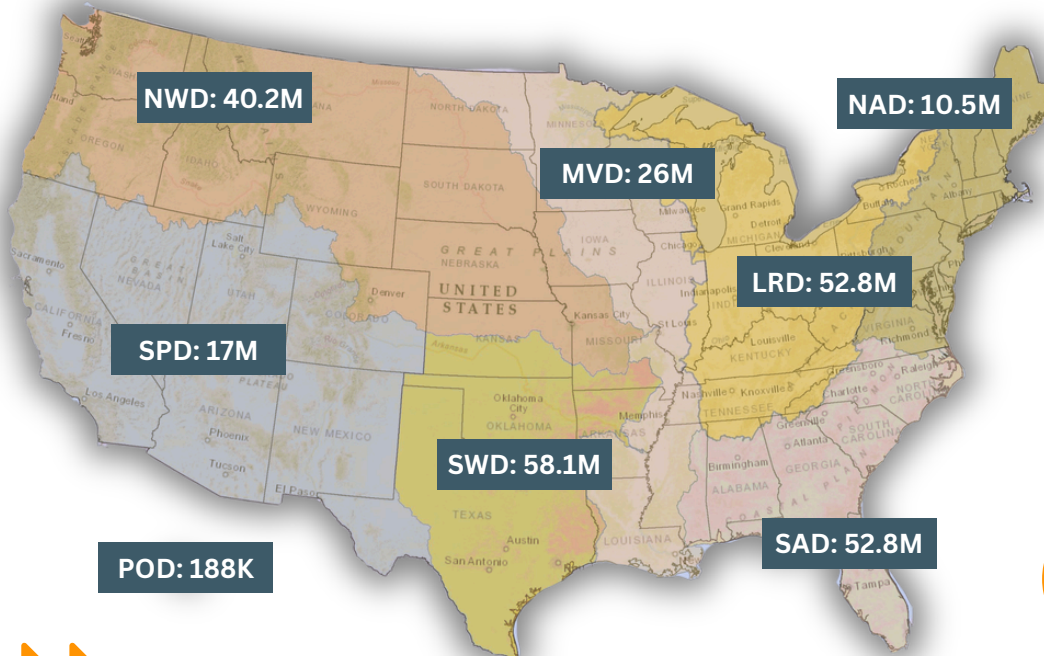
\$5.4 BILLION

Value added within 30 miles of USACE lakes



\$3.4 BILLION

Labor income within 30 miles of USACE lakes



USACE VISITATION 2020-2025

| | | | |
|------|-------------|------|-------------|
| 2020 | 255,896,508 | 2023 | 268,762,359 |
| 2021 | 268,332,451 | 2024 | 260,447,042 |
| 2022 | 266,044,439 | 2025 | 257,657,137 |

PARK RANGER EFFORTS

8

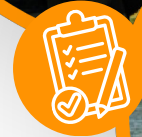
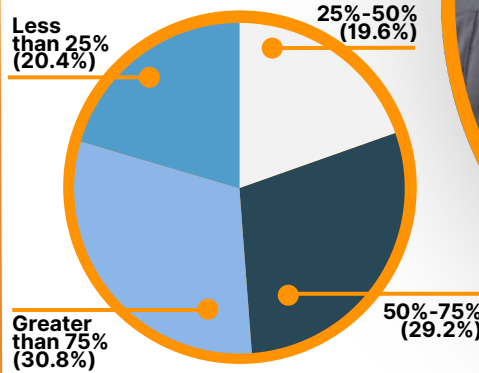


USACE PARK RANGER SAFETY SURVEY

The responses from the 2025 Park Ranger Survey provided an opportunity to research and further compile a list of trending topics in the USACE Visitor Assistance Program. The goal of this list is to provide and share information on the current status of these topics across USACE and to provide assistance and awareness for future trainings.



Percentage of Time During the Summer Recreation Season Spent Performing Visitor Contacts



TRENDING TOPICS IN VISITOR ASSISTANCE

- 1 Law Enforcement Contracts
- 2 Communication Equipment
- 3 Additional Training
- 4 Visitor Mental Health

PARK RANGER IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025, USACE Park Rangers Issued

21,858
WRITTEN WARNINGS

2,103
CITATIONS



10.39
WRITTEN WARNINGS PER EVERY CITATION
(LESS THAN 1% INCREASE FROM 2025)

2025 Top 5 Violation Categories

- 1 Vehicles
- 2 Posted Restrictions
- 3 Recreation Use Fees
- 4 Sanitation
- 5 Vessels



LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS

258
LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS IN PLACE



RESULTED IN
36,686
ACTIONS REPORTED ON USACE LANDS/WATERS



\$8.22
MILLION
SPENT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Environmental Stewardship (ENS) Program protects, preserves, and restores significant ecological and cultural resources at Civil Works projects nationwide, all while balancing land use activities. These efforts contribute to the quality of American life by managing and conserving natural resources consistent with ecosystem management principles and providing a sustainable environment for future generations.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP BY THE NUMBERS



12 MILLION
ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND AND WATERS MANAGED



1 MILLION
ACRES OF GRASSLANDS



7 OF THE TOP 10
MIGRATORY BIRD FLYWAYS CROSS OVER USACE LANDS AND WATERS



14%
U.S. FRESHWATER FISHING PROVIDED BY USACE



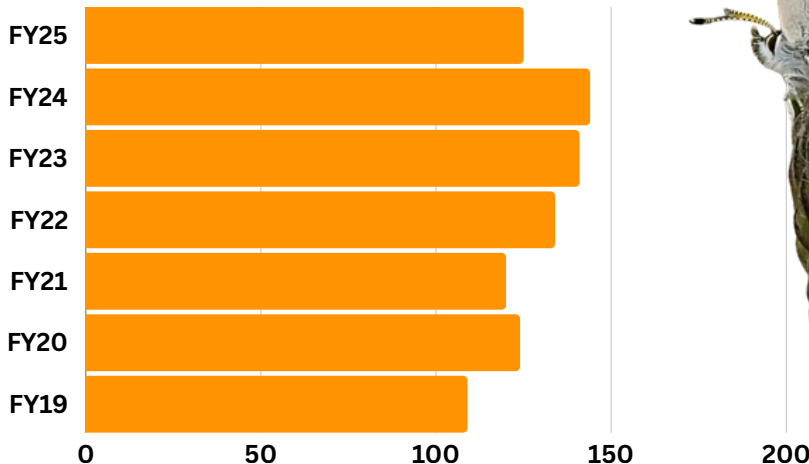
PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Fender's blue butterfly is endemic to the Willamette Valley and the USACE sites at Fern Ridge are a core part of the Eugene Recovery Zone, currently the most populous zone for the species. Planting preferred nectar species such as Oregon geranium and meadow checker mallow can boost adult survival and reproductive success. All plant material was propagated from locally collected seed at the Fern Ridge nursery.



ENS BUDGET

In FY25, approximately \$125 million was enacted by Congress for the ENS Program. Similar to past years, over 35% of the appropriation supported work associated with fish, forest, and wildlife habitat management along with pest and invasive species management. Additionally, funds continued to be requested by other business lines, such as navigation, hydropower, and flood risk management, for work associated with biological opinions.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



Similar to previous years, notable focus areas within the ENS Program included boundary management, shoreline management, and the revision of project master plans.



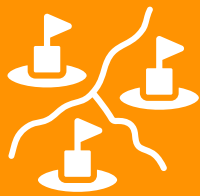
PROJECT MASTER PLANS

USACE has focused significant effort and funding to revise project master plans and ensure that each project has a relevant, concise plan for strategic management.

Since 2020, 143 project master plans have been revised. During 2025, an additional 102 Project Master Plans were undergoing revision.



143



7,450

BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT

USACE is responsible for protecting over 38,000 miles of boundary line—that is 6 times the length of the Mexico and Canada borders combined.

In FY 25, USACE staff, with the support of volunteers and contractors, inspected over 7,450 miles of boundary.



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

In FY25, USACE projects with a shoreline management program managed over 76,300 Shoreline Use Permits. Additionally, USACE managed 39,925 licenses in support of the Shoreline Management Program.



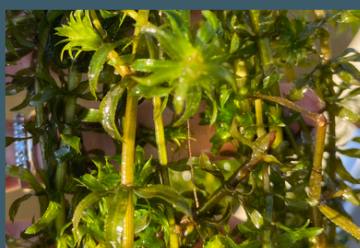
76,300



682

PRESCRIBED FIRE

During FY25, 682 prescribed burns on over 53,000 acres were conducted by USACE staff, contractors, and partners in an effort to implement habitat improvements, reduce invasive species impacts, and reduce hazardous fuel loads.



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

In FY25, the presence of nearly 200 species of invasive organisms were noted at USACE projects. The top five most commonly reported invasive species were 1) Johnson grass, 2) Multiflora rose, 3) Autumn olive, 4) Japanese honeysuckle, and 5) Ailanthus



200

PARTNERSHIPS

11



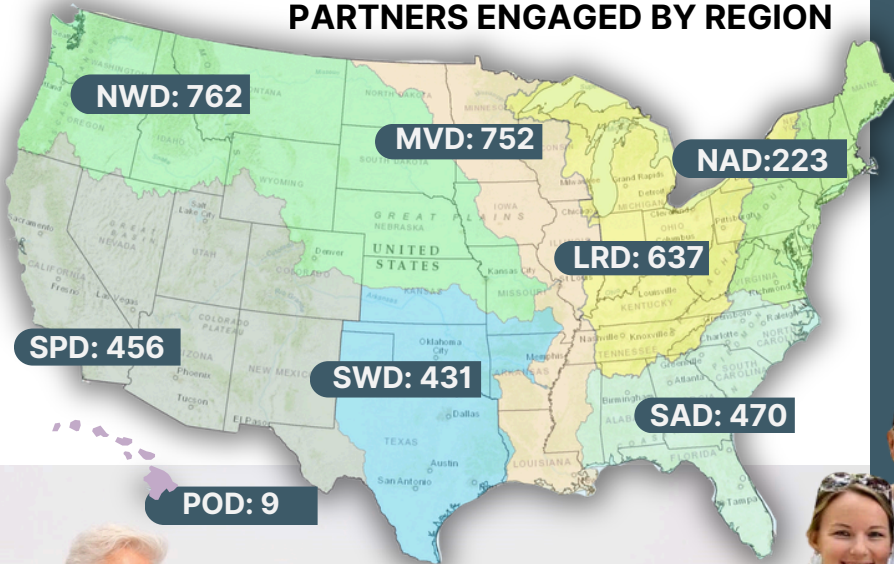
Our Partners

USACE understands that lasting impact in natural resources management begins at the local level. This past year's partnership summary celebrates the powerful synergy between our agency, our dedicated partners, and the passionate volunteers who are making a tangible difference in communities across the nation. We are extremely thankful for the collaboration with our amazing partners.

2025 Summary

In 2025, we witnessed firsthand the positive outcomes of working hand-in-hand with local organizations and individuals. This report showcases the success of community-led conservation initiatives, educational programs that inspire the next generation of environmental stewards, and the transformative power of volunteerism. Thank you to the wonderful volunteers and partners for your expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment. Your efforts are vital to achieving our NRM goals and ensuring the health and vitality of our natural resources for years to come.

PARTNERS ENGAGED BY REGION



PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS BY THE NUMBERS



4,196
TOTAL PARTNERS



322 OF 442
(73% of USACE Projects)

USACE PROJECTS WITH PARTNERSHIPS



USACE Investment:
\$40.1 million
(34% Increase from FY24)

Partner Investment:
\$155.15 million
(38% Increase from FY24)

\$195,226,979

(Increase of 37% from FY24)
TOTAL VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS



PARTNERSHIPS

12



240

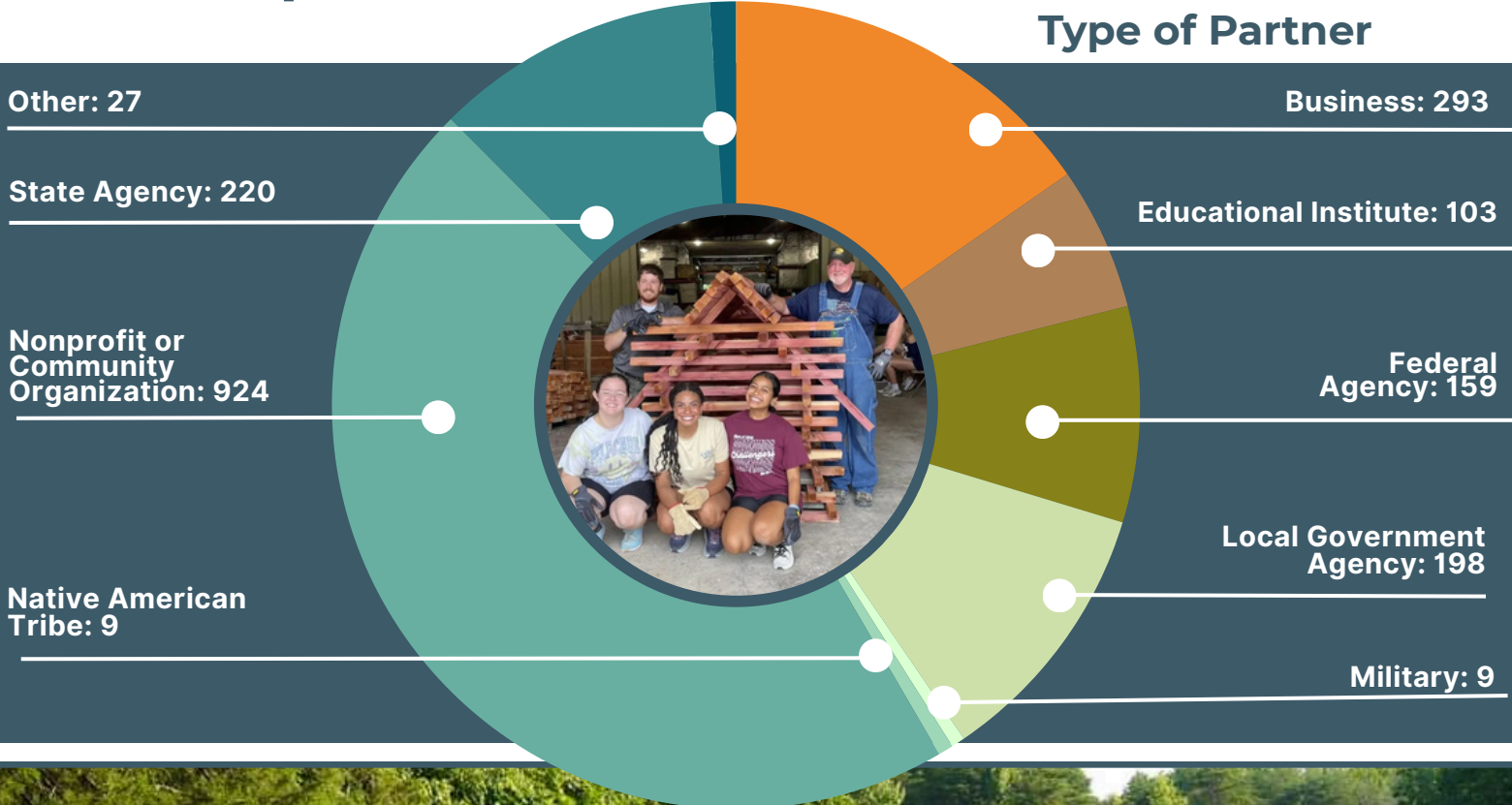


National Organizations with MOUs: 240 USACE projects partnered with 37 organizations that have a national MOU in place, providing educational programs, health and safety, environmental, and recreation improvements.

54



Cooperating Associations: 54 USACE projects benefited from the assistance of 60 nonprofit cooperating associations, which supported special events, interpretive activities, and exhibits and programs; operated bookstores; and bolstered volunteer programs.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Our Volunteers

In 2025, volunteers played a valuable role in helping care for the environment and providing high quality recreation opportunities.



42

USACE Annual Passes Issued

To Volunteers for 100 Hours of Service

267

America the Beautiful Volunteer Passes Issued

To Volunteers for 250 Hours of Service



61

Volunteer Excellence Coins Issued

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM EFFORTS BY THE NUMBERS



42,992

Total Volunteers
(Increase of 13% from FY24)



1,907,476

Total Volunteer Hours Served
(Equivalent to 917 FTEs)



\$66.36
MILLION

Total Value of Volunteer Hours



74%

329

Projects Using Volunteers

National Public Lands Day

National Public Lands Day (NPLD) continued to be an important partnership between USACE and the communities surrounding our Civil Works projects.



99

work projects at



42

USACE lakes resulted in



4,383

volunteers and



242

partner organizations that provided



\$852K

in service



WATER SAFETY

14



Program Mission

The mission of the National Water Safety Program is to develop and provide campaigns, initiatives, partnerships, policies, and educational materials and resources to USACE projects that help increase public awareness of water safety and reduce the number of water-related accidents and fatalities.



The program identifies life-threatening concerns associated with water-based recreation and increases public awareness of safe practices through educational media. The National Water Safety Program also serves to improve the USACE image, promote good will, and further the basic understanding of the agency and national safety concerns.

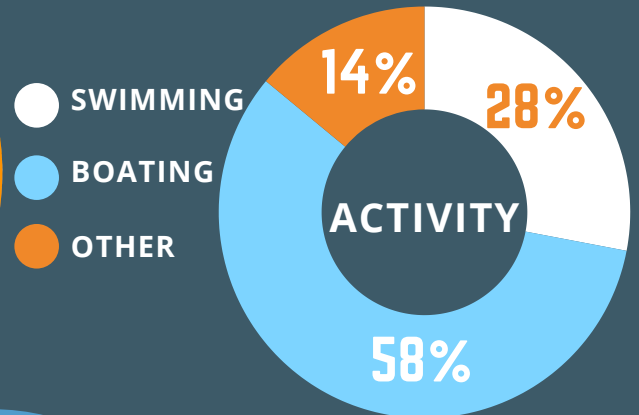
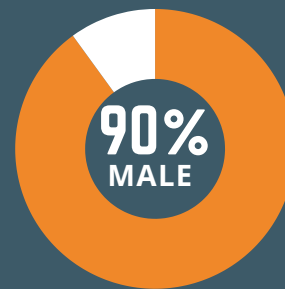
Partnership with Progressive



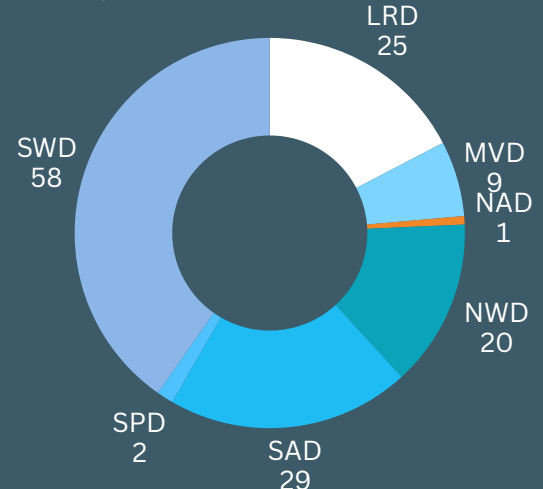
In 2024, Progressive Insurance in cooperation with American Park Network donated more than 5,000 life jackets to USACE projects nationwide. Life jackets were given to the 75 lakes within USACE that have had the most water-related fatalities.

In 2025, Progressive provided 350 water safety interpretive panels that were available for projects to order through the National Water Safety Product Order Form. While not every project that ordered a panel received one, all were distributed and have been put to good use at USACE boat ramps across the nation.

USACE FY25 PUBLIC RECREATION FATALITY STATISTICS



FY25 FATALITIES BY DIVISION



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

15



➤➤ NRM Employee of the Year



The NRM Employee of the Year Award is awarded to an individual who has exhibited exceptional leadership and selfless service to the NRM Program. The 2025 recipient of this award is Ms. Rachel Rush, Natural Resources Specialist, Huntington District.

Ms. Rush is recognized for her unwavering personal commitment and energy to improving the NRM program from the field to Headquarters level. Her contributions and leadership within the organization have been carried out with professionalism and enthusiasm. Most importantly, her sharing of information and knowledge transfer will ensure our future leaders possess the knowledge to excel and continue to advance the NRM program.

➤➤ ADDITIONAL NOMINEES

Additional nominees for the NRM Employee of the Year included

- NAD: Glenn Werner
- LRD: Nicole Govan
- NWD: Taylor Johnson
- SWD: Bradley Mitchel

Additional nominees for the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence included

- NWD: Nicolas Racine
- SWD: Emily Laperriere

Congratulations to ALL of our award winners and nominees. You set an example of excellence and your contributions to the Natural Resources Management Program, USACE, and the Nation are commendable.

➤➤ Hiram M. Chittenden Award



The Chief of Engineer's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence recognizes outstanding achievement using interpretation to enhance public understanding of USACE, prompting positive experiences and attitudes, and encouraging voluntary stewardship of natural, cultural, and created resources. The 2025 recipient of this award is Ms. Grace Trimble, Natural Resources Specialist, W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, Wilmington District.

Ms. Trimble is recognized for her outstanding service, professionalism, enthusiasm, and commitment to delivering engaging environmental education programs at the W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir and in the local community. Her work extended beyond public environmental education activities to include mentoring college students, environmental educators, and other USACE staff. Ms. Trimble's dedication to education, community outreach, and partnership-building has made a lasting impact and exemplifies her commitment to the Natural Resources Management profession.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE



Excellence in Partnership Award

The Excellence in Partnership Award annually recognizes exceptional contributions by a partner providing substantial support to the USACE Recreation and Environmental Stewardship programs.

The 2025 Excellence in Partnership Award recipient is the Friends of Lake Ouachita (FOLO). The FOLO supports Lake Ouachita by enhancing recreation facilities, supporting natural resource management, and fostering community engagement. FOLO has donated over 22,000 volunteer hours since 2010 and garnered \$3,017,000 in grants and in-kind donations for the planning and construction of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail.



Volunteer of the Year Award

The National Volunteer Award recognizes extraordinary service provided by volunteers, draws attention to their vast skills and contributions, and encourages an attitude of stewardship and responsibility in caring for USACE managed lands.

The 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award recipients are Ms. Holly Lane, Ms. Dawn Kostick, and Ms. Jolyn Tracy of Libby Dam. This exceptional trio of women has provided four summers—and counting—of dedicated service, during which they provided a combined total of 5,590 volunteer hours supporting Libby Dam's mission and helping the volunteer program thrive. Their efforts went far beyond routine volunteer duties; they became embodiments of the USACE spirit of service, leaving a profound and lasting impact on the Libby Dam team, the local community, and the visitors they encountered.



ADDITIONAL NOMINEES

Additional nominees for the Excellence in Partnership Award included

- SWT: Phillips 66 Ponca City at Kaw Lake
- NWS: Libby Dam Cooperative Association
- LRN: Cadiz-Trigg County Parks and Recreation at Lake Barkley
- SAS: Southern Off-Road Biking Association—Central Savannah River Area at J. Strom Thurmond Lake
- NAE: Pathfinders Motorcycle Club of Connecticut at Thomaston Dam

ADDITIONAL NOMINEES

Additional nominees for the Volunteer of the Year Award included

- LRH: Sherry Ratliff of Burnsville Lake
- LRL: Roger and Delwaynia Moore of Rough River Lake
- LRN: Tom and Kristi Battles of Lake Barkley
- MVS: Tony Lawrence of Rend Lake
- SWF: Jeff and Betty Bunch of Whitney Lake
- SWF: Sarah Rogers of Benbrook Lake
- SWF: Dyan and Clad Watson of Bardwell Lake
- SAJ: Barbra and Michael Lowrey of Lake Okeechobee
- NAE: Diane and Duayne Oleszewski of Buffumville Lake
- NWO: Eugene Sharrow of Lake Sharpe/Big Bend Dam

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

17



The National Water Safety Awards are presented in cooperation with the National Boating Federation to recognize a USACE employee and team that have contributed to boating and water safety and through their efforts have made a difference in saving lives on our nation's waterways.

ADDITIONAL NOMINEES

Additional nominees for the National Water Safety Employee of the Year included

- MVD Water Safety Employee of the Year–Breanna Trovillion, Natural Resources Specialist, Rend Lake, St. Louis District
- NWD Water Safety Employee of the Year–Allen Flint, Natural Resources Specialist, Harry S. Truman Lake, Kansas City District
- SAD Water Safety Employee of the Year–Annette Dotson, Natural Resources Specialist, Hartwell Lake, Savannah District
- SPD Water Safety Employee of the Year–Kevin Rodriguez, Park Ranger, Success Lake, Sacramento District
- SWD Water Safety Employee of the Year–Abby Jones, Natural Resources Specialist, Tulsa District

National Water Safety Employee of the Year



Ms. Chelsea Jones, Natural Resources Specialist (River Ranger) in the Pittsburgh District, was selected as the 2025 National Water Safety Employee of the Year. Ms. Jones has been a leader for water safety in the Pittsburgh District by individually contributing to nearly half of the overall water safety contacts made in FY24, propelling the District's water safety program to above pre-Covid numbers. Her messages targeted a diverse range of users.

Ms. Jones' exemplary efforts, enthusiasm, and professionalism have allowed her to leverage partnership opportunities and create unique, relatable water safety programs. Her work has significantly enhanced the Pittsburgh District River Ranger and water safety initiatives, safeguarding lives through increased education and awareness. Congratulations, Chelsea!

National Water Safety Team of the Year

The 2025 National Water Safety Team Award is presented to the Rathbun Lake Team of staff, volunteers, and partners in recognition of their outstanding efforts promoting boating and water safety awareness to visitors of Rathbun Lake and the surrounding community.

Through shared vision, responsibility, initiative, and collaboration, the Rathbun Lake Team greatly increased the reach and effectiveness of boating and water safety programs, safeguarded visitor lives and property, and, most critically, established an essential foundation for continued success in providing safe, quality outdoor and water recreation opportunities benefitting the overall American quality of life. Congratulations to the Rathbun Lake Team of staff, volunteers, and partners!



ADDITIONAL NOMINEES

Additional nominees for the National Water Safety Team of the Year included

- MVD Water Safety Team of the Year–Lake Ouachita Park Rangers, Vicksburg District
- SAD Water Safety Team of the Year–Jacksonville District Water Safety Team, Jacksonville District
- SWD Water Safety Team of the Year–Eufaula Lake Office Ranger Staff, Tulsa District

PARTNERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

18



This year's contest featured four thematic categories: Environmental Stewardship, Volunteers in Action, Recreation, and Events with Partners.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Dakota Allison: Pollinator Field Planting with Phillips 66 Ponca City, Kaw Lake Project, Tulsa District

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Tana Wilson: Bringing the Columbia Basin Map to Life, Libby Dam Visitor Center, Seattle District



RECREATION & GRAND PRIZE

Dakota Allison: Water Safety Bulletin Board Construction, Kaw Lake Project, Tulsa District



EVENTS WITH PARTNERS

Dakota Allison: Recognizing Phillips 66 Ponca City and the City of Kaw City, Kaw Lake Project, Tulsa District

