



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-ON

S: 28 March 2003

10 MAR 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND  
DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Joint Ventures – Partners in Stewardship

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in collaboration with the other land management agencies; e.g., the National Park Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other outside partners, is hosting a national conference in Los Angeles, 17 – 20 November 2003. The purpose of this conference (*Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship*) is to increase partnership opportunities to achieve the goal of creating a nationwide network of public places.

2. The benefits of working in partnership and collaboration are many. They can provide efficient service, engage new resources to accomplish shared stewardship objectives, share skills and knowledge, and expand recreation opportunities. Participants will include a broad cross-section from Federal, State and local governments, the business community, tribes and indigenous communities, non-governmental organizations and the educational and scientific communities.

3. Support for this effort is needed on two fronts:

a. Individuals are needed to be the Corps representative on each topic team (see enclosure for details). These teams will communicate via email and teleconferencing.

b. Consider presenting a session at the conference on one of the identified topics (see enclosure). Session proposals can be submitted through the website and are due 3 April 2003.

This is a great chance for the Corps to work together with the other land management agencies and will be an invaluable learning opportunity. For information details and/or to submit a proposal, go to the conference website at: [www.partnerships2003.org](http://www.partnerships2003.org).

4. Ms. Debra Stokes, Natural Resources Management Branch, is the Corps POC on the interagency Conference Core Planning Team and will be sending additional information out as it is received, including information on attending the conference. Please submit your nominations to the topic teams to her by COB 28 March 2003. Any questions with regard to this effort should be directed to Ms. Stokes at (202) 761-7769.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ROBERT H. GRIFFIN  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works

Encl

A quick suspense but the respective staff  
POCs have been talking. Many Federal partners involved! PLS support



NOVEMBER 17, 18, 19, 20 2003 LOS ANGELES, CA

**Partners in Stewardship**

[www.partnerships2003.org](http://www.partnerships2003.org)

**February 12, 2003**

**Topic Team Guidance**

**Purpose of Conference**

Across the United States, the formation of successful partnerships, offer the possibility of creating a nationwide network of public places. The elements of the network come in many forms – among them local, state and federal parks, refuges, forests, preserves, historic places, waterways, rangelands and private land trusts. The benefits of working in partnership and collaboration are many.

This conference will explore the changing nature of communities, examine emerging models of shared leadership and build the skills needed to nurture and cultivate partnerships. During this conference a diverse body of public and private sector attendees will have the opportunity to delve into both the theory and practice of partnerships, and to share experiences and ideas with colleagues involved in partnership activities ranging from traditional to state-of-the-art.

**Desired Outcomes of Conference**

1. Develop and expand competencies and skills regarding the factors of successful partnering, including strategic planning, alternative funding strategies, and building community support.
2. Learn new strategies and techniques for accomplishing your mission and exporting your talents to assist others with complementary missions.
3. Identify organizational barriers to increasing collaboration and networking and forge strategies for overcoming these barriers.
4. Understand how American demographics are changing, and learn strategies to communicate and build relevance with non-traditional groups.
5. Leave the conference inspired to take leadership roles in building partnerships and a nationwide network.
6. Meet people who can become new partners and who provide new sources of skills, products and ideas.
7. Understand and influence the emerging nationwide network of public places.

### **Topic Team Composition**

Topic Teams generally will be composed of 8 to 14 individuals. Ideally, each agency will have at least one representative on each team. The make up of each team should reflect roughly equal number of federal and nonfederal partners, and efforts will be made to ensure diversity of gender, ethnicity etc.

Each team will be lead by two to three co-chairs who will represent federal and non-federal partners. One of the co-chairs must be designated “topic team leader,” who will be the formal point of contact for the topic team. As point of contact, the topic team leader will be responsible for communication between session leaders and the Conference Core Planning Team.

### **Topic Team – General Guidance**

Each topic team is responsible for developing the content of 10 to 20 sessions to be offered at the conference. These sessions will be generated from both the efforts of the topic team and from session proposals submitted from the general conference call for session proposals. We are looking for sessions that illuminate the following:

- Best practice in partnerships.
- Organizational concepts and partnership skills.
- Inspirational partnership stories.
- Challenges or barriers for effective partnering.
- Innovative approaches to partnering.

### **Content of Sessions**

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- Programming should reflect examples from the full spectrum of conference participants as well as inspirational examples from “outside” public/private partnerships.
- Encourage, as appropriate, the inclusion of proposals from international efforts. These may be partnership stories that highlight international partner success.
- Be creative and innovative – think outside the box.
- Propose sessions that push agency comfort zones and challenge existing paradigms.
- Design sessions that bring diverse audiences together.
- Consider “Famous Flops and Fabulous Failures” as learning opportunities.
- Note that presenters may be asked to conduct sessions more than once.
- Consider a wide range of session presentation formats.

### **Topic Team Duties:**

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- Strategize overall session concepts based upon topic and conference desired outcomes.
- Aggressively network with a broad variety of existing partners, governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) who have important partnership stories to tell related to the topic area, with the goal of having these parties generate proposals for conference sessions.
- Evaluate all session proposals based upon conference desired expectations and proposal evaluation criteria as identified in Conference Session Proposal Information.
- Consult web database of session proposals and coordinate your efforts with other topic teams as appropriate.
- Prioritize the top 10 to 20 session proposals.

### June Meeting:

▪ In the first week in June, the topic team leader, or alternatively, a topic team co-chair, should plan to attend a key conference planning meeting (location TBD). At this meeting the topic team leader will present 10-20 session proposals for consideration by the Conference Core Planning Team. A presentation template will be developed and provided to the topic teams prior to that date. It will include the following information:

- Title
- Type of session/session size/session length
- Brief description (2 sentences)
- Presenters
- AV equipment needs
- Identify whether this session should be repeated – how many times etc.
- Session costs – honorarium, travel expenses, registration etc.

### Managing Topic Team Meetings

Due to the national, interagency and nonfederal partner involvement in topic teams, it is strongly recommended that all topic team meetings be conducted via conference call and through email correspondence.

### General Conference Attendance Information for Session Presenters/Leaders

- Session presenters and session leaders are guaranteed a “slot” as a conference participant should they wish to attend.
- All federal employees presenting or serving as session leaders will be expected to pay registration and travel.
- All nonfederal session presenters and session leaders should be encouraged to cover cost of registration and travel. Financial assistance will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Team Topics**

The conference planning team has identified the following topic areas for the program:

- tourism
- transportation
- technology
- recreation and health
- education
- visitor services
- planning
- trails/greenways
- heritage
- sustainable practices
- corporate stewardship
- engaging new audiences
- cultural and natural resources stewardship
- building community connections
- volunteerism
- stewardship investment strategies (fundraising)
- science
- shared-management/governance models
- green infrastructure
- arts and humanities
- communications/marketing & branding
- building partnership competencies

CECW-ON

SUBJECT: Joint Ventures – Partners in Stewardship

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