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Directorate of Civil Works

Environment-Stewardship Business Program

CECW-O

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Stewardship *Definition*

Environmental Stewardship

—An ethic and practice of maintaining the
viability of the Earth and its natural processes.

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Stewardship *National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - Mandate*

- **NEPA Section 101(b): the Federal government will use all practicable means to...**
 - Fulfill its duties as trustee of the environment
 - Assure safe, healthful and productive surroundings
 - Attain greatest beneficial uses of environment without degradation or undesired consequences
 - Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage; maintain environment that supports diversity
 - Achieve balance between population and resource use
 - Enhance the quality of renewable resources...

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ENVIRONMENT BUSINESS PROGRAM *Strategic Goal*

Manage, protect and restore the nation's water and related resources within ecosystem management frameworks and principles.

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Stewardship

Outcome Goal/ Output Goals

Outcome Goal:

Healthy project lands and waters

Output Goals:

- All lands managed consistent with ecosystem management principles within watersheds
- Stewardship activities comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations
- Project lands are retained for the life of project

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Stewardship

Our Responsibility

- 456 lakes
- Located in 43 States
- 11.5 million acres of land and water
- 56,000 shoreline miles
- Annual budget ~ \$72M



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Stewardship *Capital - National Perspective*

- **Corps acreage is 8% of total Federal acreage east of Rocky Mountains**
- **Corps lands viewed as “Islands of Green”**



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Stewardship *Capital*

- **Diverse resources:**
 - **Fish and Wildlife**



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Stewardship *Capital*

- **Diverse resources:**
 - Forests, woodlands
water, wetlands
 - Cultural resources



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Stewardship *Capital*

- **Nationally significant:**
 - Endangered species
 - Migratory sp./ Waterfowl
 - Natural Landmarks



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Stewardship *Capability*

- **Capability**
 - 2 HQ Operations staff
 - 1600 permanent professionals nationwide
 - Static Budget ~ \$72 million

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Stewardship *Implementation*

- **Natural Resources Management Plans**
- **Leveraged resources**
 - Cooperate with States & FWS
 - Challenge Partnerships
 - Volunteers
 - Ecosystem restoration programs (e.g. Section 1135)
- **MOUs and MOAs**



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Stewardship *Benefits*

- **National Natural Assets:**
 - Recovery improved for 78 Federally listed species
 - 8% (1.7 M acres) of “Joint Venture Area (JVA)” land designated in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan is Corps property
 - JVA’s are key waterfowl habitat areas for conservation partnership efforts
 - Corps acreage is significant component of total public land in JVA’s
 - Providing 31% of total recreational fishing taking place on U. S. lakes > 10 acres

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Stewardship *Current Conditions*

- **Conflicts with other operations activities
e.g. hydropower vs. fisheries**



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Stewardship *Current Conditions*

- **Significant demand for both consumptive and non-consumptive fish and wildlife related recreation**



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Stewardship *Current Conditions*

- **Wildlife related recreationists - U.S.**
 - 35 million anglers
 - 14 million hunters
 - 63 million wildlife watchers
- **Economic impact**
 - \$100+ billion spent on trips and equipment



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Stewardship *Current Conditions*

- **Resource degradation
(invasive species - e.g.
Zebra mussels, S. Pine Beetles)**



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Stewardship *Current Conditions*

- **Prime project lands are out-granted**
- **Continuing pressure to excess valuable natural resources lands**
- **Significant opportunities exist to improve aquatic, wetland and terrestrial resources on Corps lands**

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Current Conditions

- **Inadequate natural and cultural resources inventories**
 - Status of threatened/ endangered species on projects is poorly known
- **Hiring practices for technical personnel needs improvement (generalist vs. specialist)**
- **Lack of public awareness**

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Shaping Our Strategy

USACE Environmental Operating Principles

- **Announced March 02 by Chief**
- **Emphasize Corp's environmental awareness**
- **To achieve greater synergy between environmental sustainability and execution of all USACE Civil and Military activities**
- **Integral to Stewardship Business Program**

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Shaping our Strategy

Environment–Stewardship Support Program

- **Purpose: broad business program support**
- **Stewardship Advisory Team**
- **Facilitates business program direction and buy-in**
- **Launch: July 2002, Portland, OR**

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Shaping our Strategy

Natural Resources Stakeholders Listening Session

- **Representatives of stewardship stakeholders nationwide**
- **To identify national natural resources stewardship needs**
- **To assist in developing national priorities and appropriate actions**
- **September 02, Nashville, TN**

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