

# Federal Lakes Recreation Demonstration Labs

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## Background

- National Recreation Lakes Study  
Commission
  - Created by Congress and appointed by the President in 1998
  - Studied recreation-related problems and potentials for more that 1700 Federal Lakes
  - Reported to the President in June 1999

## Background (Continued)

### – Recommendations:

- Make recreation a higher priority at Federal Lakes
- Energize and focus Federal lake recreation leadership to resolve federal lakes issues
- Advance Federal Lake recreation through demonstration and reinvention
- Create an environment for success in Federal Lake recreation management
- Identify and close the gap between recreation needs and services.

## Federal Lakes Recreation Leadership Council

- Informally established fall 1999
- Purpose was to review and implement recommendations of the Commission
- Eight Federal agencies involved (BLM, USFWS, NPS, BoR, BIA, USFS, TVA, USACE)

## FLR Demonstration Program

- Established by the Leadership Council in summer of 2000
- Chartered as a laboratory under the National Partnership for Reinventing Government
- Fall 2000 – Federal Lakes Recreation laboratory lakes demonstration established
- Now operating with 32 lakes

## FLR Demonstration Program (Continued)

- Demonstration to last 6 months to 4 years
- Emphasis is on cooperative efforts between Federal agencies and other interested parties
- Lessons learned out of the lab effort will be shared across agency lines
- Two managers meetings held so far to report progress

## What Are Reinvention Labs?

- Lab designations are awarded in an attempt to:
  - Experiment with or test new and better ways of doing business
  - Cut through red tape
  - Unleash innovations from employees and others

## Corps Efforts

- 13 Corps lakes selected under the reinvention lab effort.
- Key principles
  - Promote leadership in action
  - Create a “win/win” environment
  - Celebrate and publicize successes
  - Maximize “doing” and minimize “reporting”
  - Adopt a strategy for long-term change

## Rules

- Two basic rules:
  - No additional funding is available for development of new or rehab of older facilities.
  - Lab designation allows the Corps to put aside agency policies but not requirements established by law

## Accomplishments to Date

- Two managers meetings held
  - December 2000 - Lake Lanier
  - December 2001 – Phoenix
- Ideas shared between agencies
- New ideas being implemented
- Most importantly, new partnerships are being formed

## The Key to it All

- Forming partnerships
- Forming constituencies
- Working for the benefit of the public

## The Future

- Legislation to form a new demo lakes effort
  - Includes 25 lakes
    - May include some of the same lakes as now
    - May include different lakes
  - Includes funding - Possibly \$1M per lake
  - Senator Blanche Lincoln is main supporter

Questions?