US Army Corps
Of Engineers

Partnering Program and Authorities 101

Partnership Definition

- A partnership IS:
  - A written agreement between the parties.
  - Mutual interest in, mutual benefits from, or mutually desired goals of a common objective related to the mission of the agency.
  - Appropriate legal authority.

Partnership Definition

- A partnership IS:
  - Consistent with agency plans, policies and priorities.
  - Of evident public benefit.
  - A realistic timeframe with sufficient lead time to acquire funding, materials and necessary approvals.

Partnership Definition

- A partnership is NOT:
  - Conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest or preferential treatment of one entity over another.
  - Endorsement of commercial products, services or entities.

Partnership Definition

- A partnership is NOT:
  - Circumvention of applicable legal requirements in areas such as:
    - procurement
    - personnel or labor laws
    - printing, publishing or audiovisual production
    - issuance of special use permits
  - Marketing or promotion of partners

Partnering Authorities

- Engineering Regulation and Pamphlet 1130-2-500
  - Cooperating Associations (Chapter 9)
  - Volunteers (Chapter 10)
  - Contributions (Chapter 11)
  - Challenge Partnership (Chapter 12)

Partnering Authorities
Which one do I use?

- Does an organized group want to assist in broad goals such as natural resources management, interpretation, visitor service activities?
  - Cooperating Associations (Chapter 9)
  - Challenge Partnership (Chapter 12)
- Is an individual or group offering their services?
  - Volunteers (Chapter 10)
- Is an individual or group offering to give us something?
  - Contributions (Chapter 11)

Cooperating Associations

- refers to a legal entity
- organized under state law
- which enjoys a nonprofit tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Service codes - 501(c)(3)
- operates under the terms of a cooperating agreement with the Corps

Cooperating Associations

- free-standing corporate entities with boards of directors
- purposes and abilities consistent with their boards and objectives
- some associations work in single areas
- others are involved in various areas achieving multiple tasks

Cooperating Associations

- an opportunity for projects to provide expanded program funding to support project purposes
- can collect dues
- operate bookstores on-site
- purchase equipment and materials for use at Corps projects

Cooperating Associations

- conduct and/or fund programs
- fund volunteer recognition events
- develops partnerships with communities and improves communication among local constituencies

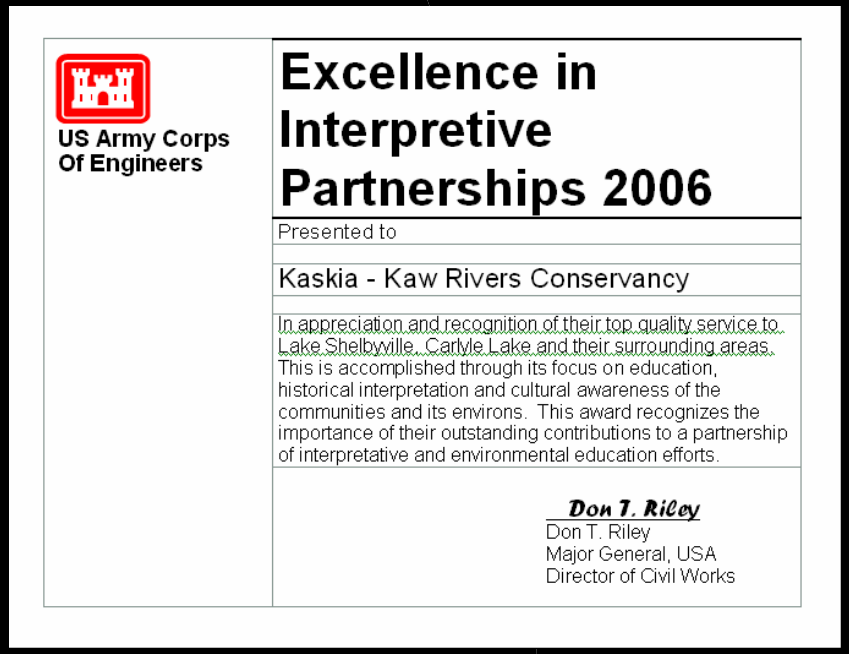
The Corps currently has 32 cooperating associations

Cooperating Agreement

Refers to the agreement between a cooperating association and the Corps that defines the functions and responsibilities of each party to the agreement.

Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships Award

To recognize outstanding contributions to interpretive and/or environmental education efforts by a cooperating association



US Army Corps
Of Engineers

Excellence in Interpretive Partnerships 2006

Presented to

Kaskia - Kaw Rivers Conservancy

In appreciation and recognition of their top quality service to Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake and their surrounding areas. This is accomplished through its focus on education, historical interpretation and cultural awareness of the communities and its environs. This award recognizes the importance of their outstanding contributions to a partnership of interpretative and environmental education efforts.

Don T. Riley
Don T. Riley
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works

Awarded every two years.

Kaskia - Kaw Rivers Conservancy is the 2006 winner.

Volunteers

In 2006, the Corps 52,278 volunteers contributed over 1,312,500 hours of work with an estimated value of almost $24 million.

Volunteers

- park and campground hosts
- staff visitor centers
- conduct programs
- clean shorelines
- restore fish and wildlife habitat
- maintain park trails and facilities
- operate government owned or leased vehicles

Volunteers

- produce products at off-site locations
- sell permits
- collect money
- work in the district performing tasks in various offices/elements

Cannot:

- create policy
- enforce regulations

Volunteers

- receive protection for personal liability under the Tort Claims Act
- entitled to first aid and medical treatment for on-the-job injuries under the Federal Employees Compensation Act
- other compensation could include:
  - reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses
  - a free campsite
  - personal safety equipment

Volunteers

- Corps projects can recruit:
  - their own volunteers locally
  - use the National Volunteer Clearinghouse at:
    - 800-VOL-TEER (800-865-8337)
    - www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer
    - volunter.gov/gov – interagency site

Volunteers

- Applicants under 18 must have parental or legal guardian consent
- Students who wish to volunteer for college credit must have an agreement between the Corps and the school

Volunteers

- Volunteer brochure
- Volunteer poster
- Volunteer Handbook (EP 1130-2-429)
  - To assist volunteer program managers in preparing volunteer management plans and to provide procedures for administering effective volunteer programs.

Rethink Volunteers

- Recreation choice
- Creates advocacy
- Creates connection
- Supports learning
- Energizes donors
- Is good stewardship
- Is a leisure choice

Challenge Partnerships

Are used to provide opportunities for non-federal public and private groups and individuals to contribute to and participate in the operation and/or management of recreation facilities and natural resources at Corps projects.

Challenge Partnerships

- **Do not confuse these two:**
  - **Traditional Cost Sharing**
    - PL 89-72
  - **Challenge Cost Sharing**
    - PL 102-580
- **A full description of the two can be found on the NRM Gateway**

Challenge Partnerships

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Traditional Cost Sharing

- PL 89-72
- Fixed % (Normally 50%)
- Rigid roles
- Can accept real estate
- Sponsor operates
- Cost share for any business function
- Program Management has lead

Challenge Partnerships

- PL 102-580
- Flexible rate determined by mutual agreement
- Flexible roles
- Cannot accept real estate
- Corps operates
- Cost share for only recreation and natural resources
- Operations has lead

Traditional Cost Sharing

- Formal contract
- Corps $ year by year
- Work accomplished over several fiscal years
- Cost share only with non-federal governmental entities
- Normally with only one sponsor

Challenge Partnerships

- Flexible agreement
- Funds must be available in advance from operating funds
- Work generally accomplished during one fiscal year
- Cost share with non-federal governmental <u>and</u> private entities
- May involve multiple sponsors on the same work activity

CECC-G Bulletin No. 02-12, Challenge Partnership

- **Agreements entered into using this authority <u>are not</u> cooperative agreements as that term is used in the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977**
- **They <u>are not</u> subject to the DOD regulations governing cooperative agreements, including the requirement for execution by a certified grants officer**
- **Although Section 225 uses the term "cooperative agreement," it involves a type of transaction not covered by the FGCAA**

CECC-G Bulletin No. 02-12, cont'

- District Commanders are responsible for the approval and execution of challenge partnership agreements that involve projects solely within their districts
- Agreements approval involving a total cost less than $200,000 may be delegated to the Chief of Operation
- Agreements approval involving a total cost less than $25,000 may be delegated to the Operations Project Manager

Contributions

Considerations when accepting donations

Maintain the <u>integrity</u> of USACE programs and operations:

- Does not appear as an attempt to influence regulatory authority
- Meets a legitimate need
- Consistent with law and policy
- Does not imply endorsement

Contributions

Considerations when accepting donations

Maintains <u>impartiality</u> of the USACE:

- Does not appear to influence any significant decision involving the donor's interests
- No appearance of implied commitment to take favorable action/special treatment in exchange for donation

Contributions

Considerations when accepting donations

Maintains <u>public confidence:</u>

- Would not likely result in public controversy
- Donation comes with conditions consistent with USACE programs and goals
- No significant known history of violations - criminal or civil

Recognition of Partners

Is encouraged as a way to express appreciation and acknowledge support

- Ensure it is done in a tasteful manner
- Is appropriate to the amount of support given
- Avoid suggestion of advertising or endorsement
- Coordinate with Office of Counsel

Our customers have spoken. They have said:

- You've got great people in the Corps and we love working with them.
- But your processes are daunting; we don't understand them.
- You don't partner like a partner.
- When we deal with one part of the Corps, it is not like dealing with another part.
- We are frustrated.

We hear their concerns and are committed to creating a partnership culture.

Our customers have spoken. As a result:

- HQ created the:
  - position of Senior Policy Advisor for Partnerships
  - Partnership Advisory Committee

Partnership Advisory Committee

- LRD - Mark Wilmes
- MVD - Richard Otto
- NAD - Cori Brown
- NWD - Greg Miller
- POD - Vacant
- SAD - Mike Hosey
- SPD - Chris Gallagher
- SWD - Jeff Boutwell

- EC - Vacant
- SAT - Vacant
- RLAT - Don Dunwoody
- SME - Susan Nee
- SME - Janice Howell

Joint Ventures – Partners in Stewardship

- Partnership conference in Los Angeles, November 2003
- First time the 7 land management agencies co-convened an effort of this kind
- One-stop networking between the federal government and partners
- Over 1,600 participants

“Too often we think of a partnership as a handout instead of a handshake.”

The Seven Land Management Agencies

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Partnership Pledge

- Join together to discuss common issues and implement solutions to create a seamless system of services.
- Share information and knowledge on developing and expanding partnership efforts.
- Create an interagency partnership roundtable that will work towards building partnership capacity.

Interagency Roundtable Workgroup

- Engage other federal, state, local, tribal and non-government partners in shared technology and problem solving activities to achieve mutually agreed upon goals.
- Work towards building partnership capacity.
- Report back to their respective agency heads quarterly on the status of the group and what has been accomplished since the last report.

The Definition of a Partnership

- is a handshake, not a hand out
- is part of our culture
- combines individual strengths to accomplish the mission
- fosters relationships, common goals and working together

The Definition of a Partnership

- Builds constituency and broad-based community support
- Leverages resources to meet challenges and improve opportunities
- Partnerships are a smart way of doing business

The Partnership Philosophy

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a key role in shaping the future of our Nation's water resources. Our partners are essential in making this happen. We recognize that partnerships must flow in both directions. Cooperation and collaboration is the key to innovative solutions to meet a diversity of need. When we put our heads together, we can find answers far better than anything we can think of ourselves.

Partnership Talking Points

- The Corps is strongly committed to providing the best services and facilities we can within the scope of available resources. Funding for programs, aging infrastructure, and increasing customer demand will always be a challenge.
- It builds constituency and broad-based community support.
- It is a handshake, not a handout.

Partnership Talking Points

- Our partnering initiative will seek to expand the role of non-federal entities in serving the public. Through partnerships, we can develop innovative ways to overcome our challenges and improve our opportunities on public lands.
- A successful partnership culture fosters relationships, common goals and working together.

Partnership Business Card

US Army Corps of Engineers

Our Partnership Philosophy

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a key role in shaping the future of our Nation's water resources. Our partners are essential in making this happen. We recognize that partnerships must flow in both directions. Cooperation and collaboration is the key to innovative solutions to meet a diversity of needs. When we put our heads together, we can find answers far better than anything we can think of by ourselves.

- A tool to deliver our partnership definition and philosophy
- A way to start the conversation with a potential partner

Partnership CD

- Another tool to deliver our partnership message
- Explains the programs and why an individual or group would like to get involved
- Interactive with the public side of the NRM Gateway

Partnership Checklist

- Defining the partnership
- Work Plan and Agreement
- Implementation
- Milestones in planning and implementation process

Handshake Challenge Partnership Program

- Established to provide incentive to projects to use partnering initiatives
- To encourage local organizations to become a partner
- $125,000 for 2008
- Application deadline – 14 September

Handshake Challenge Partnership Program 2007

- Mount Morris Dam, NY
- Caesar Creek Lake, OH
- Allatoona Lake, GA
- Russellville Project, AR
- Lake Mendocino, CA
- West Point Project, GA
- Lake Okeechobee, FL
- W. Kerr Scott, NC
- Enid Lake, MS
- Rivers Project, IL
- Granger Lake, TX
- Bayou Bodcau, LA
- Millwood Lake, AR
- Lake Shelbyville, IL

What can you do?

- Find more ways to work with our partners.
- Think of innovative ways to showcase our partners.
- Post more success stories on the NRM Gateway.

Partnerships

- Make sure you and your partner understand each others' expectations.
- Use the right authority for the right partnership.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate.
- Recognize your partner and the good work that you do.

Partnership Tools

- Business card
- Philosophy and talking points
- CD
- APPL/USACE workshop
- PDT
- NRM Gateway
- Partnership Checklist

Address http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/ Go

Natural Resources Management Gateway

to the future . . .

NRM Gateway Logo

Home | Employees | Visitors | Glossary | Calendar | Index/Search | New Posting ?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Engineer Research and Development Center | Environmental Lab | Warning

Welcome

The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resources Management (NRM) Mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences, to serve the needs of present and future generations.

Internet

NRM Gateway

http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil

Natural Resources Management Gateway
to the future . . .

Partnerships

Partnerships

Headquarters POC

In managing recreation and natural resources, it is often necessary that agencies work together with neighbors and local communities - in everything from wildlife protection and habitat improvement to recreational facility enhancements and customer service . The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is no exception to this rule and welcomes the myriad of present and future partners who share common goals and interests in our resources. It is no secret that many of our most valuable resources, such as endangered species, do not recognize human or property boundaries. Additionally, funding and labor resource shortages affect all levels of government and society. Partnering can avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, provide for the pooling of scarce resources, and promote coordinated, focused, and consistent mutual efforts to resolve common problems and missions in a united effort that best benefits all concerned. The bottom line: **partnering is smart business**.

The Natural Resources Management Branch in Headquarters continues to explore potential concepts for public-private partnerships in recreation and natural resources management. The objective of such partnerships is to help leverage the limited resources for these business areas through involvement of the private sector.

Joint Ventures - Partners in Stewardship Conference

2004 APPL Annual Convention

- At a Glance
- Policy & Procedures
- Program Summary
- How To
- Training
- Frequently Asked Questions
- References
- Partnership CD
- NRM Partnerships
- National Partners
- Partners in Action
- Watershed Management
- Stakeholders
- Good Enough to Share
- Lessons Learned
- Project Delivery Team

Types of Partnerships

- Challenge Partnerships Program
- Cooperating Associations Program
- Contributions Program
- Volunteer Program

NRM Gateway

- Single access point to the NRM Program
- Institutional knowledge
- Best way to keep-up
- Accessible by all employees
- Smart Book