

Partnership Evaluation Tool

This tool is used to evaluate individual partnerships, and may be used by all the members of the partnership. It provides general information relative to the partnerships mission, goals/objectives, tasks, measures of success, and general partnership value.

For this evaluation tool to be most effective and beneficial the partnership should have a mission statement, specific goals and/or objectives (desired results), and well defined tasks. This organization provides a basis for evaluation and comparison.

The questionnaire may be completed again, with the addition of the Progress Questions, at appropriate intervals during the life of the partnership. Comparing responses will help measure success and identify items that may need to be addressed.

If an intensive review involving an empirical survey is required to evaluate the success of a partnership or if a survey is a vital component of the partnership we suggest utilizing a professional survey provider.

While it is important to be aware of the monetary cost and benefits associated with a partnership, it is also important to capture benefits of a partnership that go beyond monetary success. When identifying goals and objectives include items that capture the non-monetary rewards of a partnership (i.e. improved relationships with the community, avoiding adverse impacts, enhancing the environment, etc.) Taking the time to identify all the benefits and measuring success in ways that are easy to understand will allow the team to make informed decisions.

The How To section and other resources on the Partnership page of the NRM Gateway provide background and insight on the Corps partnership efforts. Partnership page resources will also be helpful to the team addressing action items identified during this process.

Use of this tool is not mandatory. Teams can use the sections applicable the their situation and adapt the process as needed . Information gathered and insights gained from using this process may be helpful in preparing after action reports, budgets, and METLS; tracking performance measures; and replying to data calls or OMBIL data entry requirements.

Partnership Evaluation Tool Questionnaire

1. Who are the members of your partnership?

2. What is the purpose of your partnership?

3. Who is the customer (who are you serving)?

4. What is the mission statement of the partnership?

5. What are the goals and objectives of the partnership?

a.
b.
c.
d.

6. List the tasks/actions needed to complete the partnership goals, who will accomplish them, and the objective that will be met.

Task/Actions	Who is responsible	Objective to be met
a.		
b.		
c.		
d.		

7. Cost to accomplish the task?

Task	Total Cost	Man hours	Material Cost
a.			
b.			
3.			
d.			

8. How will you measure success criteria and method)?

Goal/Objective	Measure of Success
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	

Examples of Measures of Success: milestones met, % of task accomplished, schedule met, dollars saved, people reached, increased visitation, increased level of satisfaction, less negative action/feedback, change in use pattern. Recommend use of professionally developed survey if customer response is a crucial measure.

9. Explain how the partnership will meet the following criteria (on a separate sheet) and rate the partnership on how well it addresses each criteria in the table below.

Rating Scale:

- **3 – Always true.** This is a real strength.
- **2 – Often true.** The team has the capacity but needs to improve or do more.
- **1 – Occasionally true.** The team needs to build this strength.
- **0 – Never true.** No real effort on this item - it needs lots of work.

Sustainability - What is the life span of the product and the benefit to the Corps?	
Partnership value - What is the significance of the partner's contribution to the project (e.g. matching dollars, materials or in-kind services, etc.)? May list what each partner can bring to the table to compliment one another?	
Environmental Stewardship Value - Does the project contribute to the physical improvement of the natural resources?	
Communication and Education Value - Does the project increase public understanding of the Corps and its missions through interpretation, outreach, education and public information?	
Recreational Benefit - Does the product improve the recreational experience for multiple user types?	
Innovativeness - Are other organizations doing this kind of project? How is this project important and unique?	
TOTAL	

10. What aspects of implementing this partnership will be the most challenging?
 (Please rate each factor from one to five with one being the most challenging aspect and provide details in a narrative.)

	Most		Least			
	1	2	3	4	5	
Finding financial resources	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Time constraints	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Not enough staff	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Not enough technical knowledge	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Generating management support	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Justifying it within the context of mission	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

11. List any specific problems/challenges?

12. What are the incalculable benefits of the partnership?
 (Things that can be quantified should be addressed in item 9. Measuring success.)

Progress Questions:

1. Are the partners the same?
2. Have the tasks been completed?
3. Have each of the goals/objectives been accomplished?
4. Is the mission accomplished?
5. Has the partnership been successful according to the measures identified?
6. How much did it cost to fund your partnership – actual cost vs. initial estimate?
7. How much time did you actually spend on this partnership - actual cost vs. initial estimate?
8. What has changed?
9. What needs to be changed?

Helpful Links:

Natural Resources Management Gateway

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/nrm.cfm>

US Bureau of Reclamation Partnership Page

<http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/guide/workpart.htm>

US Forest Service Foundation

<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org>

National Parks Service Partnerships website

<http://www.nps.gov/partnerships/>

Department of the Interior Partnership website

<http://www.doi.gov/partnerships/index.html>

US Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://partnerships.fws.gov/index.html>

Project for Public Spaces

[http://www.pps.org/topics/pubpriv/roles/Younger Ptnrs](http://www.pps.org/topics/pubpriv/roles/Younger_Ptnrs)

References:

- US Forest Service – Partnership Capacity Assessment Tool
- Partnering Guide for Civil Works – IWR Pamphlet 98-ADR-P-7
- US Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 – Environmental Partnership Evaluation Model

Note: Utilizing partnering tools in the following order may assist the team in assessing these items and making decisions.

1. Partnership Competency Evaluation
2. Partnership Priorities
3. Partnership Evaluation Tool