

## US Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Business Line



### A Little History

- 1872 -- The Corps surveyed, operated and protected Yellowstone Park for many years, 44 years before the Park Service was formed.
- 1944 -- The Flood Control Act authorizes the Corps to operate and maintain its lakes for recreational purposes.
- 1961 -- HQUSACE orders Divisions to ensure development of policy guidelines for recreational facilities.



## A Little History

- 1962 -- Congress identified outdoor recreation as a project purpose..
- 1965 -- Federal Water Project Recreation Act (PL 89-72)
  - ... consider fully opportunities every project afforded for outdoor recreation.....
  - restricted development of recreational facilities to those cost-shared with a local entity.



## Facilities on Corps Lakes

### Corps Managed & Outgrants



- 4,330 recreation areas
- 55,482 picnic sites
- 101,458 camping sites
- 1,671 playgrounds
- 1,015 swimming areas
- 5,099 trail miles
- 391 fishing docks
- 3,877 boat ramps
- 488 marinas
- 113,011 marina slips





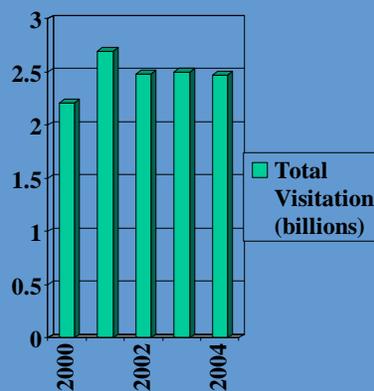
## Visitors to Corps Lakes Corps Managed and Outgrants



- 385,501,241 in total
- 46,382,536 picnickers
- 5,475,663 campers
- 48,972,623 swimmers
- 17,022,825 water skiers
- 84,437,594 boaters
- 131,417,826 sightseers
- 101,570,441 fishermen
- 9,603,391 hunters
- 64,823,452 others



## Corps of Engineers Visitation Trends



- Trend Analysis are important. **WHY?**
  - What variables can alter visitation?

Source - Ombil



## The Corps as an Economic Influence



- \$10 billion a year in trip related expenses.
- \$5 Billion a year spent on recreational equipment.
- TOTAL = \$15 Billion/yr.

Source: <http://www.corpsresults.us/recreation/receconomic.htm>



## The Corps as an Economic Influence



- Personal Income
  - \$11 Billion in personal income around Corps Lake
  - \$6 billion dollars nationally on recreation equipment.

TOTAL \$17 Billion

Source: <http://www.corpsresults.us/recreation/receconomic.htm>





## Corps' Natural Resources Management Mission

USACE is the **steward** of the lands & waters at Corps water resources projects. Its **Natural Resources Management mission** is to **manage & conserve those natural resources**, consistent with ecosystem management principles, **while providing quality public outdoor recreation** experiences to serve the needs of **present & future generations**.

In all aspects of natural & cultural resources management, the Corps promotes awareness of environmental values & **adheres to sound environmental stewardship, protection, compliance & restoration practices**.

The Corps manages for **long-term public access** to & use of the natural resources **in cooperation with other Federal, State, & local agencies as well as the private sector**.

The Corps **integrates the management** of **diverse natural resource components** such as fish, wildlife, forests, wetlands, grasslands, soil, air, & water with the **provision of public recreation opportunities**. The **Corps conserves natural resources & provides public recreation opportunities** that contribute **to the quality of American life**.

## Recreation Guiding Documents



- ER 1130-2-550
  - Policy Document
- EP 1130-2-550
  - Guidance Document
- Title 36
  - Rules and regulations governing public use.

Source of Documents: <http://www.usace.army.mil/publications/>



## Chapter 3: Master Plans & Operational Management Plans (OMPs)



- Master plans and OMPS are important to the development and operation of the project.



## Chapter 3: Master Plans



- Each project is required to have a Master Plan.
  - Covers all resources.
  - Regional and ecosystem needs.
  - Project capabilities and suitability's.
  - Expressed public interests and desires



## Operational Management Plans (OMP) Chapter 3



- Each project should have a OMP.
  - Project based document keeping Tier II, III, IV performance measures in account.
  - Annual work plan updates.
  - Project capabilities



## Interpretive Services & Outreach Program Chapter 4



- EP 1130-2-434



# Visitor Center Program

## Chapter 5



- Three types
  - A -- Regional (requires specific congressional legislation.
  - B -- Project
  - C -- Visitor Information Facility



# Visitor Center Program

## Chapter 5



- Considerations
  - Costs of Operation
  - Partnerships
  - Planning, exhibits, contracts.



# Visitor Assistance Program

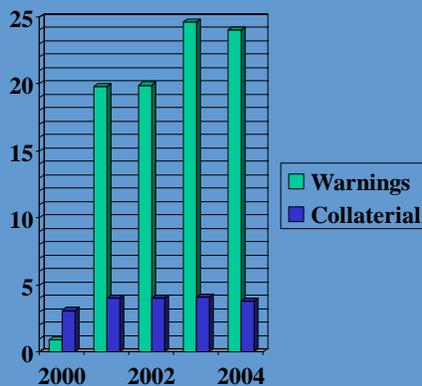
## Chapter 6



- Provides consistent guidance through policies and regulations for assistance of visitors to Corps projects. One of the most controversial areas of the recreation program.



## Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327 Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of COE Water Resources Development Projects



- Assistance Goal
  - 2:1 -- Warnings to citations.
- Role of VA program on Outgranted Lands?
- Role of VA program on the water?

Source: OMBIL



# Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements

## Chapter 7



- Authorities
  - Can enforce local and state laws as authorized.
  - **CANNOT** enforce Title 36.
  - **CANNOT** include water safety patrols or enforcement of state boating laws.



# Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreements

## Chapter 7



- Program Compliance
    - Cooperative agreement must be executed.
    - Responsibility of OPM
    - Good documentation of enforcement actions are a must. No structured reporting requirement.
- What is EngLink?



## Uniforms

Chapters 8 & 14



- Important professional image to the public.
- Who wears the uniform and when?
- Who owns the uniforms?
- Off-duty uniform wear/activities.



## Use Fees

Chapter 9



- 1965 -- Camping fees authorized.
- 1993 -- Days use fees authorized
- Accounting/  
Security/FWA!!!!



## Use Fees Chapter 9



- 1965 -- Camping fees authorized.
  - Compatible w/other areas with similar facilities.
  - What is the philosophy in competing with concessionaires or adjacent private sector?
- What's on the horizon?



## Camping Facilities & Charges

	<u>Class A</u>	<u>Class B</u>	<u>Class C</u>	<u>Class D</u>	<u>Class E</u>
<b>Restrooms</b>	Flush	Vault	Vault	<sup>1</sup>	<sup>2</sup>
<b>Potable Water</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Fireplaces</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Refuse Containers</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Access Road</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Designated Tent/Trailer Space</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Visitor Protection</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Personal Fee Collection</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Picnic Tables</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		
<b>Showers</b>	Yes	No	No		
<b>Sanitary Disposal Station</b>	Yes	Yes	No		
<b>Circulatory Roads</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes		

<sup>1</sup> If 5 of 9 criteria are met, site qualifies for Class D & fee should be charged

<sup>2</sup> If less than 5 criteria are met, site is Class E; no fee



## Off Road Vehicles Chapter 10



- All lands closed to recreational and commercial ORVs except those areas designated for such use.



## Off Road Vehicles Chapter 10



- Regulation and EP provide:
  - Guidance
  - Guidelines & Criteria for evaluating project lands for ORV use.
  - Operating Conditions.
  - Public Involvement.
  - Environmental Considerations.



## Seaplane Operation Chapter 11



- Each project must be evaluated for seaplane use.
  - Partner w/FAA and user group to establish rules and regulations to protect the public, project features and structures.



## Nat Res Mgt System – NRRS? Chapter 12



- OMBIL system:
  - Reduce data calls
  - Utilize existing information systems
  - Integrate systems
  - One-time data entry
  - Automate efficiency-based performance measurements
  - Data accessible throughout all levels of the Corps
  - Automate roll-up of information



## US Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Business Line

- Performance Measurements
  - Budgetary
    - Recreation Unit Day Availability (RUDA)
    - Facility Condition Index
    - Unit Day Value/National Economic Development Benefit
  - Reporting
    - Cost recovery (recreation fees vs. expenditures)
    - Customer Satisfaction



## Recreation Use Surveys Chapter 13

- VERS is the official reporting procedures for reporting visitation.
- OMB must approve surveys.
  - <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/omb/ombhoma.htm>
  - Why take surveys?

Revised Comment Card to be developed in 2005.



# Shoreline Management Program

ER 1130-2-540

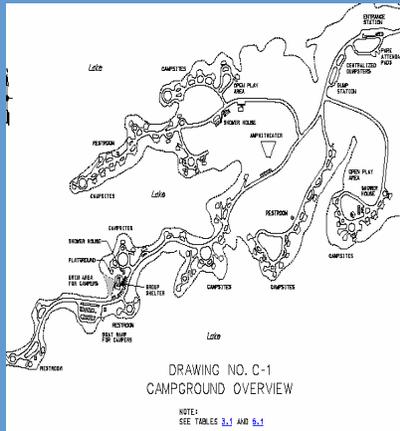
- What are the hot spots?



# Recreation Modernization Program



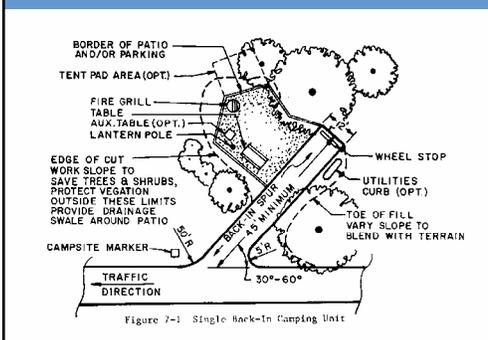
# Recreation Facility Standards



- The objective is to develop a band of acceptability for both overnight and day use recreation facilities and levels of service (between minimum and maximum levels) that can be applied to determine modernization needs of all Corps-managed recreation areas.



# Recreation Facility Standards



- Facility design and service standards being developed for Corps-wide consistency.
- Plans and designs to assist with on-the-ground facility improvements.
- EM 1110-1-400

Source: <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/facilities/review-final.html>



## Partnerships



- Cooperative Associations
- Challenge Cost Share.
- MOU/MOA
- Handshake Partnership.



## Recreation Liability



- Signs
- Good Maintenance
- Good Management Practices
- Paper Trail



## Park Closures



- Viable Alternative
- Right action for the right reasons.
- Internal Process.
- Communicate with the stakeholders.



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