



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

Directorate of Civil Works

Environmental Stewardship

OPM's Perspective



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Environmental Operating Principles

Corps Vision Statement states: *“As an integral part of our mission, the Army Corps of Engineers will be a national leader in environmental and natural resource stewardship for present and future generations”*

- Development initiated by Chief of Engineers in April 2001.
- Launched formally in March 2002.
- Principles are broad
 - to apply the current range of Corps activities.
 - to guide environmental responsibilities of the Corps in the future.

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- 1. Strive to achieve Environmental Sustainability.** An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
- 2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment; proactively consider environmental consequences** of Corps programs; and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
- 3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems** by developing economic, environmental, and social solutions that support and reinforce one another.
- 4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law** for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

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- 5. Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts** to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
- 6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base** that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
- 7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities;** listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the Nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

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Stewardship Corporate Goal: Healthy lands and waters for future generations

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

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Project Authorizations

Land Allocation - Project Specific

- Tells how land is to be acquired.
- Usually for project purposes.
- Sometimes specifically for fish and wildlife, or recreation.

Project Purposes - Traditional

- Hydropower
- Flood Control
- Navigation
- Fish and Wildlife
- Recreation



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Documents Driving Natural Resources Stewardship

Master Plan

Conceptual, broad-based Resource Use Objectives.

Means to organize natural resources.

Contains Land-Use classifications

General Plans

Prepared/approved pursuant to Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Covers existing project lands used for fish and wildlife purposes.

- Under the administration of other agencies.
- On lands acquired for fish and wildlife mitigation.

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Documents Driving Natural Resources Stewardship

Operational Management Plan (OMP)

1. For implementation of management objectives.
2. A planning/budgeting tool.
3. Monitor status - need Level Two (more detailed) Natural Resources Inventory.

O&M Budget EC

1. Means to resource the Operational Management Plan.
2. To be “performance based” -- tied to performance measures.

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Stewardship – Application

- **Natural Resources Management Plans**



- **Cooperate with States and Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Leases and license agreements
- State Heritage Offices



- **Cooperate with NGO's on environmental improvement**

- Challenge Partnership opportunities
- Contributions Program
- Volunteers



- **MOU's and MOA's**

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Significance of Corps Natural Resources

- North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)
 - 1989 Coop. Agreement of Interior and Corps
 - Objective: Identify extent that NAWMP goals may be accomplished on Corps project lands.
- 43% of Corps acreage (4,300,000 acres) that is available for management has significant waterfowl use or development potential.
- Corps responsible for 8.8% of acreage (1,700,000 acres) within NAWMP Joint Venture Areas.
 - Acreage represents 15% of total Corps property.
 - 66 projects within eight of the Joint Venture Areas.

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Special Status Species Habitat

Key habitat (water, edge, forage, cover) at many projects to address nationwide decrease in songbirds, bats, amphibians, etc.

- Coordinate/consult with Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on numerous species nationwide.
- Corps annual expenditures for ESA species close to \$100M.
- Pacific salmon alone approx. \$20M each year since 1992.
- Corps participating in recovery of nearly 100 listed species at over 300 Corps projects.

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Other Significance

Hunting and Fishing

- Corps lands/ waters accommodate over 100 million (and increasing) fishing visits annually (15% of all trips)
- Corps lands and waters accommodate about 9 million (decreasing) hunting visits annually

Greenways/ aesthetics

- Federal lands are only public lands in many locations.
- Increasing population and expanding development make open space more critical (for human and wildlife).

Natural resources are the base for tremendous recreational opportunities.

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Non-Recreational Outgrant Policy

30 March 2009

Consistent nationwide policy to evaluate requests
for non-recreational use of Corps lands

Primary rationale for authorizing:

1. No viable alternative
2. Direct benefit to the Government

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Stewardship Program Assets

Project Staff

- Highly qualified, professional, enthusiastic.

Interest and Support

- Public is interested – they like what we do.
- Public is generally a friend - not an enemy.
- Opportunities exist for the public to help accomplish our natural resources stewardship goals.
 - Big dollars not always required.
 - Challenge Partnerships.
 - Volunteers give “hands-on” support.

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Success Stories / Challenges / Questions



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