

## 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.



## Corps' Natural Resources Management Mission

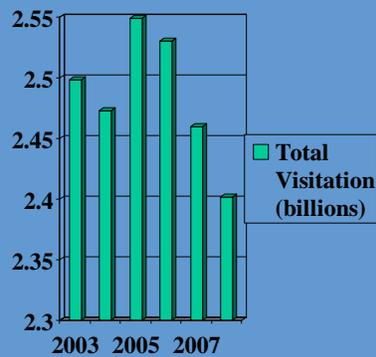
USACE is the steward of the lands & waters at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resources Management mission is to manage & conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, **while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of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

## Corps of Engineers Visitation Trends



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

Source - Ombil



## Value to the Nation!!



- Direct/Indirect Values
  - Support facilities
  - Complementary facilities
- Regional Employment
- Local Employment

Source: [www.vtn.iwr.usace.army.mil/recreation/reports/nationalreport.asp](http://www.vtn.iwr.usace.army.mil/recreation/reports/nationalreport.asp)

## The Corps as an Economic Influence



- \$13 billion a year in trip related expenses.
- \$5 Billion a year spent on recreational equipment.
- TOTAL = \$18 Billion/yr.
- 350,000 jobs.

Source: <http://www.vtn.iwr.usace.army.mil/recreation/receconomic.htm>



## 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.
  - SOPS
  - Security Plans; COOP Plans; anti terrorism plans



## Operational Management Plans (OMP)

### Chapter 3



- Each project should have a OMP.
  - 5 year work plan.
  - Annual Work Plan
  - Project Capabilities
- **BIG WORK LOAD!**



## 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



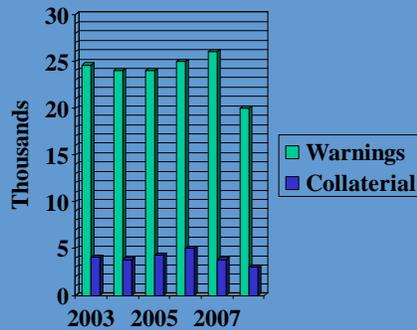
- Provides consistent guidance through policies and regulations for assistance of visitors to Corps projects. One of the most controversial areas of the recreation program.



## Title 36, Chapter III, Part 327

### Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of COE Water Resources Development Projects

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Source: OMBIL



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

## 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/contract must be executed.
  - Responsibility of OPM
  - Good documentation of enforcement actions are a must. No structured reporting requirement.What is EngLink?



# ENGLINK



- Incident Reporting System
  - SIR – Serious Incident Report
  - TSI – Threats and Suspicious Incidents
  - SITREPS – Situation Reports
  - Safety Reporting



## 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!!!!
- Current Goal –  
Increase Revenues?



## Use Fees Chapter 9



- 1965 -- Camping fees authorized.
  - Based on Class System
    - Class A, B, C
  - Compatible w/other areas with similar facilities.
  - What is the philosophy in competing with concessionaires or adjacent private sector?
- NRRS
- 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/Seaplane Operation Chapter 10/11



- Regulation and EP provide:
  - Guidance
  - Guidelines & Criteria for evaluating project lands for ORV/Seaplane.
  - Operating Conditions.
  - Public Involvement.
  - Environmental Considerations.
- Work with user groups to establish a sense of ownership and responsibility.



## 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 (no longer a part of the budget matrix)



## Recreation Use Surveys Chapter 13

**Comment Card** CMR 07-10-0002, Exp. 30 Sep 98

US Army Corps of Engineers

Please give us a minute of your time to help us serve you better. How would you rate our facilities and services at \_\_\_\_\_?

Please  check one for each:

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know
Safety and security	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Park appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Restroom cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Staff helpfulness	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Condition of facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>					
General park information	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Water safety information	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Value for fee paid	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Overall quality of facilities and services	<input type="checkbox"/>					

What improvements would you like to see in this area? \_\_\_\_\_

- VERS is the official reporting procedures for reporting visitation.
- OMB must approve surveys.
  - <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/pub/surveys.cfm>
  - Why take surveys?



# Shoreline Management Program

ER 1130-2-540



- 41,000 docks
  - What are the hot spots?
    - Fee Structures
    - 5 year update of plan.



# Concession Management Program

ER 405-1-12, Chapter 8, Real Property Management



- General Lease Length is 30 years.
- 75% of concession fees returned to state of origin; 25% retained by Corps to offset administrative costs.



## What's New!

- Critical Incident Stress Management
  - HQ memo dtd May 15, 2006
- Corps Watch Property Protection Program
  - HQ memo dtd. May 23 2006.
- Visitation Estimating Reporting System
- Mandatory PFD Study
- Recreation Assessment.



## What's New!

### Visitation Estimating Reporting System (VERS - Visitation).

- VERS, “Fast Track”, being tested in Little Rock. May be “grouped” to include regions/demographics. Working on WEBVERS. Would allow more flexibility in dealing with variables.
- Automatic connection between OMBIL – VERS. Accurate visitation counts are very important.
- Facility inventory by this fall.



## What's New!

- Accessibility

- More than half of our visiting public *and* our employees will experience a permanent or temporary disability at some point in their lives. Public Law, Corps regulations and policies, as well as moral obligation demand that our programs and facilities be accessible to all people regardless of disabilities including mobility, hearing, sight and/or learning disabilities.

Source:

<http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/access/access.html>



## Challenges

- Business Line Budgeting
- Competition for Funds
- RECBEST!!
- Land Use Management Policies
  - Who does NEPA and who pays the costs
  - Mitigation/Compensation
  - Facility types



## Partnerships



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



## Recreation Liability/Recreation Safety



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



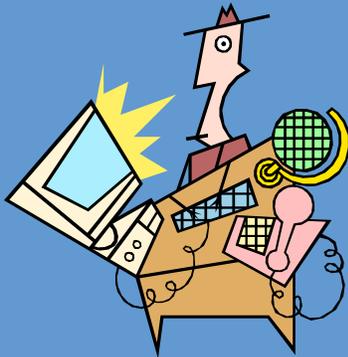
## Recreation Assessment



- Reduction of Operations/Park Closures
  - Viable Alternative
  - Right action for the right reasons.
  - Internal Process.
  - Communicate with the stakeholders.



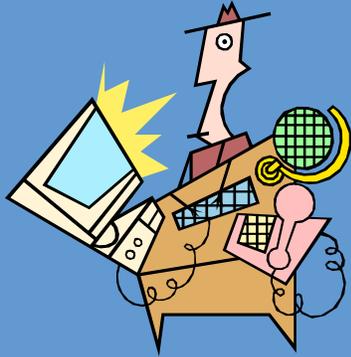
## Parting Shots



- Focus on the Future (HQ)
  - Pro-active leasing opportunities
  - Open to a National Program
  - Implement Efficiencies.



## Parting Shots



- Doing Well
  - Keep mission in mind
  - Maintain Integrity
  - Good reputation well earned.



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