

# USACE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

## SPORT FISHING AND BOATING PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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*“The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.”*



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## Military Missions



### Military Construction

COCOM Support, Overseas  
Contingency Operations (OCO)

Installation Support, Environmental,  
Energy and Sustainability

Navigation, Flood Control,  
Disaster Response, Shore Protection, Hydropower,  
Water Supply,  
Regulatory, Recreation,  
Environmental Restoration



## Civil Works

## Contingency Operations



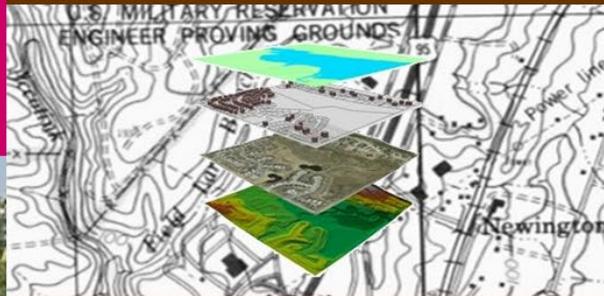
“Whole of Government”  
Disaster Response and Recovery  
Life-Cycle Flood Risk Management  
Critical Infrastructure

Federal / State / Local

“Whole of USACE” Capabilities

Capacity Development

## Geospatial Support



Warfighter

Installations and Energy

Environment

Water Resources



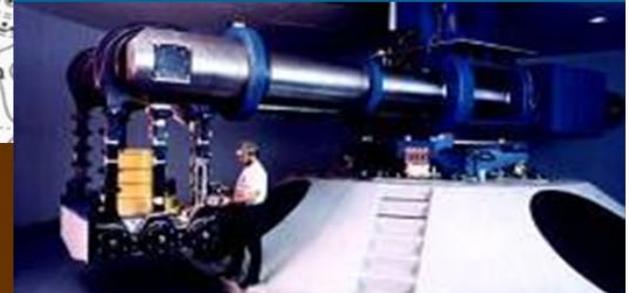
## International and Interagency

Common Operating Picture / Environment

Civil Works Programs

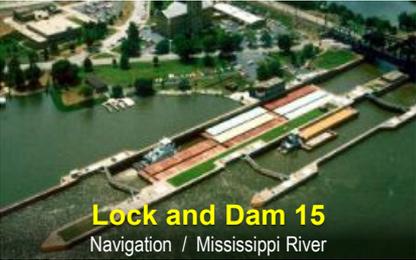
Military Programs

Emergency and Contingency Operations



## Research and Development

# USACE Civil Works



## Navigation

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## Flood Risk Management

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## Ecosystem Restoration and Infrastructure

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## Recreation and Environmental Stewardship

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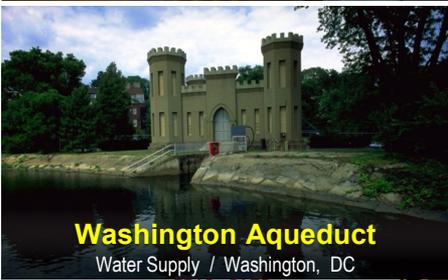
## Hydropower

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## Regulatory

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## Water Supply



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# HOW DID “VISITOR AND LAND MANAGEMENT ORIGINATE”

## **Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408):**

Provides that the Secretary of the Army, ...may grant permission for the temporary occupation or use of any sea wall...or other work built by the United States.

**Flood Control Act of 1944:** The Chief of Engineers...authorized to construct, maintain, and operate public park and recreational facilities at water resource development projects. The water areas of all **such projects shall be open to public use** generally for boating, swimming, bathing, fishing, and other recreational purposes, and ready access to and exit from such areas along the shores of such projects shall be maintained for general public use.

**Forest Cover Act 1960:** Directed USACE to take action to protect fee owned property at reservoirs for conservation and to develop master plans.

**Flood Control Act of 1970:** Established the “modern” natural resources/recreation program and authorizes citation authority for regulations.

**NEPA of 1970 Section 101:** Declares that it is the continuing policy of the Federal Government, in cooperation with state and local governments,...to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner,...to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony....to fulfill the social economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.



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# NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP)

**Mission:** The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resource development projects. The Natural Resources Management Mission is meant 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.

**Function:** Provides visitor use management and supports wise land use decisions that meet the congressionally directed public use, providing access and public safety while protecting the authorized project purposes and major missions of USACE.



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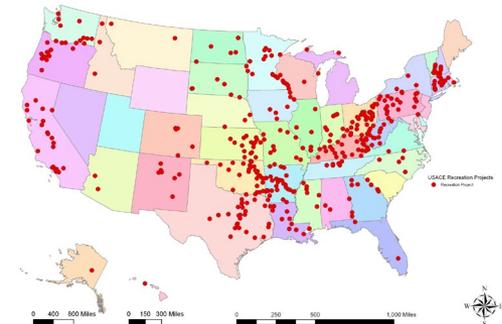


# WHAT IS THE UNIVERSE OF OUR “PROPERTY”

- Projects built primarily for Flood Risk Management and Navigation
- More than **400 projects** encompass more than **12 million acres** of fee and easement lands (4 million in water)
- Over **65,000** outgrants
- **74,500** private shoreline docks and vegetation permits
- **38,000** miles of boundary
- Facilities:
  - 4,900 Recreation Areas
  - Over 90,000 Campsites
  - 7,400 Miles of Trails
  - 32,000 Picnic Sites
  - 3,600 Boat Ramps

## Visits (person-trips) in 2016

- 266,865,775 in total
- 30,366,423 picnickers
- 5,318,528 campers
- 34,360,971 swimmers
- 10,330,038 water skiers
- 66,980,837 boaters
- 87,622,245 sightseers
- 63,851,028 anglers
- 3,995,044 hunters
- 53,218,554 others



**90%** of USACE projects within **1 hour** of a metropolitan area



6



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# HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING?

## Comparison to the Largest National Parks

National Park Service			USACE		
1	Great Smoky Mountains National Park	9,685,829	1	Buford Dam - Lake Sidney Lanier	11,796,348
2	Grand Canyon National Park	4,421,352	2	Hartwell Dam and Lake	10,067,775
3	Yosemite National Park	3,853,404	3	Table Rock Lake	6,826,156
4	Yellowstone National Park	3,447,729	4	Allatoona Lake	6,421,190

## Recreation Economic Development

	Recreation Visits (millions)	Visitor Spending 2016-\$ (billions)	Jobs 2016 (thousands)	Value added 2016-\$ (billions)	Labor income 2016-\$ (billions)	Output 2016-\$ (billions)
National Park Service	331	\$ 18	318	\$ 20	\$ 12	\$ 35
Bureau of Land Management	65	3	48	4	2	7
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	50	2	37	3	2	5
Bureau of Reclamation	30	1	23	2	1	3
Forest Service	146	9	148	11	6	20
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	N/A	5	63	N/A	2	7
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	267	11	189	13	8	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>\$ 49</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>\$ 53</b>	<b>\$ 33</b>	<b>\$ 103</b>



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# SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

## FACTS:

- 74,500 shoreline dock and vegetation permits
- Serving about 115,000 boats per year
- 100 shoreline management programs

## CHALLENGES:

- Lots of staff hours to manage the minority of users
- Shoreline management program permits encourage private use of our lands
- Projects with large shoreline management programs also have highest rates of trespass encroachment
- Standardization of business practices

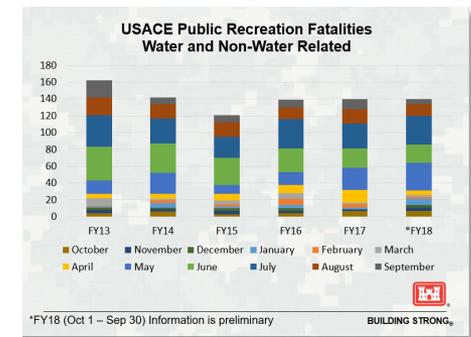


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# NRM CHALLENGES:

- Aging infrastructure
- Sustaining service levels
- Water safety
- Supporting all mission areas - impacts
- Project Master Plans – Opportunities
- Land use impacts
  - Property line
  - 65,000 outgrants
- Public recognition
  - Industry/Legislative



# BOAT ACCESS PERMITTING (WHAT ARE CONCERNS/ISSUES??)

Boat ramp projects meeting general permit conditions may be authorized with a general permit.

-A general permit, such as Nationwide Permit 36, can authorize a boat ramp with temporary work area isolation (Nationwide Permit 33). The permit authorizes the discharge of up to 50 cubic yards of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel into forms, or in the form of precast concrete planks or slabs and the ramp is no wider than 20 feet. The ramp cannot be located in a wetland.

-Permit review timeframe is typically less than 60 days.



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# BOAT ACCESS PERMITTING CONTINUED

Boat ramp projects which do not meet general permit conditions may be authorized with a standard individual permit.

-A standard individual permit review is in-depth and requires a 30 day public notice.

-Permit review timeframe is typically less than 120 days.



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# DOWNSTREAM FISHERIES

- Excellent opportunities for downstream fisheries
- Significant fish mitigation programs \$5.4M FWS Hatchery – 12 million fish
- Significant Salmon and other fisheries programs under ESA – NW
- **Sustainable Rivers Program** addresses environmental flows. SRP continues this work by exploring reservoir re-operations to benefit wildlife as well as humans. Using state of-the-art technology and scientific expertise, the Corps and Conservancy are working to improve conditions for the natural communities that also depend on our nation's rivers.
- **Section 1135 Modification** - may plan, design and build modifications to existing Corps projects, or areas degraded by Corps projects, to restore aquatic habitats for fish and wildlife.



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# Questions?



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