

CHAPTER 11 - CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

11-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy on accepting contributions.

11-2. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. Contributions to provide for operation and management of recreation facilities and protection and restoration of natural resources at civil works water resource projects shall be accepted and used, as provided by PL 102-580, Water Resources Development Act, 1992 (106 Stat. 4838, 33 United States Code (USC) 2328, Section 203).

b. Contributions which are within current authorities, consistent with the Corps mission, and are for work items contained in an approved annual or five-year Operational Management Plan may be accepted in accordance with Chapter 3 of EP 1130-2-550. Only contributions which result in the sharing of operation and management costs and/or in the development of facilities which will not result in a significant net increase in O&M costs shall be considered for approval. Examples of acceptable contributions include:

(1) Projects for the protection, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation, or interpretation of natural resources, environmental features, recreation areas and facilities, or cultural resources. All facilities and work accomplished become the property of the Corps.

(2) Cash, funds, materials, and services. Specific guidance on accounting and reporting procedures are provided in ER 37-2-10, "Accounting and Reporting."

(3) Projects such as improving accessibility for disabled persons, providing water safety handouts, rehabilitating existing facilities, improving wildlife habitat, producing interpretive brochures and videos, planting native plants and trees, supporting endangered species recovery plans, and maintaining trails.

(4) Brochures or other publications. Any periodicals or pamphlets intended primarily for distribution outside the Corps must be approved by the HQUSACE Publications Advisory Committee before printing or reprinting.

(5) Contributed personal property, which shall be recorded, accounted for, and managed in the same way as other Corps property.

c. Real estate cannot be accepted under this program.

d. Individuals and groups, including governmental entities but excluding the project sponsor (i.e., the party with whom the water resource project has been jointly created), may make contributions.

e. Contributions received will be available for projects in addition to the allocated O&M budget and will not result in a reduction of allocated funds.

f. MSCs shall be responsible for the coordination of the contributions program within their command. District commanders shall be responsible for administering the contributions program within their district. They may delegate management of the program to operations

project managers. Commanders may accept or decline contributions in accordance with Chapter 11 of EP 1130-2-500 and paragraph g below.

g. Contributions may be declined at the discretion of the commander or operations project manager when they believe, because of the nature of the contribution, its use, conditions imposed, profit motive or the character or notoriety of the contributor, it may appear contrary to, compromising or inconsistent with the laws, regulations, purposes, principles, integrity, standing, or reputation of the Corps of Engineers, the United States Army or the government. Commanders/Operations Project Managers must decline any contribution that would create or give the appearance of a conflict of interest or have conditions inconsistent with the Corps mission.

h. Each location that collects contributions shall have a contributions plan that describes the work that will be accomplished with any potential contributions. The plan shall be reviewed and updated as necessary as work items are completed and new ones are added.

i. The Corps shall encourage participation in the contributions program by informing potential contributors in a diplomatic manner of the opportunities that are available.

j. Recognition shall be encouraged as a way to express appreciation to contributors and acknowledge the public support that has been received. Procedures for appropriate types of recognition and a sample Certificate of Appreciation are provided in Chapter 11 of EP 1130-2-500.