

## CHAPTER 7 – STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM

7-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes policy for the administration and management of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Stewardship Support Program (SSP).

7-2. Policy.

a. The Stewardship Support Program shall provide a strategic plan for identifying USACE national natural resources stewardship program priorities and addressing those priorities through management actions, policy, and research.

b. The SSP is designed to provide support for natural resources stewardship issues or initiatives that have a broad applicability to many USACE Civil Works projects. Reimbursable work is not normally within the scope of the SSP. However, issues or initiatives that are limited in applicability can be addressed on a reimbursable basis with funding provided by the local project. The three basic components of the SSP are:

(1) Management Actions. Management actions are any activities to implement a course of action or practice within field office activities, a region, or nationwide. Examples of management actions might include developing/ assembling an array of management practices for establishing riparian habitat, or creating a forum to share common experiences, build teams, and disseminate information.

(2) Policy. Policy is any activity relating to development and/ or implementation of guidance. Examples of policy actions might include recommending and formulating policy guidance to facilitate cooperative agreements with stewardship non-governmental organizations, or amending the annual Budget Engineer Circular to provide emphasis on conducting inventories of regionally or nationally significant resources.

(3) Research. Research is any activity necessary to determine new information of regional or national significance. Examples of such research might include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Toxicology Lab research on Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy, riparian corridors research being conducted by the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, or assembling studies on management of threatened and endangered species.

c. An eighteen member Stewardship Advisory Team (SAT) shall be established to provide oversight of the Stewardship Support Program. Voting members of the SAT will consist of representatives from Division (8), District (4) and Project (4) offices. Two non-voting members will represent Headquarters USACE (HQUSACE) and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). The SAT will evaluate all proposals for funding within the SSP and will recommend funding priorities to the HQUSACE, Natural Resources Management Branch (CECW-ON). The SAT will meet semi-annually during each fiscal year, preferably during the spring and fall. HQUSACE

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and ERDC will participate in all SAT meetings. Specific information on the duties, organizational composition and nomination process is provided in Chapter 7 of EP 1130-2-540.

d. The SAT will support strategic planning for the USACE Environment-Stewardship Business Program and will serve in an active advisory role to the Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch in HQUSACE.

e. Duties of SAT members will be included as an element in each member's annual performance plan.

f. The Stewardship Support Program is funded by the O&M General appropriation. (Centralized funding for salary, travel and per diem will not normally be provided to SAT members.) HQUSACE will provide conceptual approval (subject to the availability of funds) for all new starts and other program funding adjustments by July of each year. The final approval of the actual work plan will be provided by HQUSACE following the fall SAT meeting.

g. The ERDC will provide program management support, although studies may be performed by other USACE elements, other agencies, or the private sector.