

## CHAPTER 2 - RECREATION MANAGEMENT

2-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy for the administration and management of USACE recreation programs and facilities at civil works water resource projects.

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

a. That programs and activities related to outdoor recreation will have as their design base:

(1) the following mission statement:

"The Army Corps of Engineers is the steward of the lands and waters at Corps water resources projects. Its Natural Resources Management Mission is 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.

In all aspects of natural and cultural resources management, the Corps promotes awareness of environmental values and adheres to sound environmental stewardship, protection, compliance and restoration practices.

The Corps manages for long-term public access to, and use of, the natural resources in cooperation with other Federal, State, and 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, and water with the provision of public recreation opportunities. The Corps conserves natural resources and provides public recreation opportunities that contribute to the quality of American life."

(2) and, the following program objectives:

(a) To provide a quality outdoor recreation experience which includes an accessible, safe and healthful environment for a diverse population,

(b) To increase the level of self-sufficiency for the Corps recreation program,

(c) To provide outdoor recreation opportunities on Corps of Engineers administered land and water on a sustained basis, and

(d) To optimize the use of leveraged resources to maintain and provide quality public experiences at Corps water resources projects.

b. To accomplish the program objectives, the Corps manages land and water resources in cooperation with other Federal, state and local agencies, quasi-public organizations and the private sector supplemented by volunteers, contributions and challenge cost sharing programs.

c. Project master plan and operational management plans will be prepared in accordance with Chapter 3 of this regulation.

d. Outdoor Recreation. Public use of project lands and water shall be on a first-come,

first-served basis. However, reservations may be accepted for the use of public use facilities.

(1) The Corps or another public agency may provide and administer facilities for use by the camping public. Campgrounds may also be provided and/or administered by commercial concessions. Camping shall be permitted only in those areas designated by district commander and such activity shall be in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 327.

(2) Camping at one or more Corps operated campsites at any one water resource project for a period longer than 14 days during any 30-consecutive-day period is prohibited without the written permission of the District Commander or his/her designee.

(3) Fees for Corps-owned equipment, property, and facilities shall be in accordance with Chapter 9 of this regulation.

(4) Existing beaches and concentrated swimming areas operated by the Corps shall be maintained in a physically safe and efficient manner in accordance with Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-1-400, including maintaining appropriate gradient, beach nourishment, adequate buoys, proper signing and water quality monitoring.

e. Natural Resources Management Program Staff. A multi-disciplinary resource based approach to project personnel hiring should be used which insures that a wide range of technical expertise is present to effectively manage the full range of natural and human resources found at the project. Personnel having expertise in areas such as forestry, wildlife management, recreation management, fisheries management, parks management, landscape architecture, biology, soil, science, interpretation, visitor assistance and contract administration are often needed. Specific guidance on personnel specifications, training, and development are contained in EP 690-2-2 "Career Development Guide for Natural Resources Management Team Members."

(1) The mobility of natural resource management personnel greatly enhances the experience base of both the organization and the individual. The use of temporary mobility assignments for training and development to other offices, districts, divisions or headquarters should be maximized.

(2) In accordance with PL 98-63, volunteers may also be utilized to supplement project personnel. (See Chapter 10 of ER 1130-2-500, The Corps of Engineers Volunteer Program.)

(3) In-house training, including HQUSACE sponsored courses, shall be conducted on subjects directly related to the Natural Resources Management Program.

f. The enforcement of 36 CFR 327 cannot be contracted but must be conducted by qualified government employees.

g. Alcoholic Beverages.

(1) The sale of alcoholic beverages on Corps projects by lessees is permitted only in accordance with state and local laws. Facilities (e.g., resort type developments) which traditionally provide the sale of alcoholic beverages may do so where they are served in conjunction with other services within the establishment. Facilities with the primary purpose of selling alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

(2) District Commanders have the authorization under 36 CFR Chapter III, Part 327.13 (Title 36) to prohibit the possession or use of alcohol at selected areas on projects within their jurisdiction. To determine the need for such restrictions, periodic joint natural resource management and security assessments will be conducted at all water resources development projects, with an annual visitation of 20,000 visitor hours or more, regarding the need to ban alcohol consumption/possession on project-administered lands and waters. Commander will insure that initial assessments are completed by 30 May 1997. Additional assessments will be conducted as appropriate.

h. Cigarette Sales to Minors. Public Law 104-52 required the removal of cigarette vending machines accessible by minors from all Federal buildings and lands. This requirement applies to all Corps real estate and includes all property owned, leased or rented. All cigarette vending machines owned or operated by the government, private organizations, other elements of the Army, or their contractors are to be removed.

i. Gambling on Corps Projects. Gambling on all leased premises, including state sponsored lotteries, shall be prohibited. District commanders may permit nonprofit organizations to conduct some games of chance, such as raffles, games or sporting events, under special use permits in conjunction with special events on Corps lands only if permissible by state and local laws and regulations.

j. Public Involvement. Operations element and project personnel shall coordinate activities with the district Public Affairs office in order to maximize the use of all means to keep the public informed of Corps outdoor recreation programs and opportunities for public involvement.

k. Signs. Project signs shall conform to EP 310-1-6a and b, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Standards Manual.

l. Memorial Plaques. Memorial plaques may be provided at all projects where considered appropriate by the operations project manager.

m. Coordination. The operations element shall seek full coordination with appropriate Corps elements in the planning, design, construction, administration, and management of all projects, including those managed by other agencies. Cooperation and continuous coordination shall be maintained with other governmental agencies having collateral interests in parks, recreation, natural resources, law enforcement, and other matters which are of concern in proper management of the project.

n. Lifeguards. Lifeguard services are not provided at public use areas administered by the Corps. Planning and safety regulations, however, do require proper signing and notification to the public regarding water safety, lack of lifeguards and safety equipment. Lifeguard services may be provided by other agencies at outgranted swimming areas.

o. Safety. During work planning and management, provisions of EM 385-1-1, Safety and Health Requirements Manual, and engineer regulations in the 385 series will be applied to all activities except outgrant activities and disposals of timber.

(1) The Operations Project Manager will appoint a member of the project staff to serve as the project safety officer.

(2) Project personnel will promote, develop, and maintain public interest in recreation safety through the establishment of water safety councils or by participation in other local water safety educational opportunities.

(3) Commercial telephone for emergency use will be provided in public use areas where feasible.

(4) Adequate security lights will be provided at all Corps managed boat launching ramps when the lights are available at a reasonable cost. In areas where electrical service is not readily available, reflective type sign/markers will be installed and maintained to identify ramp locations. Battery or solar generated lights are also an alternative.

(5) Unattended Corps managed day-use areas will be closed at night, if such a restriction on public access is considered necessary by the responsible Operations Project Manager to provide adequate visitor safety and resource protection. Prior to any such closure, consideration will be given to alternatives that accommodate the continued authorized use of the facilities while providing the necessary levels of safety and protection. Users of those facilities will be fully informed concerning the details of any closure, and wherever appropriate, will be provided opportunities to input into such decisions.

p. Search, Rescue and Recovery. Search, rescue and recovery activities are properly performed by local and state authorities. Corps personnel will assist as funds/personnel permit. Coordination with local authorities is essential.

q. Boundary Surveys and Marking. (See Chapter 2, paragraph 2-2h (1)-(4) of ER 1130-2-540)

r. Outgranting of Lands. (See Chapter 2, paragraph 2-2f of ER 1130-2-540 and ER 405-1-12)

s. Areas Relinquished by Non-Federal Interests. All leased recreation areas returned to the Corps, that do not qualify for the exceptions to policy in Appendix B, will be closed. In situations where recreation areas are returned to the Corps, three basic considerations should be observed: Paramount is that the Corps must honor its obligations and legal commitments; secondly, the Corps must objectively evaluate alternatives based on existing authorities and available resources; and thirdly, good faith and credibility with the public and our non-Federal partners must be maintained.

t. Human Habitation. (See Chapter 2, paragraph 2-2(f)(7) of ER 1130-2-540)

u. Private Exclusive Use. (See Chapter 2, paragraph 2-2(f)(8) of ER 1130-2-540)

v. Fire Protection. As authorized in Title 42, USC, Section 1856a., the Corps may enter into reciprocal agreements with responsible fire organizations for fire protection of Corps properties. Such agreements will include a waiver of all claims for compensation for any losses, damage, personal injury or death resulting from the performance of the agreement. The agreement may also provide for the reimbursement for any or all costs incurred in furnishing fire protection on Corps lands. The authority to approve these agreements is delegated to the district commander.

w. Control or Access. Roads which are not maintained, outgranted or used by the Corps, or are not dedicated as public roads by a governmental entity, should be closed, obliterated and revegetated to blend with the natural environment.