

# OPERATIONS & REGULATORY Update

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Annual Meeting  
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# Operations and Regulatory Update Programmatic and Key Initiatives



## Navigation

Capital Investment  
Strategy

Beneficial Use of  
Dredged Material



## Asset Management

Strategic Asset  
Management Plan



## Hydropower

Transforming  
O&M Practices

Modernization

Reliability



## Natural Resources Management

Recreation

Water Safety

Partnerships



## Regulatory

Regulatory  
Request System

Waters of the  
United States



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### 2010 Capital Project Business Model

Report was in response **cost escalation & funding challenges**. Goals were to “identify ways to improve the Corps business model” & “developing an investment strategy”.



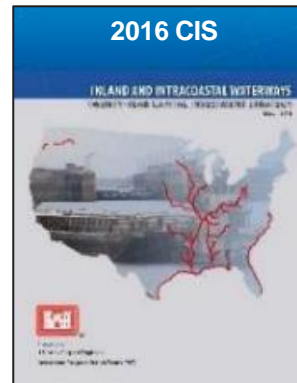
# CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY



### 2016 CIS

#### 1st Capital Investment Strategy

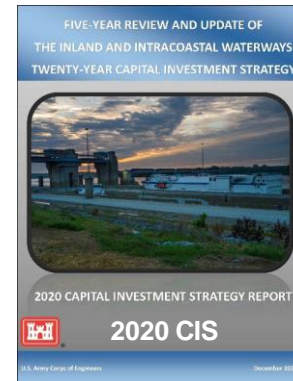
Report was drafted in May 2015 & cleared by OMB in March 2016



### 2020 CIS

#### 2nd Capital Investment Strategy

5-yr Review & Update of 2016 Report. Report transmitted the report to Congress in January 2021.



### 2025 CIS

#### 3rd Capital Investment Strategy

5-yr Review & Update of 2020 Report. Target completion in spring 2025.



**2014 WRRDA Section 2002**, “in coordination with the Users Board, to develop and submit to Congress a report describing a **20-year strategy** for making **capital investments** on the inland and intracoastal waterways based on the application of objective, national project selection prioritization criteria”

**2020 WRDA Section 2002**, changed cost share to 65% General Treasury / 35% IWTF.

**IJA / BIL** allocated \$2.5B for inland navigation construction.



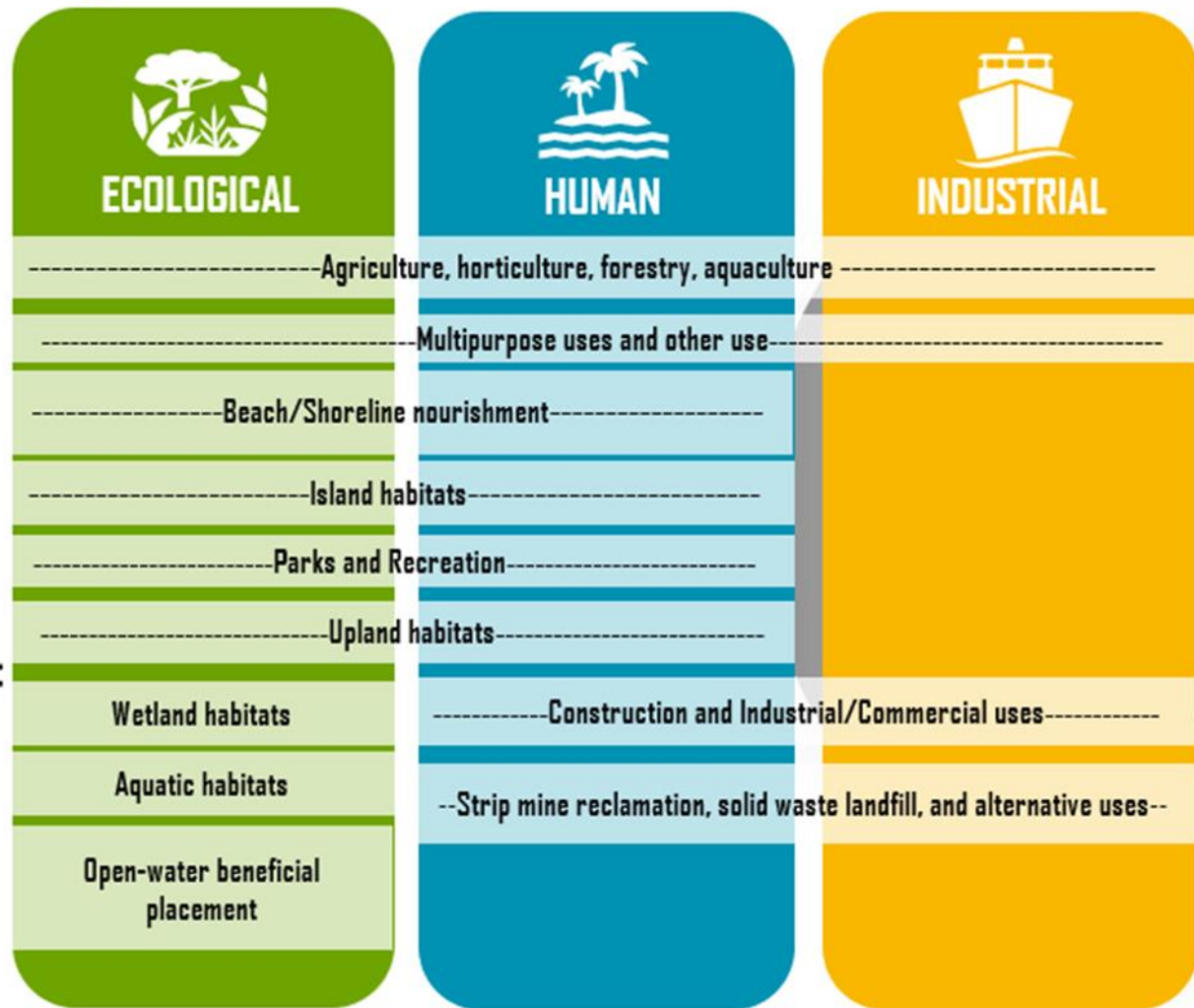




# BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

**DEFINITION:** Beneficial uses are defined as productive and positive uses of dredged material, which cover broad use categories ranging from fish and wildlife habitat development, to human recreation, to industrial/commercial uses.

Types of Beneficial Uses



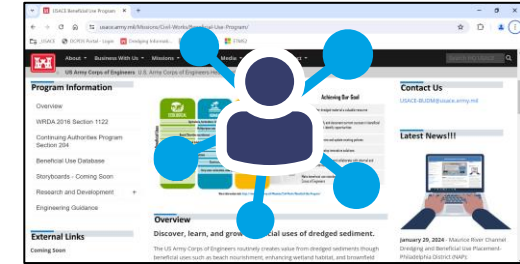
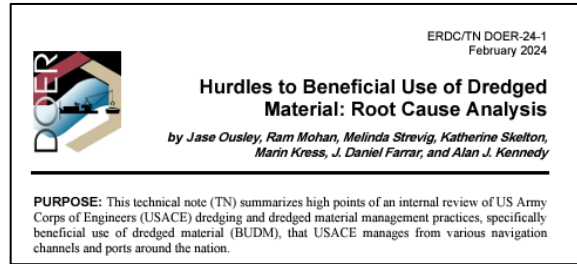
## Achieving Our Goal





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# Current Key Efforts in Beneficial Use of Dredged Material



## Policy Guidance/Update

Draft IG on Incorporating Benefits into the Federal Standard

WRDA 2020 Section 125(a)2(A)(B)

Continued implementation of remaining Section 1122 projects

Draft update to IG for additional 25 authorized projects

“Expanding BUDM in the USACE” – DCW memo 28 Aug 23

## Recent Reports

WRDA2022 Section 8130(a) – Strategic Plan for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Coastal Resilience Report – Requested under RSM line item

“Hurdles to Beneficial Use: Root Cause Analysis” – ERDC Technical Note

## Strategic Communications

Beneficial Use Leadership Team & Working Group

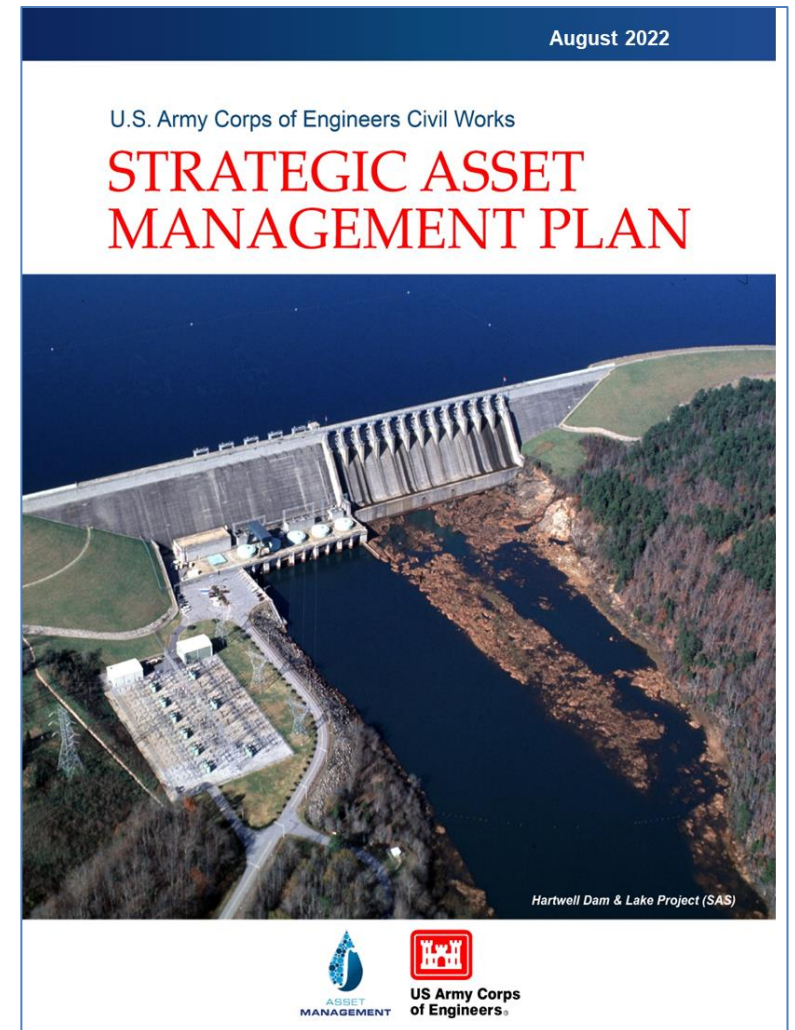
Website

Placemat, Storyboards, Slide Deck

# Contemporary Asset Management Program

Capital Programming improvements align with international, OMB and peer-agency standards (i.e., portfolio-level tools):

- Cross-functional integration
- Asset Information Standards
- Maintenance
- Investment Criteria, Recommendations, Planning  
(Lifecycle Portfolio Management)



# Strategic Accomplishments FY21-24

## Maintenance Management Policy – first of its kind in USACE

- Addresses Portfolio needs (complementing local FEM use)
- Expresses Life-cycle sustainment needs in portfolio-level tools
- Establishes minimum data requirements (i.e., downtime, estimates, actuals)
- Defines the use of work orders
- Outlines Maintenance Quality Assurance practices

## Condition Assessment Process Modernization

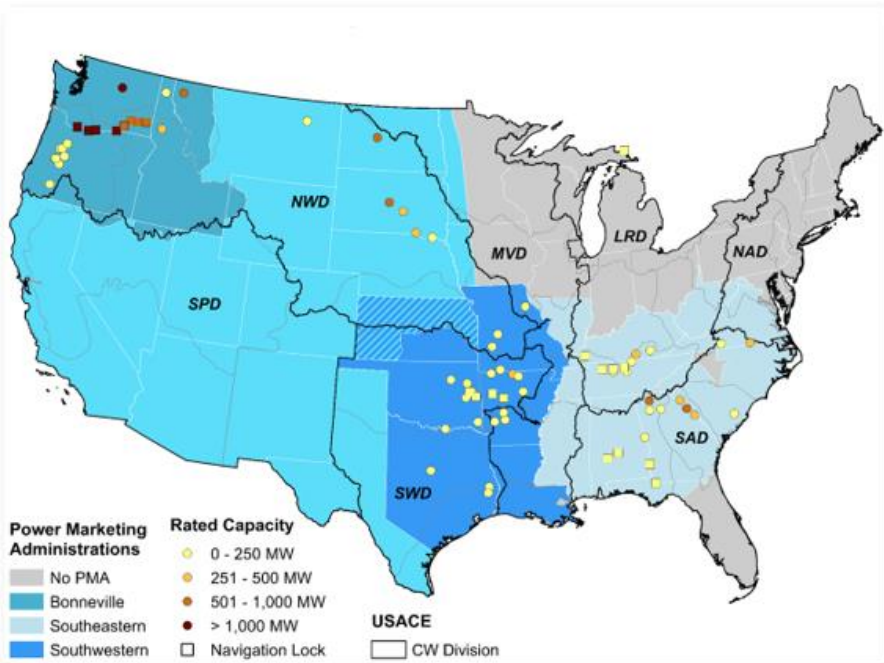
- Clarified basis for ratings
- Subjectivity and bias addressed and references introduced
- Direct integration with budget tools

## Asset Registry

- Data system integration
- Cross-functional integration for inspection programs
- Long-term information system planning



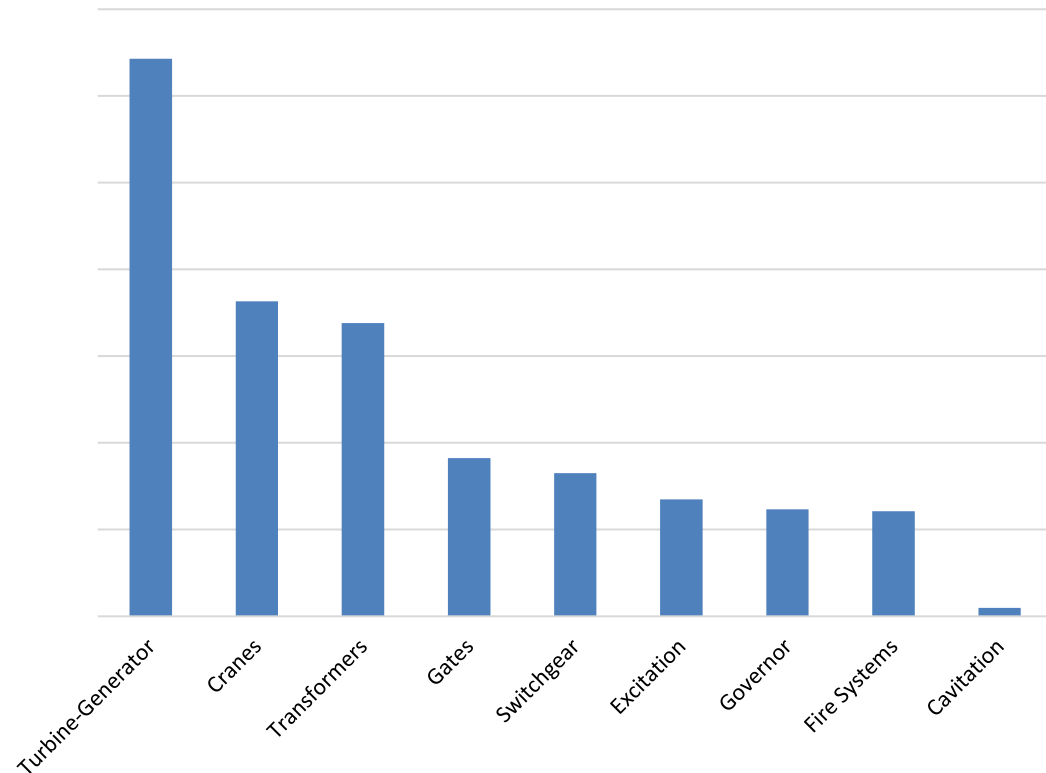
# Hydropower Strategic Outlook



- **Key Component of the Corps Civil Works Portfolio** with **75 Hydropower Projects** Containing 356 Grid Connected Hydroelectric Generators that **Provide Approximately 25%** of the Hydropower Produced in the U.S.
- Capacity and Generation is Marketed by the Department of Energy's **4 Power Marketing Administrations** to Non-Profit Municipalities and Cooperatives to **Repay ALL Hydropower Costs**

*Ensure USACE hydropower assets are available to provide reliable renewable energy and flexible capacity to our nation's electric grid.*

Relative Magnitude of Investment - 5 Year Forecast







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# RECREATION CHALLENGES & INITIATIVES



## CHALLENGES

- USACE hosted 1.4 billion visits at more than 4,800 recreation areas over the past 5 years.
- Public access infrastructure requiring increased maintenance.
- Severe storm damages have increased challenges.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- **Support to Underserved Communities**
  - Over 80% of USACE recreation areas are within 30 miles of disadvantaged communities.
  - Recreation program contributes \$14B in visitor spending to local communities and supports 217K jobs.
- **Administration Initiatives**
  - BIL/DRSAA - \$101M repairs (FY22-23), \$50m (FY24).
  - FICOR – Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation.
  - America the Beautiful – Protect 30% of America’s lands by 2030.

## USACE VISITATION

2023	268,762,359
2022	266,044,439
2021	268,332,451
2020	255,896,508
2019	262,248,952



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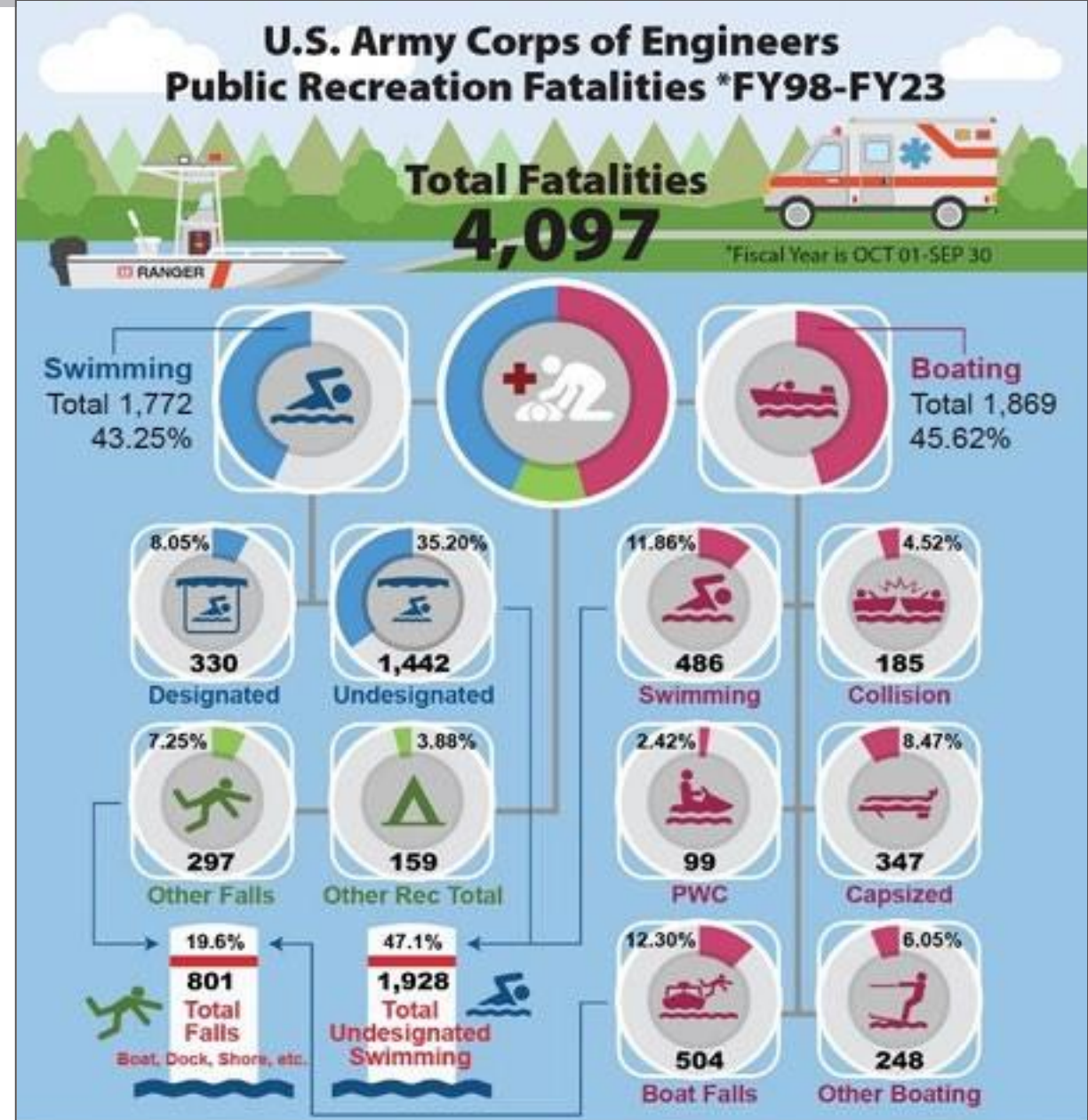
# PUBLIC WATER SAFETY FOCUS

## Water Safety

- 161 Total public recreation fatalities in FY2023.
- Of the 161, 95% (153) were water-related.
- 12% decrease from FY2022** in which there were 184 public recreation fatalities, 178 were water-related.

## Effort

- USACE together with outgranted facilities provided **869 life jacket loaner stations** at USACE projects nationwide.
- USACE staff and volunteers recorded **over 1.4 million face-to-face water safety contacts** (on-site and off-site).



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# PARTNERSHIPS



## Partners

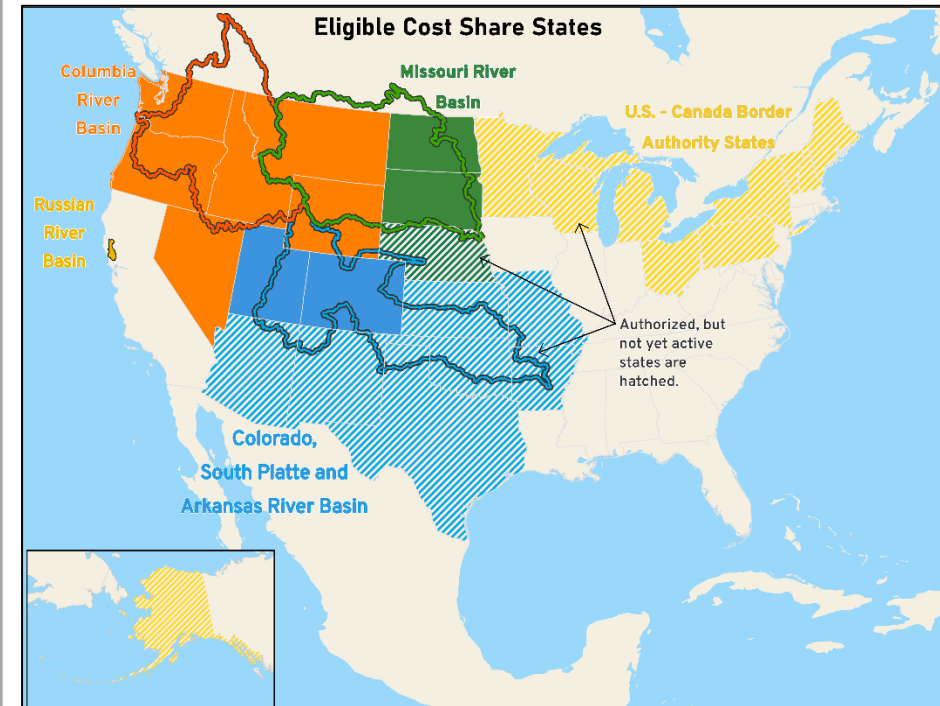
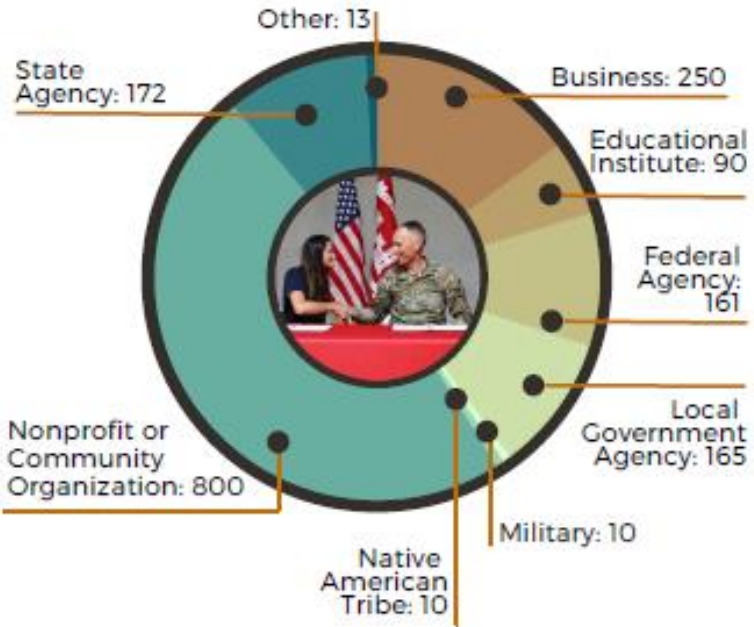
- 3,622 total partners
- 304 USACE CW projects with partnerships (72%)
- Total value of partnerships = \$138 million

## Volunteers

- 42,839 total volunteers
- 316 projects using volunteers
- 1,715,001 volunteer hours
- \$54.5 million total value

## Invasive Species Program Partnership

- Over 200 invasive species documented on USACE projects
- Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Program
  - 50% cost-share with non-federal sponsor (typically states)
  - Focus is zebra/quagga mussel interception







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# REGULATORY REQUEST SYSTEM (RRS)



Regulatory Priority: Innovation

**WHO:** Regulatory Program

**WHAT:** Regulatory Request System (RRS)

**WHEN:** Spring 2024

**WHERE:** Nationwide

**WHY:** The goal of RRS is to create a modern public interface for the permitting process to keep up with existing technology and meet user expectations.

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Additional capabilities, including a public notice module and some joint applications by Dec 2024.

## SUMMARY

**The Regulatory Program has rolled out an exciting new national online application portal and management platform called the Regulatory Request System (RRS), rrs.usace.army.mil**

This innovative system is designed to make the review of permit requests a transparent and efficient process. By providing relevant information about the Regulatory Program and using simple questions to guide users, RRS helps determine if a permit is needed. Users can now easily submit project information online and receive automatic project numbers and status updates. What's more, RRS eliminates redundant data entry by directly transferring information to the Operations and Management Business Information Link (OMBIL) Regulatory Module (ORM), the official database for the Regulatory Program. These technological advancements are aimed at enhancing public awareness of the Regulatory Program, increasing transparency, and providing a more user-friendly experience.



### Regulatory Program Information

Learn the basics about the Regulatory Program, including recent announcements.



### Jurisdiction

Does the property in question contain wetlands/waters? If so does the Corps have jurisdiction?



### Permitting

Do you need a permit? Need to schedule a pre-application meeting?



### Mitigation

Discover how we help avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources.



### Report Violations

Submit a report of unauthorized activity or permit non-compliance.



### RRS Support

Get general system support, district contact information, submit feedback, and login.gov help.



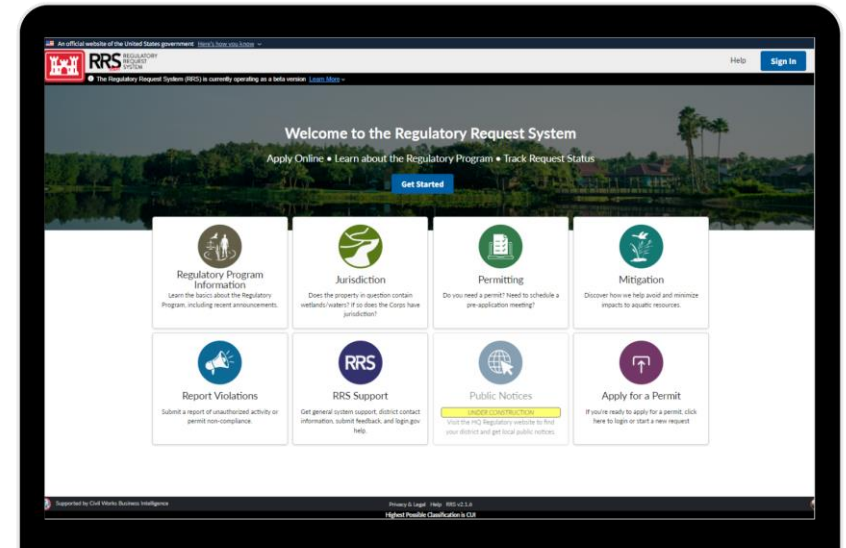
### Public Notices

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**  
Visit the HQ Regulatory website to find your district and get local public notices.



### Apply for a Permit

If you're ready to apply for a permit, click here to login or start a new request







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# CURRENT WOTUS IMPLEMENTATION



- On 8 September 2023, the effective date of the Conforming Rule, the Corps resumed issuing all types of approved jurisdictional determinations (AJDs).
  
- On 15 November 2023, the EPA and Army hosted a webinar which covers implementation of the 2023 Rule (as amended) and the pre-2015 regime consistent with *Sackett*.
  - A recording of the webinar is publicly available at: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus/public-outreach-and-stakeholder-engagement-activities> .
  
- On 27 September 2023, the agencies provided two new joint EPA-Army coordination memos, which require coordination of certain draft AJDs.
  - To date, the coordination has resulted in nine joint EPA-Army implementation policy guidance memos, which are posted on the USACE webpage at: [https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/juris\\_info/](https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/juris_info/)

<https://www.epa.gov/wotus>