



### Partnership agreement

The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) share similar water resource missions and objectives.

Working cooperatively results in resource solutions superior to either agency's independent efforts. To support and promote coordination, the agencies have entered into a Partnership Agreement.

### Partnership Benefits

This Federal partnership provides cost-effective, comprehensive solutions to customers with water and related natural resource problems.

### Partnership Action Plan

A Partnership Action Plan, developed jointly, identifies national priorities.

Collaborative efforts in the field are recognized in the plan and employees at all levels are encouraged to identify additional action items for the plan when needed.

The Partnership Action Plan provides a basis for more detailed project management plans and a framework for leadership review of partnership accomplishments and activities.

For More Information, visit the NRCS and USACE National Partnership Web site at:

<http://wmc.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/COE/index.html>

or

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water Management Center**  
101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite B100

Little Rock, Arkansas 72206

(501)-210-8900

[water@nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:water@nrcs.usda.gov)

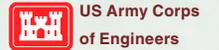
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Institute for Water Resources**  
7701 Telegraph Road, Casey Bldg.

Alexandria, VA 22315-3868

(703) 428-6116

[www.iwr.usace.army.mil](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil)

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NRCS AND  
THE U.S.  
ARMY  
CORPS OF  
ENGINEERS

## PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN

### I. Advancing Mutual Understanding of Wetland Conservation Compliance and Regulatory Activities –

- Deliver NRCS Wetland delineation courses cooperatively with the USACE and other entities. Continue support of Regionalized Supplements to the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. Continue joint effort to update Regional Wetland Vascular Plant Species List. Continue national discussions to improve consistent application of permitting process.
- Deliver NRCS Wetland Restoration and Enhancement Training Course in conjunction with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USACE.

### II. Enhancing Coordination of Natural Disaster Recovery – Coordinate Natural Disaster Recovery efforts and continue support for Interagency Flood Risk Management.

### III. Advancing Collaboration in Watershed Planning and Implementation – Collaborate on and share discipline-specific watershed technologies, tools, and models. Coordinate national efforts for stream restoration and design and in watershed training offered by both agencies. Support collaborative efforts in design construction management and use of authorities and funding. Develop and use USACE Flood Damage Assessment for Agricultural Land, promote the use of USACE River Assessment System, and support collaborative efforts of National Inventory of Dams.

### IV. Improving Federal Communication and Coordination Between Agencies – Provide National subject matter contact information for both agencies; share partnership success; maintain partnership Web site; support collaborative participation in the biannual National Ecosystem Restoration Conference.

## NRCS/USACE TYPES OF COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

More information on collaborative projects and success stories can be found at the NRCS/USACE Partnership Web site: <http://wmc.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/COE/successstories.html>



### Regulatory

USACE and NRCS work closely throughout the permitting and wetland determination processes to better understand these processes across agency lines. Some Regional General Permits have been developed for specific NRCS practices.

### Training

USACE and NRCS are exploring opportunities to share training sessions, such as the joint wetland determination training sessions, with instructors and students from both agencies. This training provides better consistency and understanding of individual agency requirements.

### Watershed Studies

NRCS and USACE coordinate programs and authorities to more effectively solve watershed scale water resource problems, including the use of specialized planning and voluntary installation of land treatment conservation practices on private lands. The Texas Bosque River Watershed Initiative and the USACE Western States Watershed Study are just two of many collaborative watershed studies presented in the Partnership Web site.

### Data Sharing

USACE and NRCS are cooperating to obtain specific data, such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), which can be utilized by both agencies. Common contracts and specifications are being developed. NRCS is providing SNOTEL (SNOWpack TELEmetry) data to the USACE to assist in water supply forecasts and predicting flood hazards from snowmelt.



### Ecosystem and Wetland Restoration

USACE and NRCS are working together to meet mutual mandates and goals in ecosystem restoration and wetland restoration. The NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program can provide restored wetland conservation easements on private lands which fit into overall

USACE ecosystem restoration projects. Other examples, including the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee and the Cape Cod Water Resources Restoration Project, are given at the Partnership Web site.



### Natural Disaster Recovery

USACE and NRCS will coordinate roles and responsibilities for natural disaster recovery efforts. The emergency disaster recovery processes will be developed to improve assistance to the public in an emergency.

### Other NRCS/USACE Joint Projects

USACE and NRCS are working as full partners, in conjunction with many other partners, on projects that address specific environmental problems. Strengths and expertise of each agency combine to make a powerful team able to accomplish great things when pulling together. Examples include: The Grand Prairie Region, Arkansas Project, The Nature Conservancy Emuquon Preservation Project, and the John H. Kerr 216 Study Interagency Team.

