

# USACE and NRCS Partnering for All the Right Reasons

## Partnership Agreement

The USACE/NRCS partnership agreement, signed July 7, 2005, promotes a long-term working relationship to improve the management of water and related natural resources under the missions and authorities of NRCS and USACE.

## Partnership Goals

- Express mutual commitment to comprehensive water and related natural resources management and conservation.
- Create and support national teams to review existing authorities and programs for these areas of concern: Watershed Planning and Implementation; Wetland Creation; and Natural Disaster Recovery.
- Coordinate other activities, including Wetland Conservation and Regulatory Compliance (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act).
- Support the establishment of Field Implementation Teams to serve in pilot activities.



## Partnership Benefits

Improved Federal service that provides cost effective and complete solutions to customers seeking assistance with water and related natural resource problems.

## NRCS/USACE Partnership Action Plan

### *What is it?*

A jointly-developed document which identifies a series of initiatives that NRCS and USACE can collaboratively and cost-effectively pursue. These initiatives can range from the policy and programmatic level, to tool development and application, to collaboration on individual projects.

### *Why do we need it?*

The action plan is a mechanism for implementing the partnership agreement. It will identify specific activities to monitor progress and measure benefits and accomplishments.

### *How do we develop it?*

The action plan is intended to be a living document, and will be periodically reviewed and updated. The initial draft was developed by the NRCS/USACE Partnership Core Team. Input is actively solicited from all levels of both organizations with a substantive effort placed upon effectively engaging the field.

### *How do we use it?*

Once the plan has received inter-agency approval, we will use it to:

- Create collaborative ways of doing business.
- Share data and jointly develop watershed and ecosystem based tools.
- Elevate progressive thinking and practice in a comprehensive, integrated water resource management context.
- Develop training that draws on the complementary experience of practitioners in both organizations.



## Three Areas

### **1. WATERSHED PLANNING:**

Encourage and enable coordination of water resource programs and initiatives for more effective water resource projects.

### **2. WETLANDS CREATION, RESTORATION and ENHANCEMENT:**

Collaborate on authorities, technical training and standards, and identification and importance of wetland and aquatic functions.

### **3. NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY:**

Work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on major flood response and recovery actions requiring coordinated responses for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) and Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) activities.



## For More Information Contact

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# Partnership Agreement

between the  
**NRCS** and the  
**USACE**

*An overarching goal of the NRCS/USACE Partnership is to utilize the responsibilities, talents, and resources of both agencies to improve the management of water and related natural resources through a spirit of collaboration.*