



## USACE: Strengthening the Nation's Economy Through Jobs

*"Our future has never been predestined. It has been built on the hard work and sacrifices of previous generations. They invested yesterday for what we have today. That's how we built canals, and railroads, and highways, and ports that allowed our economy to grow by leaps and bounds. ... And if we're going to lead in the 21st, that's the vision we can't afford to lose sight of right now."*  
—President Barack Obama

In developing our nation's water resources, the Federal government, states, and local interests have built an immense accumulation of assets found in all 50 states. The portion of these assets that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages is valued at more than \$165 billion. Federal spending on operation, maintenance and construction at these projects supports about 100,000 jobs.<sup>1</sup>

The majority of the Army Civil Works program today is focused on the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major navigation, flood risk management, and hydropower infrastructure systems, and the repair of aquatic ecosystems that USACE projects have affected. The overall budget for the program is primarily devoted to maintaining these systems so that they can continue to provide economic, environmental and social benefits to the Nation. As the infrastructure that USACE operates ages, it often becomes more difficult and more expensive to maintain these systems to meet performance goals and efficiently provide the economic and environmental benefits for which they were designed and constructed. The Army is adopting new practices to improve management of large and costly projects and is considering additional proposals to advance those efforts.

### Coastal and Inland Navigation

USACE maintains America's coastal and inland commercial navigation channels, with emphasis on those that carry the most traffic. They operate in tandem with other Federal and non-federal assets, forming an intermodal network of transportation systems that supports the import and export of cargo and its movement within the United States. The USACE navigation program will support approximately 12,500 direct jobs<sup>1</sup>.

### Flood Risk Management Activities

Every year floods occur in communities across the United States, taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses, harming the environment and causing millions of dollars in damage. One of USACE's primary missions is supporting flood risk management activities across the Nation. To carry out this mission, USACE operates and constructs projects that reduce the risk of flooding. Project sponsors estimates these projects annually fund 43,350 direct jobs.<sup>1</sup>

### Hydroelectric Power Projects

USACE is the largest owner and operator of hydroelectric power plants in the U.S. and is one of the largest in the world. USACE's 75 plants have a total installed capacity of 20,475 megawatts, produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours each year. Project sponsors estimate these projects fund more than 1,000 jobs annually, providing enough energy to serve 75 million households or 288 cities the size of Washington D.C.

### Environmental Program

The USACE environmental program has two major focus areas: ecosystem restoration and stewardship. The USACE ecosystem restoration program works to re-establish the natural function of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands and coasts. Restoration projects range in size from very small to very large, such as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The mission of the stewardship program is to manage, conserve and/or protect the natural and cultural resources at USACE operating water resource projects, consistent with project authorities and sustainability practices. Project sponsors estimate that USACE environmental activities fund 21,000 direct jobs.<sup>1</sup>

### Recreation

USACE is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation with more than 370 million visits to USACE projects. These visitors spent \$16 billion in 2011. Project sponsors estimate these projects fund 270,000 direct jobs.<sup>1</sup>

Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USACE-managed water resources a large portfolio of Federal water resources assets, including some in all 50 states.</li> <li>• USACE-managed assets, valued at more than \$165 billion, generate American jobs, facilitate imports and exports, and contribute to a stronger economy.</li> <li>• In coming years, USACE will:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ place greater emphasis on projects that benefit river systems ;</li> <li>○ invest in projects and activities that have the greatest return on investment; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Corps operates and maintains 12,000 miles of inland channels and 238 navigation lock chambers at 192 sites.</li> <li>• The Corps maintains 926 coastal, Great Lakes, and inland harbors which handle 2,211 million tons of cargo annually.</li> <li>• The Corps operates 75 hydropower projects with 350 generating units that annually produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours.</li> <li>• The Corps is the #1 Federal provider of outdoor recreation with 370 million annual visits to Corps projects. Visitors spend \$16 billion annually which support 270,000 jobs.</li> <li>• For more information about the Corps' efforts, visit <a href="http://www.usace.army.mil/">http://www.usace.army.mil/</a></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> US Army Corps of Engineers IWR- Regional Economic System. Computer Model and Online Database. Alexandria, VA: Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.