

## CHAPTER 15 – RECREATION MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

15-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes guidance for the administration and management of the USACE Recreation Management Support Program (RMSP).

15-2. Background. The Recreation Management Support Program (RMSP) was initiated in FY 1999. The RMSP is funded by the O&M General appropriation and encompasses activities previously conducted through the Recreation Research Program (RRP) and the Natural Resources Technical Support (NRTS) program. A Recreation Leadership Advisory Team (Team) provides oversight of the RMSP. The Team evaluates all proposals for funding within the RMSP and recommends funding priorities to HQUSACE (CECW-ON). The US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) provides program management support for execution of approved RMSP activities. The Team also supports the strategic planning for the Corps recreation business program and serves in an active advisory role to the Chief, Natural Resources Management Branch in HQUSACE.

15-3. Mission and Goal.

a. The RMSP will have as its cornerstone policy the Natural Resources Stewardship Mission Statement as included in ER 1130-2-540 dated 15 November 1996.

b. The goal of the RMSP is to provide a mechanism for identifying national recreation program priorities and addressing those priorities through valid research, management support, and technical information transfer.

15-4. Program Components.

a. The RMSP is designed to provide support for recreation issues or initiatives that have a broad applicability to many Corps Civil Works projects. Reimbursable work is not within the scope of the RMSP. However, issues or initiatives that are limited in applicability can be addressed on a reimbursable basis with funding provided by the local project. The three basic components of the RMSP are:

b. Management Studies. Management studies are generally long-term activities (greater than or equal to one year) and of a regional or national significance. The ERDC will provide program management support, although studies may be performed by other USACE elements, other agencies, or the private sector.

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c. Management Assistance. Management assistance may be a short-term study (less than one year) or may be on going assistance in managing a recreation component (e.g., National Recreation Reservation Service). Management assistance may not always have a broad national or regional application, but must be considered to be a national priority. The appropriate method for obtaining management assistance will be determined for each funded effort. For example, management assistance might be provided by a district in support of the Visitor Assistance Program, or it might be obtained from ERDC in support of annual economic impact analysis reports.

d. Information Exchange. Information exchange includes not only technology transfer but also the distribution of research results to bring about program enhancement. The appropriate method for developing and maintaining ongoing information exchange will also be determined for each funded effort.

15-5. Program Meetings.

a. A Recreation Leadership Advisory Team will be established and will meet semi-annually during each fiscal year, preferably during the months of October and April. HQUSACE and ERDC will participate in all Team meetings.

b. Fall Team Meeting. The fall meeting each year will serve primarily as a strategic planning session for the purpose of identifying high priority issues and establishing RMSP priorities. The Team will utilize new information as well as the existing "Issue Areas" and "Research Focus Areas" contained in the Natural Resources Research Program Strategy Task Force Final Report dated September 1994. The following input will be available to the Team during the fall meeting:

(1) Annual Trends Report prepared by ERDC. This report will capture trends as well as emerging issues that may impact the Corps Recreation business program. The report will include a summary of trends/emerging issues identified by other federal, state, and private sector recreation providers.

(2) Annual Program Report provided by HQUSACE. This report will capture emerging recreation issues from a national policy perspective to include a discussion of new legal requirements and initiatives. It will also include HQUSACE priorities for management studies, management support, and information exchange.

(3) Issues From Regional Team Members. Each Team member will be responsible for obtaining input from their division office, district offices, project offices, and recreation stakeholders (as appropriate). Team members will present both policy issues as well as RMSP proposals for management studies, management assistance, and information exchange.

(4) Status of Ongoing RMSP Activities. HQUSACE, ERDC, or others responsible for ongoing RMSP activities will provide a status report on each RMSP funded activity.

(5) Status of Overall RMSP Program. The HQUSACE and ERDC Team members will provide an overview of the total RMSP program funding status for the previous and upcoming fiscal years so that funding adjustments can be considered.

c. The fall Team meeting will result in the following products:

(1) The identification of high priority policy issues to be addressed by HQUSACE.

(2) The identification of high priority RMSP needs to be further developed for consideration during the spring Team meeting.

(3) The recommendation of a "Proponent" for each high priority RMSP need who will be tasked with developing a written "Statement of Need" to better define the customer's expectations.

(4) The tasking of ERDC to work with each "Proponent" in the development of a "Proposed Study Plan" for consideration during the spring Team meeting.

(5) Recommendations to HQUSACE for minor adjustments to the current fiscal year work plan and long range work plan.

#### 15-6. Spring Team Meeting.

a. The primary purpose of the Spring Team Meeting will be to review "Statements of Need/Proposed Study Plans" and to develop recommendations for new starts for the upcoming fiscal year. The following input will be available to the Team during the spring meeting:

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(1) Statement of Need/Proposed Study Plan Presentations. The “Proponent” and the ERDC Principal Investigator will jointly present proposals for consideration by the Team for those high priority needs identified during the fall Team meeting.

(2) New High Priority Funding Issues from Team Members. Each Team member will have the opportunity to submit new high priority issues that were not identified during the fall Team meeting. Only those issues considered to be extremely urgent will be considered for funding during the spring Team meeting.

(3) Status of Overall RMSP Program. The HQUSACE and ERDC Team members will again provide an overview of the total RMSP program funding status for the current and upcoming fiscal years so that funding adjustments can be considered.

b. The spring Team meeting will result in the following outputs:

(1) Recommendations to HQUSACE for new starts for the upcoming fiscal year.

(2) Recommendations to HQUSACE for minor adjustments to the current fiscal year work plan and long range work plan.

15-7. Final Approval of RMSP Funding. HQUSACE will provide conceptual approval (subject to the availability of funds) for all new starts and other program funding adjustments by July of each year. The final approval of the actual work plan will be provided by HQUSACE following the Fall Team Meeting. Following final approval from HQUSACE, the “Proponent” will be empowered to act on behalf of HQUSACE and the Team to provide field input into the implementation of the approved work plan. The Recreation Leadership Advisory Team will continuously monitor the progress of all approved work during both the annual and mid-year Team meetings.

15-8. Statements of Need, Proponents, and Study Plans.

a. Statements of Need. A clearly defined “Statement of Need” is the first step (and most critical) in developing an approach to a management study. A Statement of Need should be concise (three to five pages) and provide the following information:

(1) Description of current situation.

- (2) Statement of why the current situation is a problem.
- (3) Identification of the extent, frequency, and impact of the problem.
- (4) Statement of the capability required to solve the problem.
- (5) Statement of the future desired situation after implementation of the solution.
- (6) Other relevant information required to develop an effective study approach.

b. Proponent. A Proponent will be recommended by the Team to develop each high priority issue into a "Statement of Need". If a proponent is not a Team member, a request will be coordinated with HQUSACE prior to asking the "Proponent" to serve in this capacity. The "Proponent" will then be assigned the responsibility for fully developing the "Statement of Need" and working with the ERDC Principal Investigator to ensure the "Proposed Study Plan" is responsive to the "Statement of Need".

c. Proposed Study Plans. A "Proposed Study Plan" will be developed by ERDC working in conjunction with a "proponent", in response to a Statement of Need. The study plan is a critical document that provides the Team with detailed information on the scope, approach, resources required, and potential payoff of conducting a management study. A study plan will usually be between 15 to 25 pages in length that provides the following information:

- (1) Statement of the problem from a research perspective.
- (2) Review of related studies, activities and programs with potential for leveraging and partnerships.
- (3) Recommendation on whether a study is feasible or needed to meet the requirement of the Statement of Need.

d. If a study is determined by the principal investigator to be feasible, the Study Plan will also include the following items:

- (4) Study objective.
- (5) Study approach and procedures.

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- (6) Study products and target audiences.
- (7) Technology transition.
- (8) Cost estimate.
- (9) Schedule of deliverables.

15-9. Recreation Leadership Advisory Team.

a. The Recreation Management Support Program (RMSP) will be headed by a Recreation Leadership Advisory Team (Team) consisting of eighteen members. Each MSC/Regional Office will be represented on the Team. In addition four district offices will be represented and four project offices will be represented. The Team will have 16 voting members, two from each Major Subordinate Command (MSC). Two additional non-voting members of the Team will include a HQUSACE representative and a ERDC representative. Every two years one member of the Team will be selected to serve as chairperson. The chairperson will facilitate the Team meetings, participate in the annual Headquarters briefings associated with the RMSP as necessary, and oversee the voting associated with the Team decision making process.

b. Voting members of the Team will normally serve four-year terms. Terms for the initial members of the Team will be staggered with some serving two, three, four and five years respectively in order to establish a continuous rotational membership. Beginning in FY 2001, two new members will rotate onto the Team. Nominations for Team membership will be submitted annually to CECW-ON. Each MSC can nominate one division level person, one district level person and one field level manager annually for selection into the Team. CECW-ON will consult with the Team and select the new members from the list of nominations. On any and all issues requiring a vote by the Team, a simple majority vote is necessary to carry a decision. In case of a tie vote, the HQUSACE Team Member will cast the deciding vote.

15-10. Responsibilities.

a. Recreation Leadership Advisory Team. The Team activities and functions include the following:

(1) Provides input and makes recommendations to the strategic planning vision for the Corps overall recreation program.

(2) Provides recommendations on national priorities for the Corps recreation program.

(3) Identifies management support needs to address national priorities.

(4) Reviews and recommends annual and long range work plans to include funding.

(5) Assigns proponents for approved work.

(6) Monitors on-going work.

(7) Serves as regional POC for RMSP.

(8) Team Chair participates in annual HQUSACE briefings on RMSP as necessary.

(9) Serves as an ad hoc advisory body to HQUSACE on issues of national significance.

b. The HQUSACE representative on the Team is responsible for the following:

(1) Serves as a non-voting member on the Team

(2) Schedules Team meetings.

(3) Facilitates communications between Team, ERDC, and HQUSACE.

(4) Prepares annual recreation program report for presentation at the fall Team meeting.

(4) Provides funds management and program approvals for HQUSACE.

(5) Participates in annual HQUSACE briefings.

c. ERDC. The ERDC Program Manager is responsible for overall execution of the RMSP program as approved by HQUSACE. ERDC activities include the following:

(1) Serves as a non-voting member on the Team.

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- (2) Prepares annual trends report.
- (3) Works with the proponent to develop proposed study plans.
- (4) Presents study plans to the Team.
- (5) Prepares annual and long-range work plans.
- (6) Manages and executes assigned programs.
- (7) Participates in annual HQUSACE Briefing.

d. Proponent. The proponent is responsible for the following:

- (1) Develops Statements of Need.
- (2) Works with ERDC during the development of the study plan.
- (3) Presents the Statement of Need to the Team and supports ERDC in presenting the study plan.
- (4) Interacts with ERDC throughout the implementation of the work plan.