

**Natural Resource Conservation
Service (NRCS)/
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Partnership**

*Working Together
Toward Shared Goals*



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Webinar Overview

- **Partnership- Past and Current**
- **Handbook**
 - Purpose
 - Shared Goals
 - Mission, Authorities, Organization
 - Other Major Sections of Handbook
- **Next Steps in Partnership**



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Partnership History

- **August 2002: Exchange of Agency Personnel** (Liaisons)- NRCS, National Water Management Center and USACE (MVD)
- **July 2005: NRCS/USACE Partnership Agreement signed**
- **December 2005: MOA between USACE and NRCS** (established framework for the provision of goods and services between the agencies)



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**Ms. JoEllen Darcy (ASA CW) and Mr. Dave White, NRCS
Signing Ceremony of the Renewed NRCS/USACE Partnership Agreement
May 26, 2011**

6 Focus Areas of the New Agreement

1. **Watershed Planning and Implementation**
2. **Wetland Creation, Restoration, and Enhancement, including Coastal Restoration**
3. **Recovery from Disasters Impacting Natural Resources, including Restoration**



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Focus Areas of the New Agreement

4. **Water Quality Improvements, Water Supply Development and Water Management**
5. **Coordination of other programs/activities including Wetland Conservation Compliance (Swampbuster) and Regulatory Programs (Section 10/404 Permits)**
6. **Coordination of programs/activities that promote wise use of floodplains, including participation in the Federal Interagency Floodplain Management Task Force**



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What is Partnering?

**What is the Goal
for the NRCS/USACE
Partnership?**



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Partnering is a way of working together that creates and fosters a commitment between two or more entities for achieving mutually beneficial objectives and for creating synergy by maximizing the effect of each organization's resources.



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Strong partnering relationships are based upon **trust**, dedication to common goals, and an **understanding** of each other's expertise, expectations, and values.



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NRCS/USACE Partnership Goal

To promote a long term working relationship to improve the efficiency of delivery of services to our respective clients related to management of water and related natural resources with respect to the missions and authorities of NRCS and USACE.




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What is currently being done to accomplish this goal?



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What is currently being done to accomplish this goal?

1. Communications (monthly teleconferences, liaisons, brochure, website)
2. Data sharing (Wetland Reserve and Floodplain easement locations)
3. Renewed Partnership Agreement and Regional agreements



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NRCS/USACE Regional MOU Partnership Agreement



Signing Ceremony

15 April 2011



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What is currently being done to accomplish this goal?

4. Action Plan/Plan of Work for 2011

5. Formed the NRCS/USACE Regulatory

Workgroup to address issues facing Regulatory

6. NRCS/USACE Handbook



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NRCS/USACE Partnership HANDBOOK

A Field Guide to Working Together Toward Shared Goals



APRIL 2011 Version 1.0



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NRCS/NWMC website

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

USACE website

http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/docs/projects/Partnership_Handbook_April_2011.pdf



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Purpose of the Handbook

To facilitate active cooperation and collaboration between NRCS and the USACE at the field level on water resource issues and challenges.



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The NRCS/USACE Partnership Handbook

Identifying Shared goals



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What are those Shared Goals:

- ❖ Wetland protection and restoration
- ❖ Flood risk management
- ❖ Wildlife habitat creation
- ❖ Sediment management
- ❖ Natural disaster recovery
- ❖ Integrated water resources management



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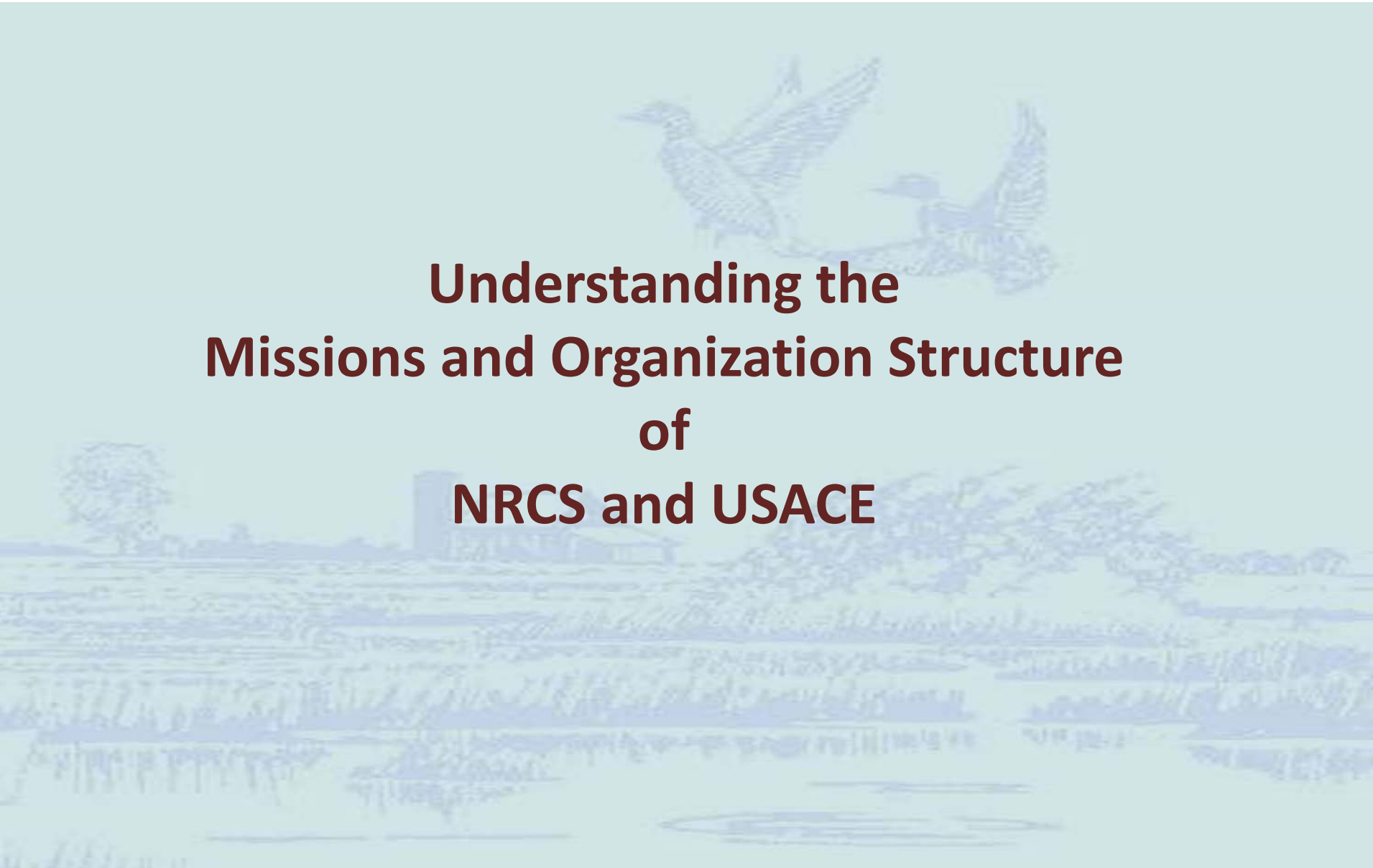


	NRCS Programs					
USACE Programs	Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) Wildlife Habitat Program (WHIP)	Conservation Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP), Grassland Reserve Program	Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easements	Emergency Watershed Program - Traditional Stream clearance and Restoration, Debris Removal Dam program	Watershed Programs Rapid Watershed Assessments Mississippi River Basin Initiative Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act (Swampbuster)
CAP Ecosystem Restoration Authorities: (Sec. 1135, Sec. 206)	Wetland Restoration Wildlife Habitat		Wetland Restoration Flood Risk Management			
CAP - Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material (Sec. 204) Regional Sediment Management Program		Sediment Management				
Emergency Management Program, erosion control, clearing of streams (Sec 208)				Natural Disaster Recovery		
CAP and Individually Authorized Flood Risk Management Projects, Dam Safety Assurance Program			Flood Risk Management	Flood Risk Management		
Watershed Programs – Technical Assistance to States, Watershed and River Basin Assessments (Sec 729)					Integrated Water Resource Management	
Regulatory Program (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act)						Wetland Protection



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Understanding the Missions and Organization Structure of NRCS and USACE



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NRCS' Mission:

Helping People Help the Land
NRCS provides science-based conservation assistance for the management of natural resources for present and future generations.



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NRCS Authorities, Programs and Initiatives

- * **Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act (FSA-Swampbuster)**
- * **Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**
- * **Wildlife Habitat Program (WHIP)**
- * **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**
 - Stream Restoration**
- * **Environmental Quality Incentives (EQIP)**
- * **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**
- * **Watershed Program**
 - Emergency Watershed Protection Program**
 - Stream clearance, Debris Removal**
- * **Dam Rehabilitation Program**
- * **Initiatives:**
 - Mississippi River Basin Initiative**
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**



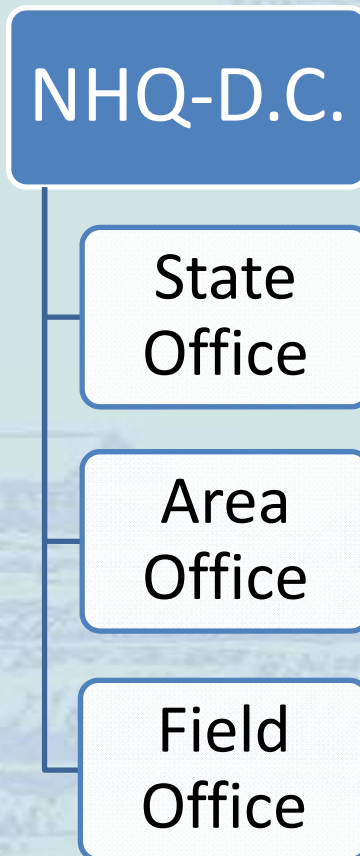
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NRCS – (Line-Staff) Organization



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NRCS Organization (Section 2 of Handbook)

“NRCS works at the local level – field offices at USDA Service Centers in nearly every county in the Nation.”



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USACE' Civil Works Mission:

Serve the public by providing the Nation with quality and responsive:

- Development and management of the Nation's water resources;
- Promotion of sustainable marine transportation systems;
- Protection and management of the natural environment;
- Restoration of aquatic ecosystems;
- Flood risk management and emergency management; and
- Engineering and technical services

in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships.



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BUILDING STRONG.

USACE Authorities and Programs

Study Authorities

Implementation Authorities

Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

Individually Authorized Projects



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USACE Authorities and Programs

CAP Ecosystem Restoration Authorities: (Sec 1135, Sec. 206)

CAP Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material (Sec 204)

Regional Sediment Management Program

Emergency Management Program

Flood Risk Management Projects (CAP/ Individually Authorized)

Dam Safety Assurance Program

Watershed Programs – Technical Assistance to States

Watershed and River Basin Assessments (Sec 729)

Regulatory Program (Sec 10 R&H/ Sec 404 CWA)



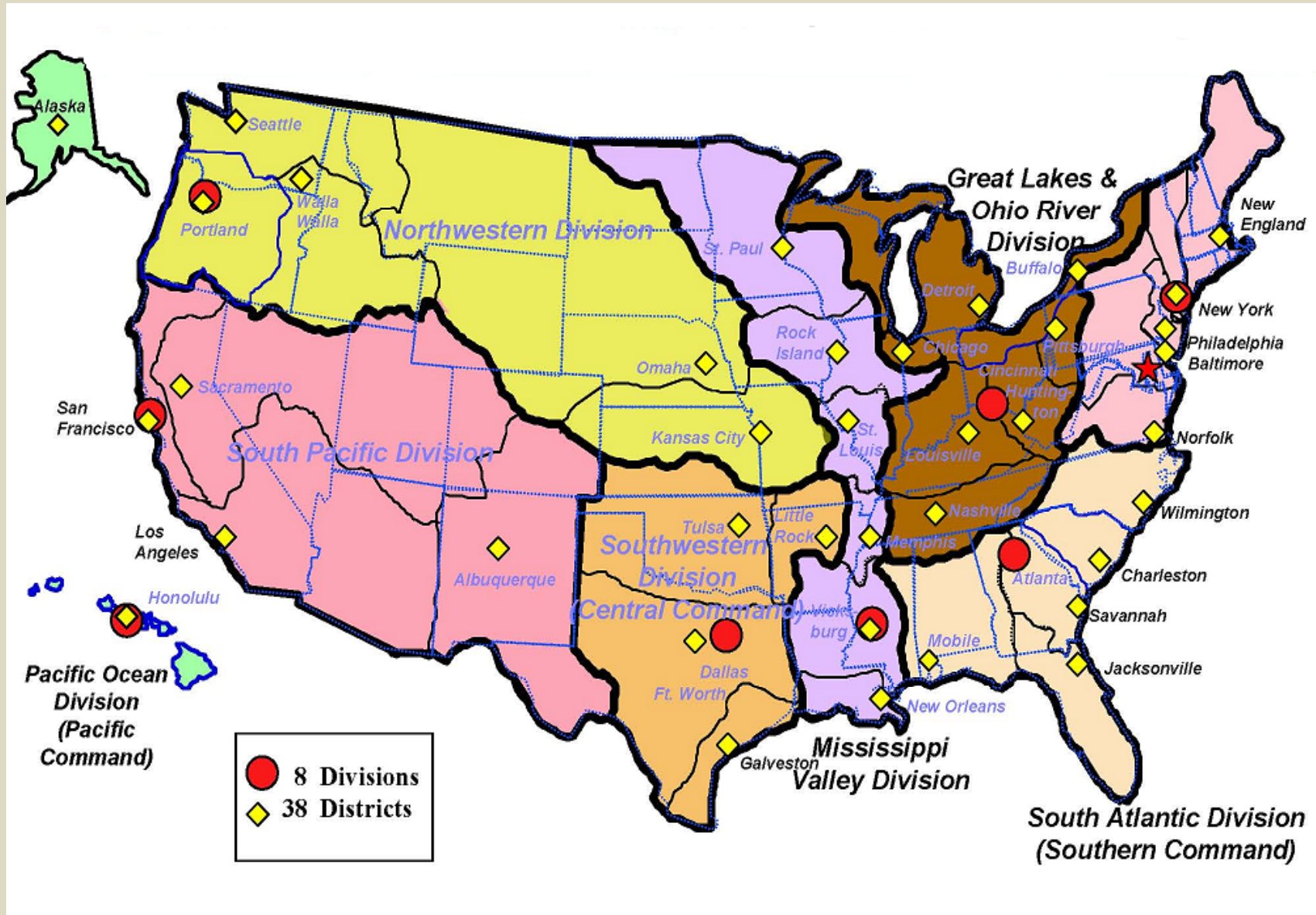
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USACE Divisions and Districts



Corps Regulatory Offices (from Section 2 of the Handbook):

“An additional resource for locating the appropriate District office is located on the USACE Regulatory HQ Homepage. This [interactive tool](#) guides the user to the responsible district office and is especially helpful in states covered by more than one USACE District.”



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Major Handbook Sections

- Working together in Ecosystem Restoration – P. 16
 - Working together in Flood Risk Management – P. 24
 - Working together in Natural Disaster Recovery – P. 33
 - Working together in Integrated Water Resources Management (Watershed Planning) - P. 48
 - Working together in Section 10/404 Permitting – P. 43
 - Role of Non-Federal Partners – P.52
 - Case Studies, Examples, and Other Resources – P. 53
 - Common and Recurring Problems with NRCS/USACE - P. 62
- Collaborative Efforts



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Sharing Resources

NRCS Wetland Reserve and Floodplain Easement Data



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Next Steps for the Partnership

- USACE presence/participation on NRCS State Technical Committees
- Annual Meetings between State Conservationists and corresponding USACE District Commanders to discuss upcoming work, priorities, etc.
- Regional MOUs such as one recently signed in the Mississippi Valley
- Communication of both success stories and difficulties/barriers to liaisons
- Policy papers addressing recurring problems and how to overcome them
- Look for new areas for partnering (e.g. large Ecosystem Restoration Project/Initiatives)



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QUESTIONS?



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