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Corps of Engineers,
Civil Works

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Introduction

The GPRA Modernization Act (GPRAMA) of 2010 requires a central inventory of all Federal programs. The Federal Program Inventory has the potential to facilitate coordination across programs by making it easier to find programs that can contribute to a shared goal, as well as improve public understanding about what Federal programs do and how programs link to budget, performance and other information.

The Army Civil Works program includes multiple mission areas that are represented by a number of business lines. While the Army does not manage these business lines as programs, they do provide a parallel construct for comparison with other Federal agencies in categorizing the types of activities undertaken in execution of the Army Civil Works program.

The Corps of Engineers plans, builds, operates and maintains (using funding provided in the Investigations, Construction, MR&T and O&M accounts) a wide range of water resources facilities. The Army, through the Civil Works program, seeks to develop sustainable solutions to America's water resources needs using integrated water resources management concepts across mission areas in order return the highest value to the Nation in terms of economic, environmental, and safety returns on investment.

This document describes the Army Civil Works Program by business line. Please refer to www.Performance.gov for program contributions to our Agency Priority Goals.
1. Navigation
The Corps of Engineers helps facilitate commercial navigation by providing safe, reliable, highly cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems for the movement of commercial goods. The Corps fulfills this responsibility through a combination of capital improvements and the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure projects. The Navigation business line contributes to the nation’s economy; nearly 80 percent of international trade passes through our ports. The Corps’ Navigation program includes Corps-maintained navigable channels, waterways, and infrastructure, that is part of a larger transportation network that also includes publicly- and privately-owned vessels, marine terminals, intermodal connections, shipyards, and repair facilities. The Corps maintains approximately 12,000 miles of inland waterways with 220 locks at 171 sites; and approximately 300 deep-draft and over 600 shallow-draft coastal channels and harbors (including on the Great Lakes), which extends 13,000 miles, and includes 21 locks, more than 900 other coastal structures, and 800 coastal and inland bridges.

- **Supported Strategic Goals:** Help facilitate commercial navigation in an environmentally and economically sustainable fashion; implement effective, reliable, and adaptive life-cycle performance management of infrastructure
- **Supported Strategic Objectives:** Help facilitate commercial navigation by providing safe, reliable, highly cost-effective and environmentally sustainable waterborne transportation systems

2. Flood Risk Management
The Corps of Engineers reduces the risk to human safety and property damage in the event of floods and coastal storms through its Flood Risk Management (FRM) business line. The Corps has constructed 8,500 miles of levees and dikes, 383 reservoirs, and more than 90 storm damage reduction projects along 240 miles of the nation’s 2,700 miles of shoreline. With the exception of reservoirs, upon completion, most infrastructure built under the auspices of FRM is transferred to the sponsoring cities, towns, and special use districts that own and operate the projects.

Over the years, the Corps’ mission of addressing the causes and impacts of flooding has evolved from flood control and prevention to more comprehensive FRM. These changes reflect a greater appreciation for the complexity and dynamics of flood problems—the interaction of natural forces and human development—as well as for the federal, state, local, and individual partnerships needed to thoroughly
manage the risks caused by coastal storms and heavy rains.

Risk Management is the process of identifying, evaluating, selecting, implementing, and monitoring actions to mitigate levels of risk. Its goal is to ensure scientifically sound, cost-effective, integrated actions that reduce risks while taking into account social, cultural, environmental, ethical, political, and legal considerations. The Corps’ approach to FRM relies on productive collaborations with partners and stakeholders, i.e., the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, affected state agencies, sponsors, and citizens. Effectively and efficiently, these collaborations heighten the nation’s awareness of flood risks and consequences.

Timely flood warnings that afford sufficient time for evacuation have helped reduce the risk to human safety and property damage.

- **Supported Strategic Goals:** Assist in providing for safe and resilient communities and infrastructure; implement effective, reliable, and adaptive life-cycle performance management of infrastructure
- **Supported Strategic Objectives:** Reduce the Nation’s risk of flooding that damages property and places individuals at risk of injury or loss of life; improve the safety and security of water resources infrastructure

### 3. Environment

The Corps has three distinct areas that are focused on the environment: (1) aquatic ecosystem restoration; (2) stewardship of Corps-owned lands; and, (3) the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Some environmental or ecosystem restoration activities are required for compliance with federal law; others are authorized by Congress for environmental mitigation, protection, and restoration purposes. These environmental projects are often closely associated with Corps navigation, flood risk management, and hydropower investments.

**Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.** The Corps’ mission in aquatic ecosystem restoration is to help restore aquatic habitat to a more natural condition in ecosystems in which structure, function, and dynamic processes have become degraded. The emphasis is on restoration of nationally or regionally significant habitats where the solution primarily involves modifying the hydrology and geomorphology.

**Environmental Stewardship.** Environmental Stewardship focuses on managing, conserving, and preserving natural resources on 11.5 million acres of land and water at 456 multipurpose Corps projects. Corps personnel monitor water quality at the Corps’ dams and operate fish hatcheries in cooperation with state wildlife agencies. This business line encompasses compliance measures to ensure Corps projects: (1) meet Federal, state and local environmental requirements; (2) sustain environmental quality; and, (3) conserve natural and cultural resources.

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). Under the FUSRAP, the Corps cleans up former Manhattan Project and Atomic Energy Commission sites, making use of expertise gained in
cleansing former military sites and civilian hazardous waste sites under the Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund Program.

- **Supported Strategic Goals**: Assist in providing for safe and resilient communities and infrastructure; restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and prevent future environmental losses
- **Supported Strategic Objectives**: Provide sustainable development, restoration, and protection of the Nation’s water resources by restoring degraded habitat; assist in a cost-effective manner in the clean-up of contaminated, hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste sites as authorized or requested by others under the FUSRAP

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### 4. Hydropower

The Corps’ multipurpose authorities provide hydroelectric power as an additional benefit of projects built for navigation and flood risk management. The Corps is the largest owner-operator of hydroelectric power plants in the United States, and one of the largest in the world. The Corps operates 350 generating units at 75 multipurpose reservoirs, mostly in the Pacific Northwest; they account for about 24 percent of America’s hydroelectric power and approximately 3 percent of the country’s total electric-generating capacity. Its hydroelectric plants produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours each year, which is sufficient to serve nearly 7 million households, or roughly 11 cities the size of Seattle, Washington. Hydropower is a renewable source of energy, producing none of the airborne emissions that contribute to acid rain or the greenhouse effect.

- **Supported Strategic Goals**: Assist in providing for safe and resilient communities and infrastructure; implement effective, reliable, and adaptive life-cycle performance management of infrastructure
- **Supported Strategic Objectives**: Increase the amount of hydropower produced at USACE dams

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### 5. Regulatory

In accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the Corps regulates work in, over, and under navigable rivers as well as the discharge of dredged and fill material into U.S. waters, including wetlands. The Corps implements many of its oversight responsibilities by means of a permit process. Throughout the permit evaluation process, the Corps complies with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable environmental and historic preservation laws. In addition to Federal statutes, the Corps also considers the views of other Federal, tribal, state and local governments, agencies, and interest groups, as well as the general public when rendering its final permit decisions. Regulatory responsibilities include evaluating minor activities, such as driveways for small landowners as well as large water supply and energy project proposals which affect billions of dollars of the nation’s economy.

- **Supported Strategic Goals**: Assist in providing for safe and resilient communities and infrastructure; restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and prevent future environmental losses
- **Supported Strategic Objectives**: Prevent future environmental losses by executing the
regulatory mission in a manner that protects the aquatic environment (ensures zero net-loss or wetlands) while making timely, fair permit decisions

6. Disaster Response and Emergency Management
Throughout the Corps’ history, the United States has relied on the Civil Works Program for help both in times of natural and man-made disasters. The Corps responds to natural disasters under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (Public Law [P.L.] 84-99, as amended) and to man-made disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288, as amended). The Corps of Engineers’ primary role in emergency relief and recovery operations is to provide public works and engineering support. Emergency management continues to be an important part of the Civil Works Program, which directly supports the Department of Homeland Security in carrying out the National Response Framework. It does this by providing emergency support in public works and engineering and by conducting emergency response and recovery activities under authority of P.L. 84-99. In a typical year, the Corps responds to more than 30 presidential disaster declarations; its highly-trained workforce is prepared to deal with both man-made and natural disasters.

Funding for this program comes primarily through supplemental appropriations deposited into the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) account.

7. Recreation
The Corps is an important provider of outdoor recreation, which is an ancillary benefit of its flood prevention and navigation projects. The Corps’ Recreation business line provides quality outdoor public recreation experiences in accordance with its three-part mission to: (1) serve the needs of present and future generations; (2) contribute to the quality of American life; and, (3) manage and conserve natural resources consistent with ecosystem management principles.

The Corps administers 4,248 recreation sites at 422 projects on 12 million acres of land. During FY 2012, 10 percent of the U.S. population visited a Corps project at least once. These visitors spent $16 billion pursuing their favorite outdoor recreation activities, which, in turn, supported some 270,000 full- and part-time jobs.

8. Water Supply
Conscientious management of the Nation’s water supply is critical to limiting water shortages and lessening the impact of droughts. The Corps has an important role to play in ensuring that homes, businesses, and industries, nationwide, have enough water to meet their needs. The Corps retains authority for water supply in connection with construction, operation and modification of Federal navigation, flood risk management, and multipurpose projects.