USACE: Strengthening the Nation’s Economy and Competitiveness

The Army Civil Works program is focused on the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major navigation, flood damage reduction, hydropower infrastructure systems, recreation, and the repair of aquatic ecosystems. The overall budget for the program is primarily devoted to maintaining these systems so that they can continue to provide the greatest economic, environmental and social benefits to the Nation. The Army is adopting new practices to improve its management of large, costly, and complex projects and is considering additional proposals to advance those efforts.

Coastal and Inland Navigation Program
USACE invests in the maintenance of coastal and inland commercial navigation channels and in their improvement, with emphasis on those investments that will provide the greatest economic and environmental return to the nation. These channels operate in tandem with other Federal and non-federal assets, forming an intermodal transportation network that supports imports and exports through our ports, as well as cargo movements within the United States.

Flood and Storm Damage Reduction
Every year floods occur in communities across the United States in river valleys and along our coasts, taking lives, destroying property, shutting down businesses, harming the environment and causing extensive property damage. One of USACE’s primary missions is reducing the risk of loss of life and property damage from these floods. To carry out this mission, USACE operates, plans and constructs projects that are part of a larger effort at the Federal, state, and local level to help manage this risk.

Hydroelectric Program
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 and produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours each year.

Environmental Program
The USACE environmental program has two major focus areas: aquatic ecosystem restoration and stewardship. The USACE aquatic ecosystem restoration program works to re-establish the natural function of rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastal ecosystems through efforts 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 projects owned and operated by the Corps, consistent with project authorities and sustainability practices.

Recreation Program
USACE is the Nation’s largest Federal provider of outdoor recreation with about 370 million day-visits to USACE projects annually.

Key Messages
- USACE programs will continue to focus on investments that will yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety, including supporting resilient and sustainable approaches to the Nation’s water resource challenges.

Facts & Figures
- USACE maintains 12,000 miles of inland and intracoastal waterways with 229 lock chambers at 187 sites; and 926 coastal, Great Lakes, and inland channels and harbors comprising 13,000 miles of channels and 12 locks.
- USACE operates 75 hydropower projects with 353 generating units that annually produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours.
- USACE hosts 20% of visits to Federal recreation areas on 2% of Federal lands.
- For more information about the USACE’s efforts, visit http://www.usace.army.mil/