

Planning in the Water Resources Environment



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

Corps of Engineers and project sponsors.

Corps studies and projects require sponsors. Project Sponsors are our partners and help us study and build projects that work for communities. We also need sponsors because our projects require cost sharing. Every new Corps project is cost shared. Cost sharing ranges from 25-50% for most studies and projects.

“The willingness of a non-Federal sponsor to share costs and the support of the environmental community are strong indicators of the worthiness of the recommended action.”

Are YOU a PROJECT SPONSOR?

An eligible project sponsor is usually a non-federal entity such as a city, state, or local improvement district that is a financially capable public body. Sponsors sign agreements, commit funds, acquire lands and easements, and usually maintain projects.

Portland District Boundaries



Mailing Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland District
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946
Att: Planning Office

Located at: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland District
Robert Duncan Plaza
333 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Introducing THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS...

You might have thought of the Corps when you saw Bonneville Dam or the John Day Lock, but we also want you to think of us when you see the waterfowl at Fern Ridge Lake, or the lower Columbia River south jetty at Trestle Bay, Clatsop Spit. Did you know the Corps built impoundments at Fisher Butte to improve wetland plant communities for waterfowl and other wildlife and lowered the 100 year old jetty near Ft. Stevens State Park to restore fisheries access to 603 acres of intertidal habitat? We are relocating levees away from rivers in order to increase wetlands - while maintaining flood protection. We don't just build levees; we study alternatives to levees, such as raising homes, relocating structures, flood warning, and flood plain management. Times have changed and the Corps is changing too. The nation is paying attention to the environment, reducing Federal spending, and trying to help citizens - the Corps is ready to assist with projects that are environmentally responsible, cost shared, and well planned, designed, and built.

If you're looking for a partnering agency to help you with a water resource study or project, call our Planning Office at (503) 326-6435 or send a letter to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Or 97208-2946
Attn: Planning

In your letter, please describe the water resource problem you have and the type of assistance you need.

Comprehensive basin studies

The Corps' **General Investigation (GI)** authority is great for finding solutions to large, complex problems. Flooding, ecosystem restoration, loss of land and property, floodplain management, and watershed analysis are candidates for this program!

A GI study can be started by a representative of Congress at the request of a project sponsor. The study is done in two phases; the first phase is 100% federally funded and takes about 12 months. If a project looks likely, and a project sponsor is willing to pay 1/2 the cost, a feasibility study is done to detail the different solutions to the problem. If approved, and the project sponsor cost shares the construction, a project could be designed and built!

SMALL Project Authorities deliver in a BIG way!

The Corps has authority to solve water resource problems without going to Congress under the **Continuing Authority Program (CAP)**. These special authorities are suited to small projects in need of quick solutions.

Section 205 is used for flood problems that need flood proofing or flood damage reduction structures like levees. Flood warning is desirable too. **Section 208** reduces flooding by channelizing rivers that are clogged with snags and debris. If a public facility is threatened by severe erosion, **Section 14** is here to help with a single step planning and design effort. Shoreline erosion is studied under **Section 103**. **Section 107** is available to study navigation improvements such as channels and breakwaters for harbors.

"The use of watersheds as an organizing tool while addressing ecosystem restoration opportunities compliments the Corps traditional mandate for water and related land resource activities."

The ENVIRONMENTAL MISSION is a Challenge

The Corps has a new mission. Environmental planning, ecosystem restoration, and watershed and estuary studies are very exciting, challenging, and rewarding projects.

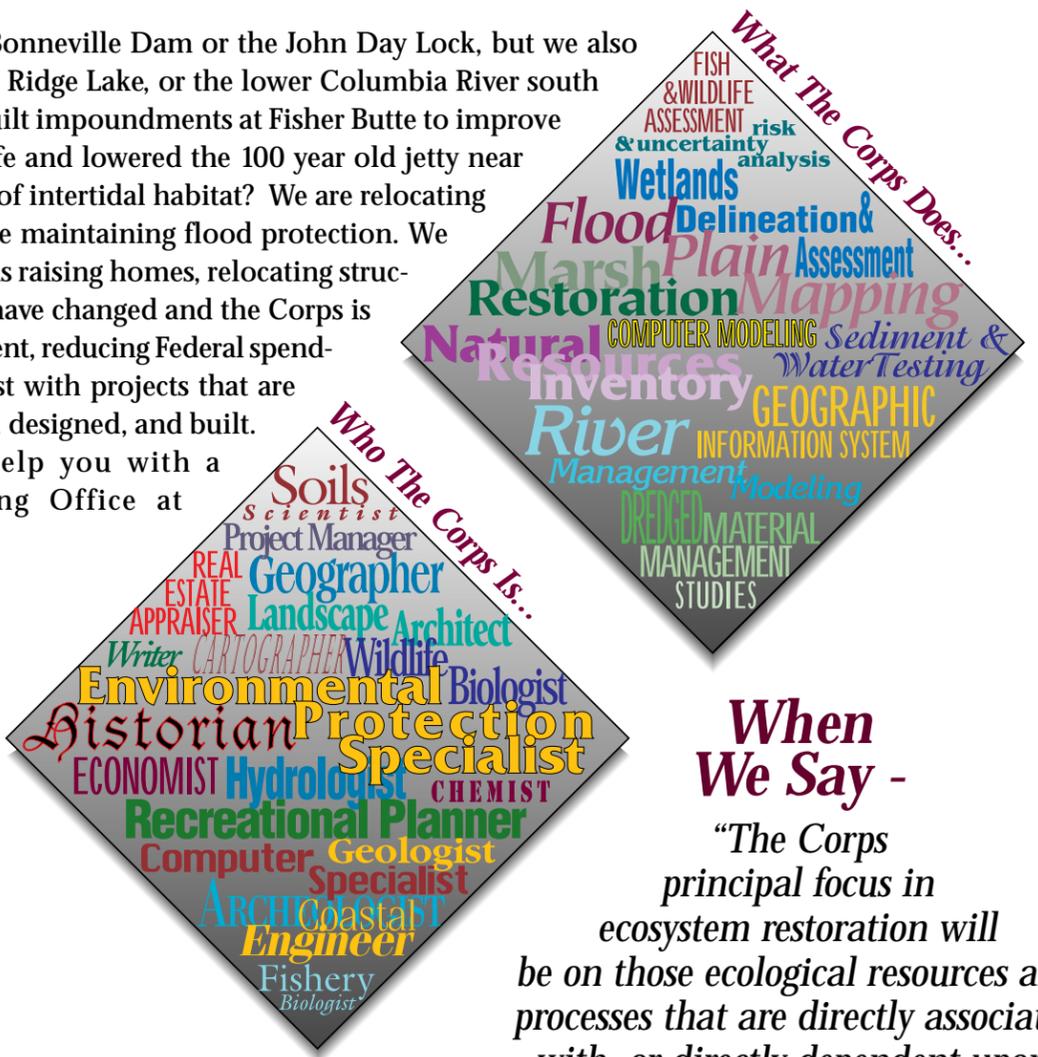
Our challenge is to include the health and value of the environment in everything we do. Whether we are reducing flood damages, providing navigation, or completing comprehensive basin studies, we consider the effect our work has on the fish, wildlife, and plant communities in the area.

We evaluate projects that benefit the environment by restoring, improving or protecting the wildlife that live there. We look at how healthy the environment used to be, how it looks today, and then determine if we can restore it.

Restorations may improve habitat by changing the water temperature or reducing the amount of sediment in the water, by adding more water for fish or less water for plants, or by reopening channels that were blocked or returning them to their original course.

These projects are done under our comprehensive authority, **General Investigation, Section 206** or **Section 1135**.

NEW!
Section 206
authorizes the Corps to construct projects that improve the quality of our aquatic environment. There is also **Section 1135**; if you know of a Corps project which needs to be changed to improve the environment, we can restore water and related land resources.



When We Say -

"The Corps principal focus in ecosystem restoration will be on those ecological resources and processes that are directly associated with, or directly dependent upon, the hydrologic regime of the ecosystem and watershed."

We Mean -

The Corps works on restoration projects in areas with water, such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

Other VALUABLE help

Planning Assistance to States, Tribes and other public sponsors is available. If you think the Corps is uniquely qualified to help with a water or related land resource problem, call us. You may be eligible for matching federal funds. Remember, we do the work but we do it for you the sponsor.

Flood Plain Management Services, allows the Corps to do technical studies, mostly hydrology and hydraulics to give public sponsors information about their floodplain. How high the water will get, where it will flood, and how frequently it will flood are all questions we can answer. If you need this information, call to find out about available funding.

We can also accept funds for engineering and planning work under **Support For Others**. The work we do is primarily in areas where we have significant information and experience.

Oregon's Special Authority for Bank Erosion . . . we know erosion threatens land and property on the Willamette and Columbia rivers as well as their tributaries. If erosion affects several landowners, we may have a special authority to study the problem and to design an engineering solution. If a project is recommended and a public sponsor is willing to share the costs, the Corps could construct a project.