

How Does the Corps of Engineers Get its Money?

The Corps of Engineers has both military and civilian functions which are funded by different appropriations bills. The Corps' civilian or Civil Works Programs are funded out of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have subcommittees that are responsible for developing that bill each year.

Each year, the President proposes a Corps budget as part of his annual submission to Congress. That document carries only the broad overview of his proposal. Most people who follow the Corps from the media to congressional offices as well as the water resources community in general, need to look elsewhere to find out the project and programmatic earmarks proposed for funding by the President. That information can be found in what is usually referred to as the "Press Book" on the [Corps' website](#). While Congress has prohibited itself from the practice known as earmarking, the President is not similarly restricted and has always listed each study, construction, or maintenance initiative by name, as well as a variety of Corps programs that are also listed by name.

An example of the Press Book's format follows this explanation. It lists all information by state and provides a variety of columns. Find your state and then look first at the column titled "Project". It lists the name of the study or project. Sometimes the listed name may differ from a common name used locally. However, the Corps name listed here and in other documents is the one by which the study or construction was authorized by Congress. The next most important columns list dollar amounts that are missing the final three zeroes. They also indicate whether the funding is provided in the Corps' "Investigations", "Construction", or "Operation & Maintenance" accounts. Should you be looking for a construction project in Wyoming, for example, and not see it listed in the Press Book, all hope is not lost. Congress has prohibited itself from adding projects by name, but it can and does provide "Additional Funding" for different categories of Corps efforts.

If your project is listed in the Press Book, it can be zeroed out by Congress, or the amount requested by the President can be raised or lowered. If your project is not listed in the Press Book, the only way it can be funded is through the "Additional Funding" provided by Congress. The decision of how to allocate all "Additional Funding" is made by the White House Office of Management and Budget – the same office that put together the President's budget earmarks. While Corps Districts, Divisions and ultimately Headquarters make recommendations to the Administration via the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, it is OMB that makes the call on the final list, referred to as a "Corps Work Plan." Congress specifies when the Work Plan must be released to the public. While the Appropriations Committees are usually given a look at the list just before release, they cannot take any action to approve or disapprove the final Work Plan. Work Plans can be found on the [Corps' website](#)

Questions? Email howard.marlowe@coastalstrategies.net

PROJECT	BUSINESS LINE	TRUST FUND	INVESTIGATIONS	CONSTRUCTION / HMTF / IWTF	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE / HMTF		
					OPERATION	MAINTENANCE	TOTAL
ALABAMA							
ALABAMA RIVER LAKES, AL	E,F,H,N,R				6,396,000	7,494,000	13,890,000
APALACHICOLA, CHATTAHOOCHEE AND FLINT RIVERS, GA, AL & FL (See Georgia)	E,N,R						
BLACK WARRIOR AND TOMBIGBEE RIVERS, AL	E,N,R	HMTF			10,754,000	15,199,000	25,953,000
ESCAMBIA AND CONECUH RIVERS, FL & AL (See Florida)							
GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, AL	N				635,000	4,654,633	5,289,633
JIM WOODRUFF LOCK AND DAM, LAKE SEMINOLE, FL, AL & GA (See Florida)	E,H,N,R						
MOBILE HARBOR, AL	N		700,000				
MOBILE HARBOR, AL	N	HMTF			1,054,000	24,977,000	26,031,000
PERDIDO PASS CHANNEL, AL	N	HMTF			5,000	-	5,000
TENNESSEE - TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY WILDLIFE MITIGATION, AL & MS	N				1,800,000	-	1,800,000
TENNESSEE - TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY, AL & MS	E,N,R				17,517,000	19,872,000	37,389,000
WALTER F GEORGE LOCK AND DAM, AL & GA	E,H,N,R				5,283,000	3,816,000	9,099,000
WEST POINT DAM AND LAKE, GA & AL (See Georgia)	E,F,H,N,R						
ALASKA							
ANCHORAGE HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	10,485,000	10,485,000
APOON MOUTH OF YUKON, AK 1/	N		46,000				
AURORA HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	75,000	75,000
CHENA RIVER LAKES, AK	E,F,R				5,505,000	1,731,000	7,236,000
DILLINGHAM HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	875,000	875,000
ELIM SUBSISTENCE HARBOR, AK 2/	N		100,000				
HOMER HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	615,000	615,000
JUNEAU HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	75,000	75,000
NINILCHIK HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	650,000	650,000
NOME HARBOR, AK	N	HMTF			-	2,220,000	2,220,000
ST. MICHAEL CANAL, AK 1/	N		50,000				