



Planning Associates Program 2008

PA Team: The Great White Shark Team

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15 September 2008

Critical Think Piece (CTP) Title: Addressing the Needs of the Nation's Water Resource Challenges: Establishment of the Interagency Watershed Tiger Team

"A Top-Down and Bottom-Up Strategy for Integrated Water Resource Solutions and Sparking a Cultural Change"

CTP Abstract:

The current expanding demands and challenges to the Nation's water resources have created the critical necessity for an integrated water resource strategy that uses a watershed planning perspective. The timing for this need is in alignment with the awareness of the value of addressing problems holistically in a systems context on the expanding demands of water resources constrained by limited funds and resources. A watershed perspective requires a cultural shift to look beyond the single agency and single project mentality, and to look into an inclusive process using collaboration and cooperation among agencies, partners, and the public. The Corps is one of the few multi-purpose agencies that is aligned to help lead this challenge, but no one agency or group can accomplish the current and future water resource challenges alone; agencies must work together with a cumulative holistic approach.

This Critical Think Piece proposes to address the two challenges of integrated watershed planning and cultural change in processes with the creation

of the Interagency Watershed Tiger Team (Tiger Team). The Tiger Team leverages resources from around the Corps as well as other agency expertise and resources. The Tiger Team expands professional and technical expertise by creating a national learning environment across business lines, jurisdictional boundaries, and professional areas. The success of the Tiger Team depends upon active participation from multiple agencies and across diverse experiences and resources. The Tiger Team is creating a cultural change as it increases the capability of the Corps and other agency teams to succeed in current and future watershed and water resource challenges. Once the cultural change is in place, the Tiger Team can be dissolved.