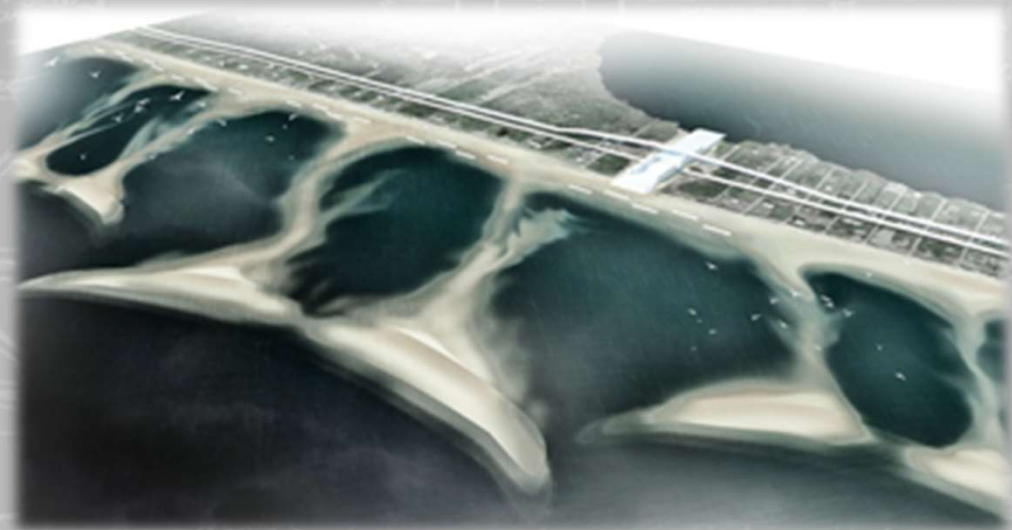


BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGE MATERIAL

Kate Skelton, Coastal Navigation Program Manager
Navigation Section
USACE Headquarters

AAPA Harbors and Navigation Committee Fall
Meeting
November 10, 2022



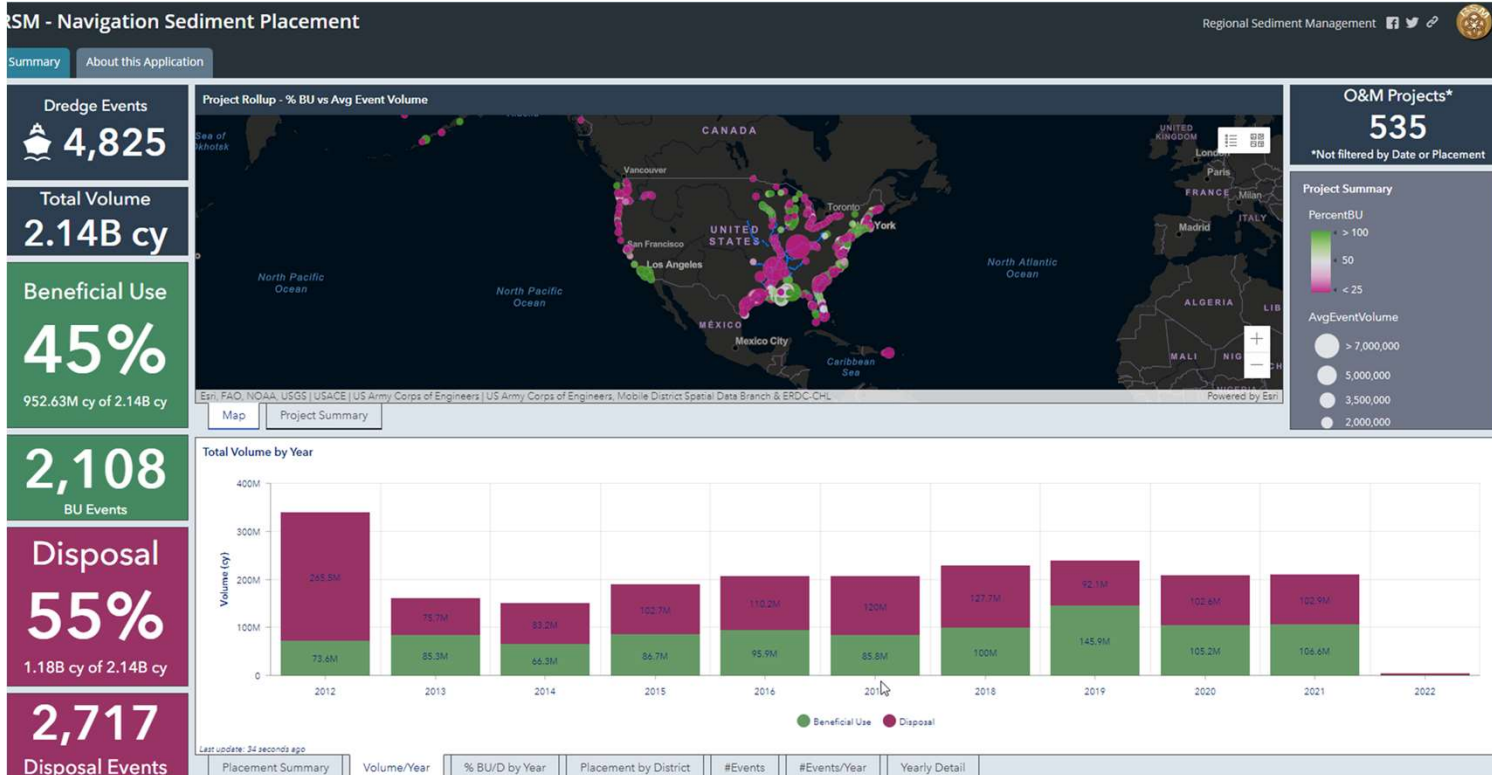
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of Engineers**®



PLACEMENT OF DREDGED MATERIAL



Dredge Disposal (typical year)

~ 270 million cubic yards regulated under the Clean Water Act

Revolutionize USACE Beneficial Use (BU)

- Goal of 70% material placed beneficially (currently at 40-45%)

Regional Sediment Management

Engineering with Nature

WRDA 2020 Section 125 Implementation Guidance

WRDA 16 Section 1122 Projects

USACE tracks dredging data through the Dredge Information System and uses the Regional Sediment Management (RSM) viewer to track and analyze disposal of dredged material across the enterprise. (<https://arcg.is/1SG8b4>)

Note: Graphic shows actual 2012-2021 data from across the enterprise



WHAT IS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL?



Authorized Beneficial Uses:

- Land creation
- Land improvement
- Berm creation
- Shore protection
- Replacement fill
- Beach nourishment
- Capping
- Construction materials
- Aquaculture
- Topsoil
- Wildlife habitats
- Fisheries improvement
- Wetland restoration
- Others



Beneficial uses are defined as “productive and positive uses of dredged material, which cover broad use categories ranging from fish and wildlife habitat development, to human recreation, to industrial/commercial uses” (Engineer Manual 1110-2-5025, 2015).



HOW ARE WE INCREASING BENEFICIAL USE?



- Enterprise-wide goal to more than double environmentally acceptable beneficial use that delivers safe, reliable, cost efficient, sustainable, and resilient projects.
- Quantify and document current practices in Navigation projects to showcase success and highlight potential opportunities to increase beneficial use.
- Develop innovative solutions and partnerships
- Examine and update our existing policies
- Identify and address challenges – beneficial use obstacles root cause analysis

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1 DIVISION AA—WATER RE-
2 SOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT
3 OF 2020

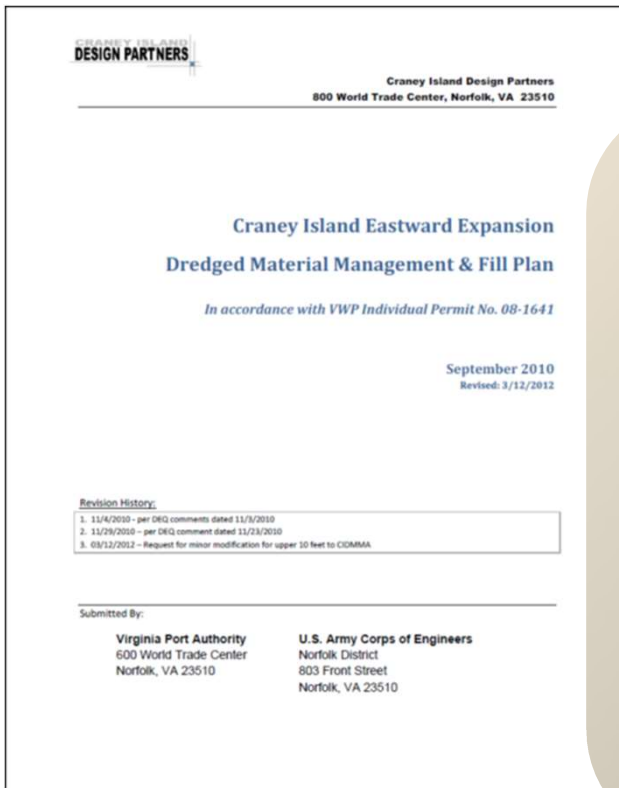
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1 information about the request and the reasons for
2 the Secretary's determination.'.
3 SEC. 124. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MULTIPURPOSE
4 PROJECTS.
5 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary, in co-
6 ordination with non-Federal interests, should maximize
7 the development, evaluation, and recommendation of
8 project alternatives for future water resources develop-
9 ment projects that produce multiple project benefits, such
10 as navigation, flood risk management, and ecosystem res-
11 toration benefits, including through the use of natural or
12 nature-based features and the beneficial use of dredged
13 material.
14 SEC. 125. BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL;
15 DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.
16 (a) NATIONAL POLICY ON THE BENEFICIAL USE OF
17 DREDGED MATERIAL.—
18 (1) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United
19 States for the Corps of Engineers to maximize the
20 beneficial use, in an environmentally acceptable
21 manner, of suitable dredged material obtained from
22 the construction or operation and maintenance of
23 water resources development projects.
24 (2) PLACEMENT OF DREDGED MATERIALS.—



DREDGE MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS (DMMP)



A DMMP evaluates dredged material placement alternatives and identifies the base plan placement option.



20 Year DMMPs

- Time consuming (2+ years to complete)
- Large reports
- Expensive (can cost \$2M+)
- Inflexible
- 20+ year outlook
- Beneficial Use and Regional Sediment Management difficult

5 Year Regional DMMPs

- Dynamic/Flexible
- Operational report length
- Active Stakeholder engagement
- Funding informed
- Realistic out-year planning to incorporate optimization
- Maximize Beneficial Use

WHAT IS THE FEDERAL STANDARD?



33 CFR 335.7 Definitions.

“Federal standard means the dredged material disposal alternative or alternatives identified by the Corps which represent the least costly alternatives consistent with sound engineering practices and meeting the environmental standards established by the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) evaluation process or ocean dumping criteria.”



A state's desired dredging methods, placement locations, or other requirements that exceed the federal standard can usually be accommodated to "the maximum extent practicable," so long as the state or non-federal sponsor agrees to pay any difference between the cost of implementing the federal standard and the cost of implementing the state's requirements.



SECTION 125 OF WRDA 2020



Renews the Congressional commitment to beneficial use (BU) of dredged material by:

- (a) establishing a national policy to maximize the beneficial use of material obtained from Corps projects; requiring the Corps to calculate the economic and environmental benefits of the beneficial use of dredged material when calculating the Federal Standard AND amending section 204(d) of WRDA 1992 to direct that other-than-least-cost placements of dredged material for certain purposes be funded using appropriations available for construction or operation and maintenance of the water resources development project producing the dredged material
- (b) increasing the number of beneficial use of dredged material demonstration projects to 35 projects,
- (c) directing the Corps to develop five-year regional dredged material management plans, and
- (d) emphasizing greater coordination across the Corps' dredging contracts.



SECTION 125(a) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE



Section 125(a) Implementation Guidance issued 7 November 2022

- USACE may cost-share in the incremental cost of beneficial use placement of dredged material above the Federal Standard base plan during construction or O&M of a Federal navigation project under Section 204(d) of WRDA 1992.
- The \$10M per placement event limit still applies, placements may be periodic or reoccurring, each placement must be justified.
- If authorized AER or beach renourishment project has capacity for dredge material, AER or Beach nourishment project funds may be used for the Federal share of the incremental costs, project funds will not count towards the \$10M limit.
- A detailed incremental analysis is only required for projects where the Federal share of the incremental costs are 25% or more than the base plan costs.

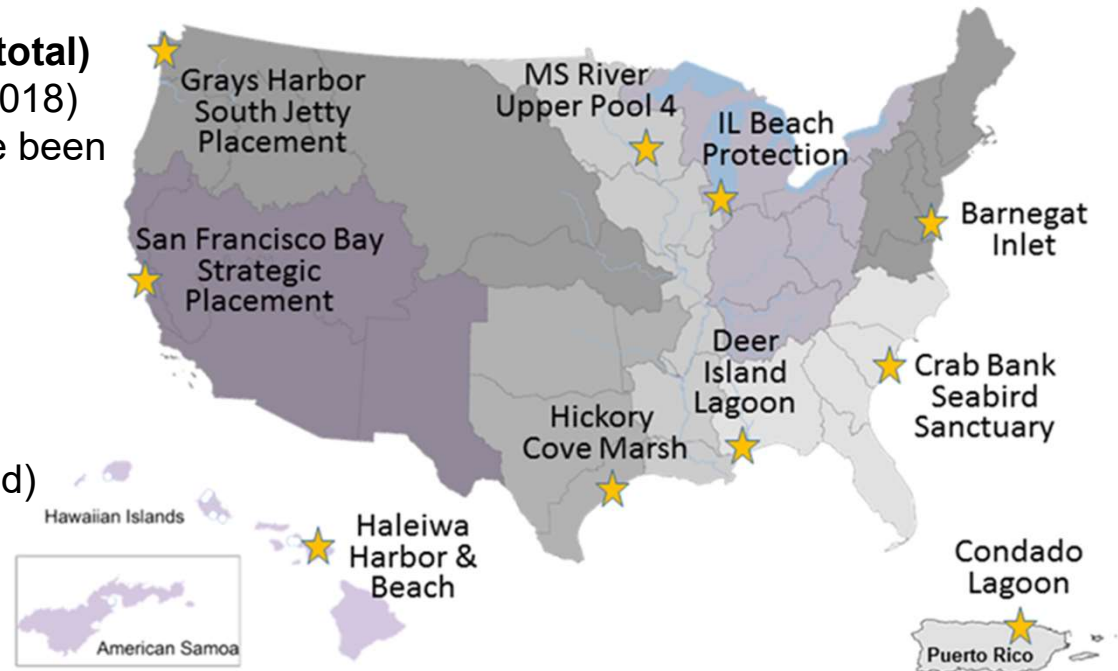


SECTION 1122 UPDATE



Section 125(b) adds 10 Sec. 1122 projects (35 total)

- Implementation guidance is complete (3 Jan 2018) and will be updated after lessons learned have been captured from the first 10 pilot projects.
- 3 Projects Completed
 - Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary, SC
 - Deer Island Lagoon, MS
 - Barnegat Inlet, NJ
- 5 Projects Work in FY23
 - Mississippi Upper Pool 4, WI (contract awarded)
 - Beach Protection in Four IL Communities, IL
 - San Francisco Strategic Placement, CA
 - Haleiwa Beach Restoration, HI
 - Condado Lagoon, PR
- 1 Project working through preferred plan, anticipate FY24 award, pending funds
 - Hickory Cove, TX
- 1 Project Terminated
 - Grays Harbor South Jetty, WA





SECTION 125(c) IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE



Section 125(c) IG released October 2021

Supplemental Guidance for 5-yr DMMPs released July 2022

- Easy to understand and implement
- Emphasizes stakeholder engagement
- Clearly defines BU per EM 5025
- Integrates budget package submittals to show regionalization, optimization and cross BL opportunities
- Retains Federal Standard (FS), requires true cost of dredging combined with comprehensive benefits
- Establishes Beneficial Use Decision Document Integration (BUDDI) that is an addendum to the 20yr DMMP, can correct the FS, add BU sites, extend disposal capacity without reopening full 20-yr level study
- 5-yr approval at Division to ensure regional coordination



Baltimore District, Stakeholder Engagement and BU projects



Questions?



Dredging project manager monitoring dredged sediment placement at the Jekyll Creek Marsh Restoration and Wetland Habitat development Beneficial Use of Dredged Material project, Georgia. (Photo by Clay McCoy, USACE Jacksonville)