



Beneficial Use Innovation for Dredged Material

Dredging Operations Environmental Research (DOER) Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Focus Area

Dredged Material Management

Problem

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) currently uses less than 30% of the dredged material (DM) from navigation channels and waterways for beneficial purposes. Recognizing the value of DM as a critical natural resource, on January 27, 2023, the Chief of Engineers, LTG Scott Spellmon, released a USACE-wide directive to increase beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) to 70% by 2030 (70/30 Goal). This directive emphasized the need to identify the barriers to beneficial use (BU) and, develop a “roadmap to success” for implementation.

Study Description

With the 70/30 Goal as a focal point, this study seeks to identify and address key barriers to BU, identify key contributors required for successful implementation and collaboration, summarize lessons learned and best management practices (BMPs), and collaborate on enterprise-wide implementation. To initiate this effort, this study will solicit input and feedback from a wide variety of key stakeholders and industry experts and government professionals—engineers, scientists, technologists, policy makers, regulators, contractors, consultants, manufacturers, and local, state, and federal partners—via multisector working groups and engagement strategies (such as workshops or panels, specific white papers, etc.) to identify major hurdles limiting the widespread use of BUDM, provide solutions to overcoming those hurdles, and identify the research and development needs to provide the pathway to successfully increase BUDM. This collaborative process will culminate in the development of a toolkit of resources for USACE Headquarters, Divisions, and Districts to utilize and implement to achieve the Chief’s 70/30 Goal.

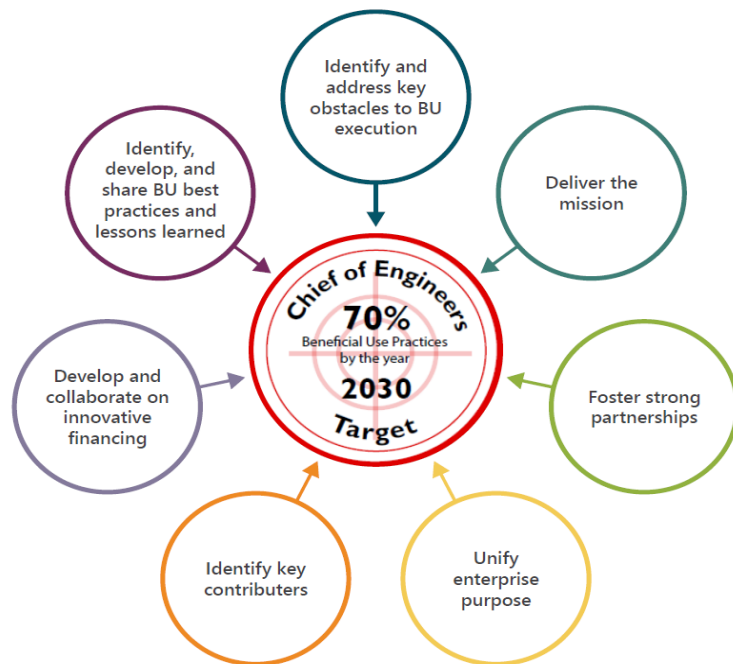


Figure 1. Schematic of USACE 70/30 BU Program Vision

Products

To present findings and a path forward, the following work products will be developed into a toolkit of resources for USACE navigation project managers and staff: 1) A series of technical notes and technical reports outlining the hurdles to the effective utilization of BUDM nationwide and potential solutions; 2) BU Atlas to showcase past and ongoing BU projects in USACE Districts; 3) Identification and execution of research and development needs advancing BUDM; and 4) Various visual graphics, such as flow charts, decision-trees, and technical tools, such as technology innovations, for USACE-wide distribution as “easy references” for Districts during project planning, development, and implementation.

Summary

The aim of this effort is to further the enterprise-wide beneficial use of dredged material by identifying it as a resource for sustainable, nature-based, cost-effective solution for managing our navigation channels and waterways, while fostering strong partnerships, collaborations, and relationships with stakeholders and agencies.



Balancing operational and environmental initiatives and meeting complex challenges of dredging and dredged material placement in support of the navigation mission.