Title

Synthesizing Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDM) Efforts Undertaken by USACE into EWN ProMap.

Background

Since the enactment of Section 204 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act and subsequent amendments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has progressively used dredge material beneficially for myriad of uses ranging from construction and agriculture activities to the creation and enhancement of entire ecosystems as well as remedial activities such as beach nourishment and environmental contamination mitigation. However, documentation of BUDM efforts is not coordinated among USACE districts and at this time there is no centralized repository for BUDM project information. Thus, it is difficult to evaluate the breadth and evolution of USACE-BUDM efforts and synthesize data to inform project planning and development.

Objectives

This research strives to develop a centralized and user-friendly repository for USACE-sponsored BUDM project information that will be integrated into the Engineering with Nature web-map viewer (EWN ProMap) and be made available for download. Database entries for each BUDM project will include detailed information regarding the goals, outcomes, techniques employed, and cost of these efforts undertaken by USACE districts and their partners.

Approach

We will incorporate all available project information (i.e., project location, volume of material, cost, type of beneficial use, etc.) into a searchable database and corresponding map layer to be integrated within the online EWN ProMap viewer. Based on the quantity and quality of the data gathered during the initial phase of the project, we will directly engage district representatives to acquire additional project information not available on public websites. Further, we intend to develop a mechanism to update existing project information and add future BUDM project information and plan to align with Beneficial Use website update efforts.

Outcomes

The main products being developed by this effort are a searchable repository (database) of BUDM project information and corresponding GIS-layer to be incorporated within the EWN ProMap viewer. We will document our efforts by producing ERDC Technical documents and at least one Journal Article. Further, following the initial phase of this effort, we intend to organize a webinar with district counterparts to 1) familiarize individuals with the database and map viewer, 2) identify data gaps and missing project information, and 3) receive recommendations on potential approaches to keep the database and GIS-layer up-to-date as existing BUDM projects evolve and new projects are implemented.

Points of Contact: Safra Altman
safra.altman@usace.army.mil
(601) 634-3435