

# Beneficial Use in the USACE



KATIE BRUTSCHE, PHD  
HQ USACE BU PROGRAM MANAGER



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

# Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program Vision



### Dredge Material is a valuable resource

- Increased dredging investments create beneficial use of dredge material management opportunities
- Benefits the ecosystem, economy, and can effectively and efficiently deliver the USACE mission.



### There are opportunities to expand beneficial use within the Federal Standard

- Operational strategy should inherently include beneficial use placement options.
- If material is needed to implement a project, beneficial use from dredging operations should be considered as an option in the planning and execution strategy.



### Partner collaboration is key to our success

- Innovative pursuit, both internally and externally, with partners and stakeholders will:
  - Maximize available solutions, strategies, and tools
  - Develop and apply new approaches and technologies

**National Policy for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material**

Congressionally established by section 125 of WRDA 2020 in doing so, Congress has underscored the importance of the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program

*Dredged material is valued as a resource not to be wasted but used for benefits to the ecosystem, economy, and project delivery*



Address key obstacles to execution

Over the next 3-5 years, the Corps will expand the beneficial use of dredged material program. Achieving this vision will require all of us to be innovative and work alongside our partners, both internally and externally, to ensure we are finding the best use of sediments derived from our Navigation mission.

Identify, develop, and share beneficial use practices

Collaborate on innovative financing

Identify Key Contributors

Unify Enterprise Purpose

Foster Strong Partnerships

Deliver the Mission





# HOW DO WE GET THERE?

- Hiring multi-functional program manager in HQ Nav to lead initiative
  - Establishing BU POCs in each MSC/District
- Quantify and document current practices in Navigation projects to showcase success and highlight potential opportunities to increase beneficial use.
  - Create consistent classification scheme
- Examine and update our existing policies
  - Coordination with internal and external stakeholders on necessary policy assessments
- Develop innovative solutions and partnerships
  - EWN, RSM, Section 1122, CAP 204
- Communication and collaboration with stakeholders
- Identify and address challenges – beneficial use obstacles root cause analysis



# WHAT IS BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL?

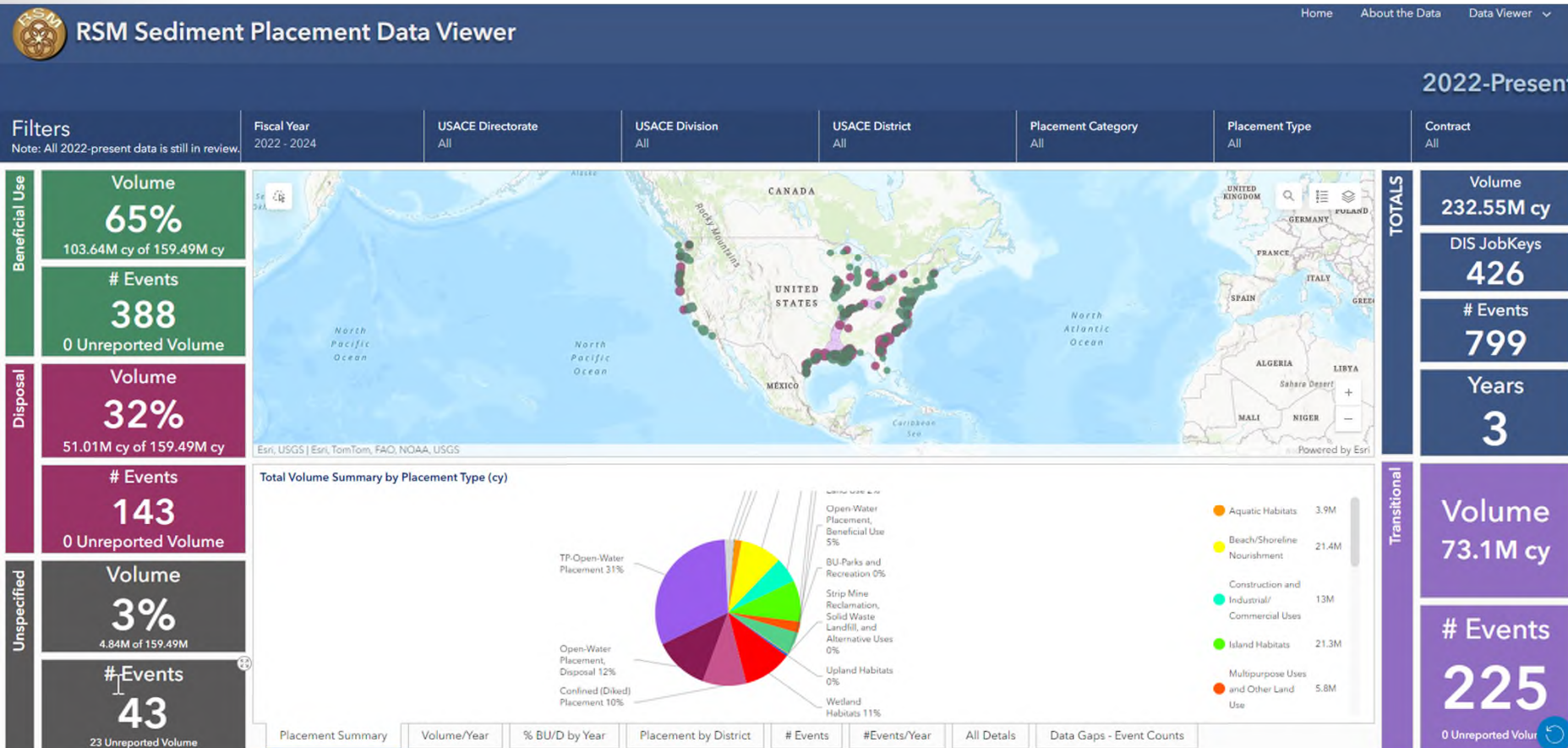
## Authorized Beneficial Uses:

- 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).

# TRACKING BENEFICIAL USE



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

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 2022-2024 data from across the enterprise that is currently in QA/QC.



# CURRENT KEY EFFORTS

- **Policy Guidance/Update**
  - Federal Standard and Environmental Benefits Workshop
    - Implement WRDA 2020 Section 125(a)2(A)(B)
    - Environmental Advisory Board
  - Continued implementation Section 1122 projects
  - “Expanding BUDM in the USACE” – DCW memo 28 Aug
- **Recent Reports**
  - WRDA2022 Section 8130(a) – Strategic Plan for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
  - Coastal Resilience Report – Requested under RSM line item
  - “Hurdles to Beneficial Use: Root Cause Analysis” – ERDC Technical Note
- **Strategic Communications**
  - Beneficial Use Leadership Team and Working Group
  - Website
  - Placemat, Storyboards, Slide Deck

