



Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredged Material and Watershed Managers Together

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Breakout Session 6-3 Report out:

Where do we need to go?

What are benefits of coordination?

- Combine funding from several sources
- Efficiency of effort/process (internal and external)
- Equitable use of resources (money and institutional effort) and natural resources
- Improve communication
- Broader knowledge base (including the public)
- Sustainable improved environment, economy, and management
- Avoiding polarization from conflicting interests / avoid future lawsuits
- Engage upstream contributors in resolution of the problem
- Add new ideas (Enable new approaches and opportunities to problem solving)

What are challenges for coordinating?

- Move from project-specific focus to a system/watershed/regional focus (Project \$ linked to region / marketing)
- Regulatory / legislative barriers
- Nurture stakeholders – engagement, education, avoid polarization
- Funding of regional solutions (Who pays?)
- Turnover of players
- Developing trust amongst groups with different interests – institutional culture, language
- Effectively communicating
- Cross-education between upstream and downstream
- Promote regional thinking
- Identify honest brokers

What needs to be coordinated?

- Sediment budget
- Goals and interests of stakeholders
- Opportunities – money, projects, grants
- Planning efforts
- Schedules
- Budget cycles
- Everything
- Technical capabilities and data sources
- Outcomes and performance measures

Who Needs to be at Table

- Tribes
- Regulated community
- USDA / Natural Resource Conservation Service / Forest Service
- Agricultural producers
- Advocacy groups
- Decision makers
- Informed interested parties
- Recreational groups
- Pay attention to all divisions within agencies
- Legislative staff
- Local watershed groups
- Regulators
- Land owners
- Real estate developers (inclusively)

What are the steps to initiate and improve coordination?

- Identify / designate / create organizational leader (skills needed: authority and people and decision-making skills)
- Identify potentially interested regional or watershed parties and potential conflicts
- Establish relationships between parties pre-emptively (before setting agenda, goals, process)
- Hold scoping meeting to identify interested parties
- Build on existing working groups or coalitions
- Identify problems (listening projects)
- Define goals, mission, and process
- Identify opportunities, challenges, and roles for involved parties
- Find mechanism to hold group together (e.g., MOU)
- Build local capacity