



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

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Breakout Session 6-6 Report out:

Where do we need to go?

What are benefits of coordination?

- Beneficial use of dredged material
- Downstream benefits
- Different interests attract various means of funding
- Broad support helps with funding
- Reduce litigation
- Reduce or prevent dredging
- Restoration using BMPs
- Education and outreach
- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Implement restoration projects that improve groundwater and aquifers
- Reduce flooding
- Protect private land
- Improve water quality
- Streamlining permitting processes
- All challenges are reasonable for benefits
- Planning can deal with challenges
- Sharing experiences among watersheds

What are challenges for coordinating?

- Layers of administration
- Money isn't available – “Iraq”
- Getting people together and laying out ideas
- Liability issues with regard to quality of material
- Time it takes to bring community together and to assess the watershed
- Funding it takes to implement projects
- Permitting
- Defining beneficial use
- Effective communication
- Developing a common vision
- Art of compromise
- Timing of projects for remediation
- How to reach affected/interested parties (i.e., individual homeowners)
- Educate public

What, who, and where needs coordination?

- Funding and communication between agencies
- Alternatives and options
- All aspects of the plan and implementation of it
- Competing regulatory authorities with regard to ESA and special interests
- Shared leadership
- Dredging managers and land use managers
- Uncertainties and risks
- Land users, land owners, businesses, agencies, local government, tribes, state agencies, regulators, citizen groups, academics, resource managers, watershed councils, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)
- Legislative processes
- Laws and competing philosophies among government agencies (e.g., TMDLs)
- Common goals and objectives to identify common outcomes
- Strategic thinking in both the near term and the long term
- Upstream users, downstream users, users adjacent to the resource, users across watersheds

What are the steps to initiate and/or improve coordination?

- Share decision-making authority so that there is an agreed framework on leadership
- Contact citizen groups early and include in decision-making process
- Education and outreach
- Use all available sources of communication to reach someone (e.g., phone calls, emails, newsletter, mail, newspaper)
- Hire watershed coordinators for each watershed in your basin
- “Be in” rather than “Buy in” is ideal approach
- Clearly identify long-term benefits to stakeholders and public
- Pass national legislation for a watershed approach (NEPA-like statute)
- Provide success stories based on current data

Other information

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