BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

Current as of: January 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

Louisiana is losing coastal wetlands at an alarming rate, approximately a football field worth of land every hour. Protecting and restoring these wetlands is important to preserving the state's abundant resources and reducing risk from tropical storms and hurricanes. A promising option for restoring coastal wetlands and reducing land loss is the beneficial use of dredged material.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District has the largest annual channel Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program in the nation and dredges an average of 67 million cubic yards (mcy) of material annually during maintenance dredging of federal navigation channels.

The Corps fully supports and strives to beneficially use dredged material in all circumstances where it is practical and cost-effective, and where those beneficial uses can be accomplished in compliance with all requirements of federal law.

Project Features

The New Orleans District operates dredges throughout the waterways of south Louisiana. The majority of the Corps dredging operations take place on the Mississippi River, the Calcasieu River, and the Atchafalaya River. Dependent on the location of dredging requirements, the Corps places the dredged material at different disposal sites. Some of the beneficial use placement sites are found in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area, along the banks of South and Southwest Pass, and in the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge.

Project Status

To date, the Corps has constructed over 27,000 acres/41 square miles of land through beneficial use of dredged material.

Currently, approximately 48 percent of the suitable/available material dredged under the O&M program is used beneficially. Due to either the physical characteristics or the location of the dredged material, not all of the material dredged by the Corps is available for beneficial placement in the coastal ecosystem. However, if funding were made available, there is the potential to use up to an additional 17 million cubic yards annually to enhance coastal wetlands through marsh creation, wetland nourishment, barrier island restoration, ridge restoration, and other techniques. Anyone seeking additional information on the Corps's Beneficial Use of Dredged Material can visit the USACE New Orleans District website at ***http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/bud/bud.asp***.

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