



**U.S. ARMY**

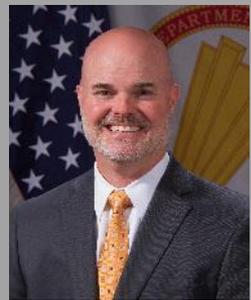
# ENGINEERING WITH NATURE FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Todd S. Bridges, Ph.D.  
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National Lead, USACE EWN Initiative

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Todd.S.Bridges@usace.army.mil

NFFA Webinar  
October 15, 2019



**US Army Corps of Engineers**



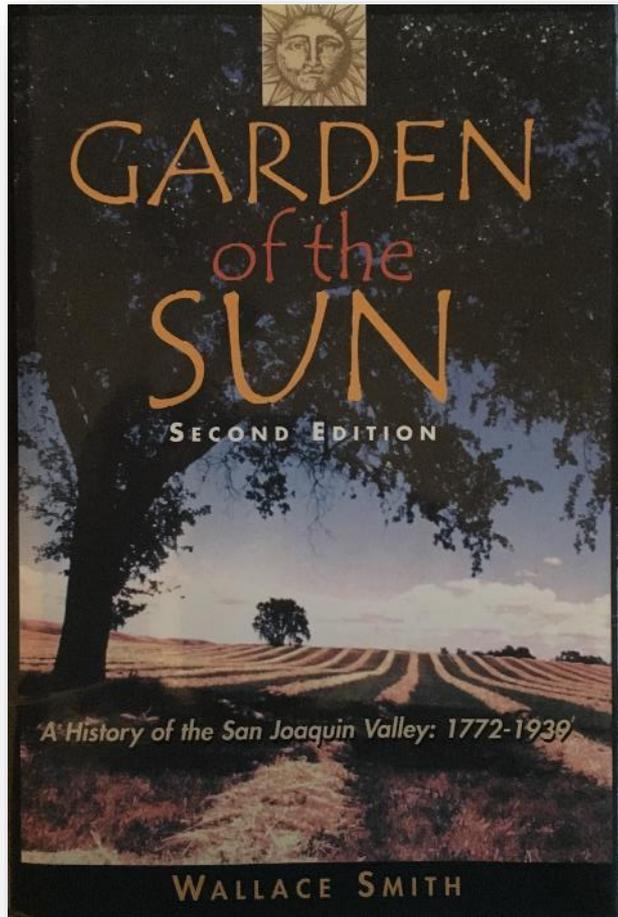
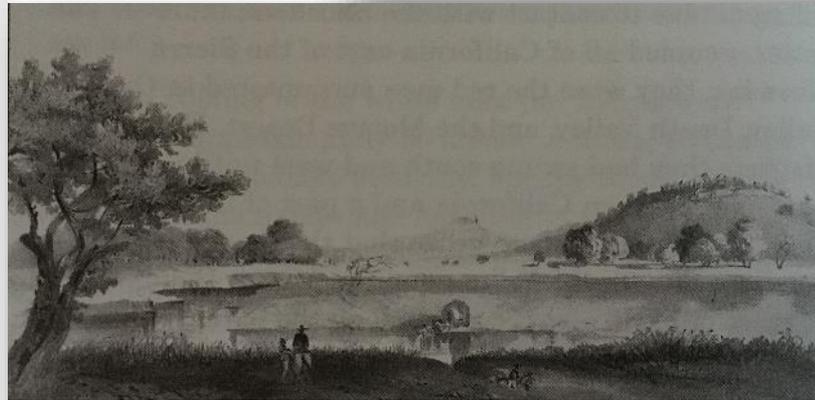
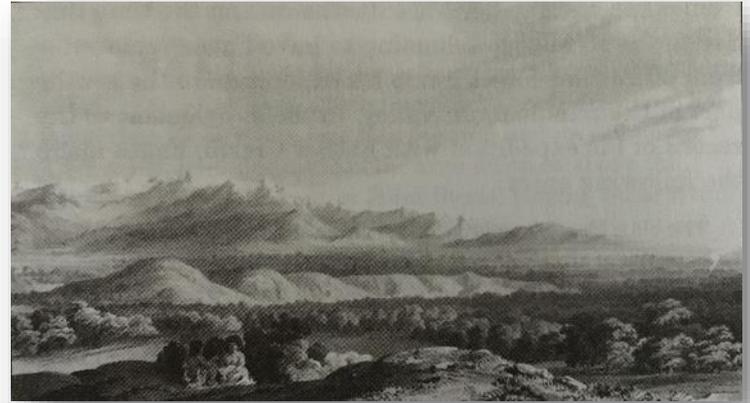
**ERDC**  
ENGINEER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER



# THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA



# THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA



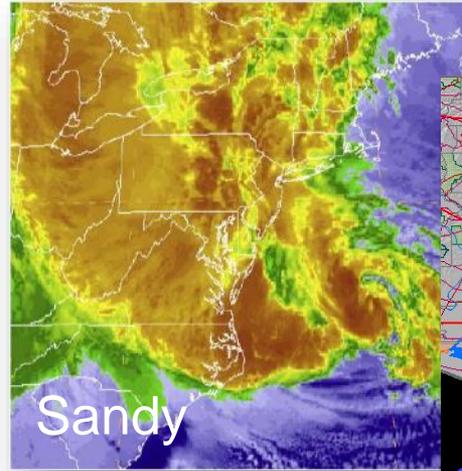
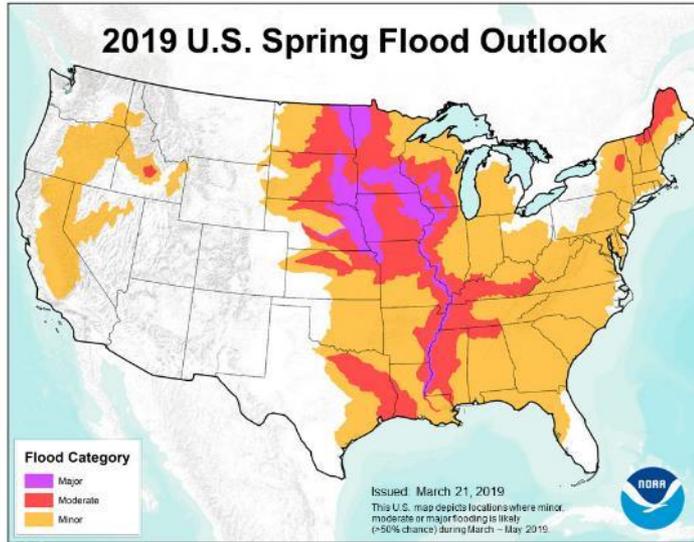
# PINE FLAT DAM; KINGS RIVER, CA



# THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

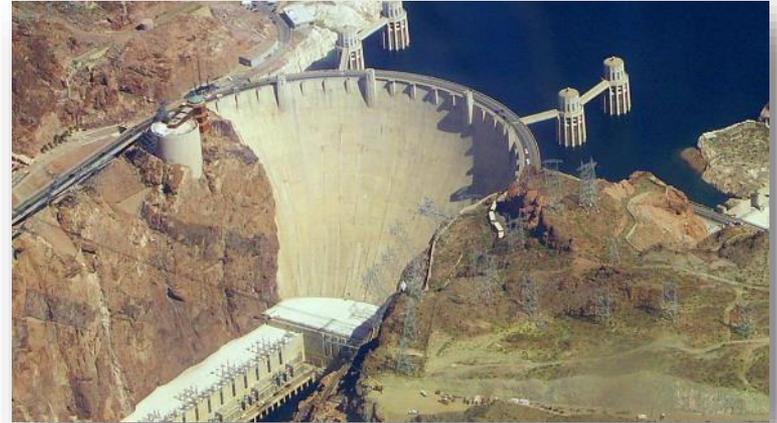


# EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR INNOVATION



# 1900-2000: THE CENTURY OF INFRASTRUCTURE (US)

- 4,071,000 miles of roadway
  - 47,182 miles in the Interstate system
- 149,136 miles of mainline rail
- 640,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines
- 614,387 bridges
- 90,580 dams
- 155,000 public drinking water systems
- 4,500 military installations
- 926 ports



# SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is achieved by efficiently investing resources to create present and future value




## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Engineering With Nature®

*...the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental and social benefits through collaborative processes.*

## Key Elements:

- Science and engineering that produces operational efficiencies
- Using natural process to maximum benefit
- Broaden and extend the benefits provided by projects
- Science-based collaborative processes to organize and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners



The Nature Conservancy 

And Many More!



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

US Army Corps of Engineers • Engineer Research and Development Center

# EWN<sup>®</sup> ACROSS USACE MISSION SPACE

## Navigation

- Strategic placement of dredged material supporting habitat development
- Habitat integrated into structures
- Enhanced Natural Recovery

## Flood Risk Management

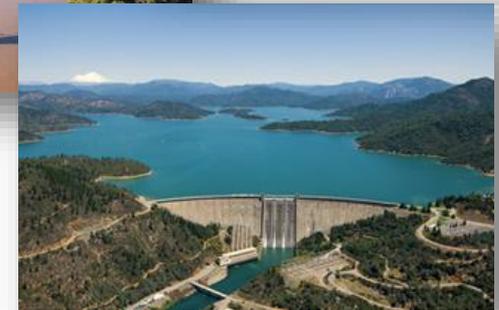
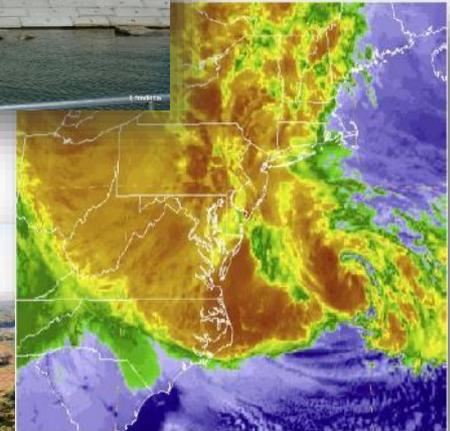
- Natural and Nature-Based Features to support FRM
- Levee setbacks

## Ecosystem Restoration

- Ecosystem services supporting engineering function
- “Natural” development of designed features

## Water Operations

- Shoreline stabilization using native plants
- Environmental flows and connectivity



# EWN<sup>®</sup> OVERVIEW

*Engineering With Nature*<sup>®</sup> began in 2010

- Engaging across USACE, other agencies, NGOs, academia, private sector, international collaborators
- Guided by a strategic plan
- Established through Proving Grounds
  - Galveston, Buffalo, Philadelphia
- Informed by focused R&D
- Demonstrated with field projects
- Advanced through partnering
- Shared by strategic communications
- Marking progress
  - 2013 Chief of Engineers Environmental Award in Natural Resources Conservation
  - 2014 USACE National Award-Green Innovation
  - 2015, 2017 WEDA Awards; 2017 DPC Award



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

# EWN PROVING GROUNDS

- Galveston District (2014)
  - Buffalo District (2014)
  - Philadelphia District (2016)
- Method
    - Identify opportunities to implement EWN across current and future programs and projects
    - Pursue opportunities through solution co-development



# USACE ENGINEERING WITH NATURE<sup>®</sup> RECEIVES *Renewable Natural Resources Foundation* 2019 Award for Outstanding Achievement



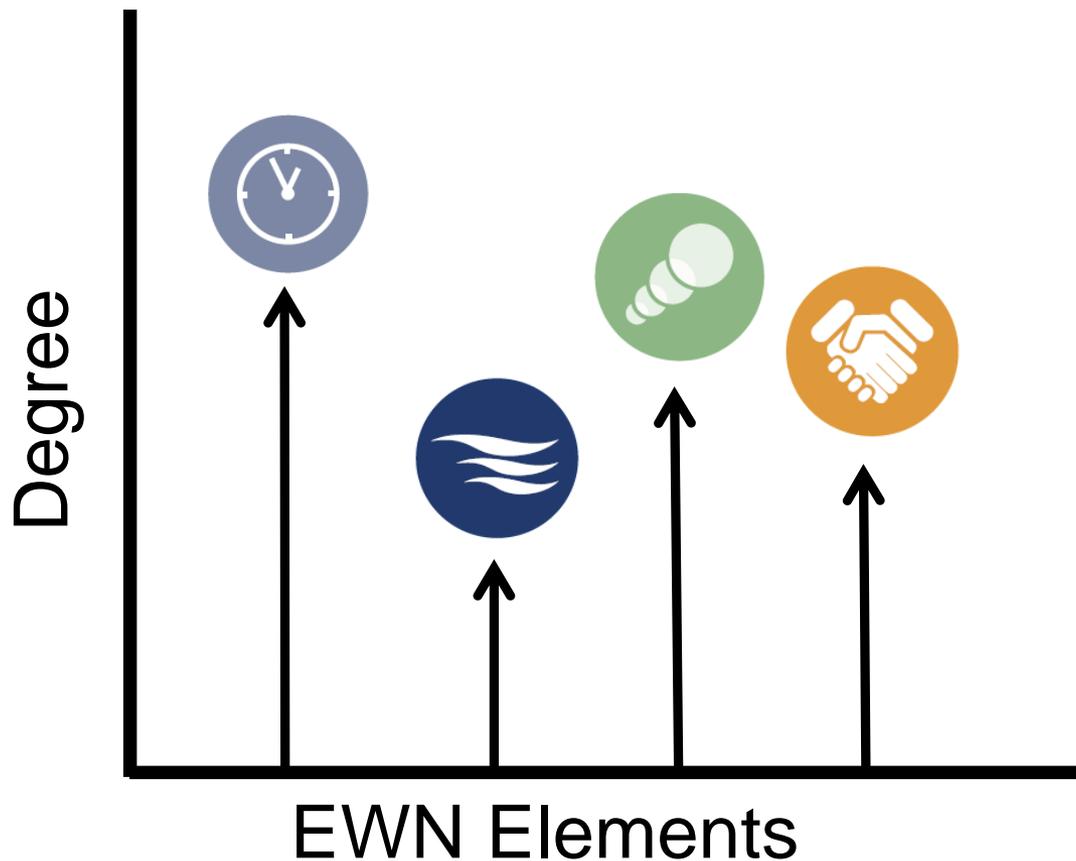
[www.rnrf.org](http://www.rnrf.org)

- RNRF
  - Founded in 1972, 501(c)(3)
  - Mission: advancing science, application, and public education in managing and conserving renewable natural resources
  - Member organizations: ASCE, AGU, AMS, AWRA, ASLA, GSA, SETAC
  - BoD composed of reps of member organizations
  - 3 annual awards



# Engineering With Nature®

## Elements



### EWN Elements

Four major elements are involved in applying EWN to develop infrastructure projects:



Using science and engineering to produce operational efficiencies



Using natural processes to maximize benefit



Increasing the value provided by projects to include social, environmental, and economic benefits



Using collaborative processes to organize, engage, and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners

# Combining Purposes to Create Value



Upper Mississippi River Training Structures: Chevrons



Loosahatchie Bar, Memphis



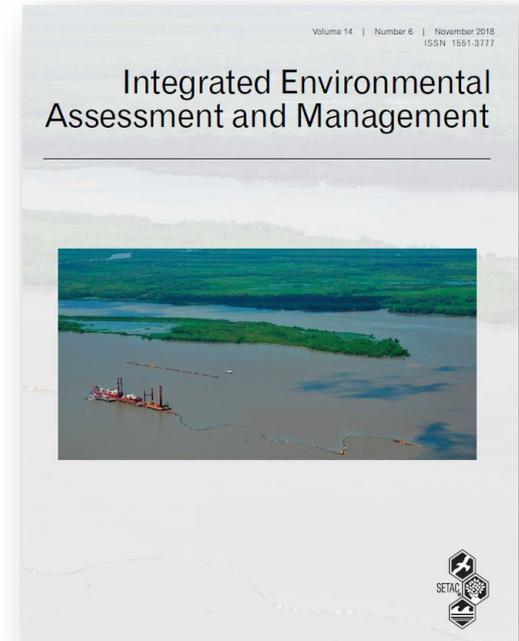
River Bendway Weirs

# HORSESHOE BEND ISLAND, ATCHAFALAYA RIVER



## Project Awards:

- 2015 WEDA Award for Environmental Excellence
- 2017 WEDA Award for CC Adaption
- 2017 DPC Award for Working, Building, and Engineering with Nature



## Quantifying Wildlife and Navigation Benefits of a Dredging Beneficial-Use Project in the Lower Atchafalaya River: A Demonstration of Engineering with Nature®

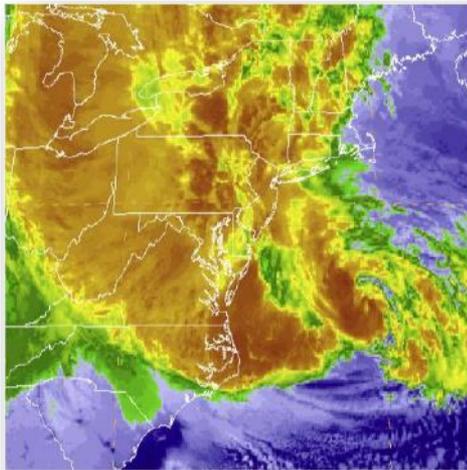
Christy M Foran,<sup>†</sup> Kelly A Burks-Copes,<sup>‡</sup> Jacob Berkowitz,<sup>‡</sup> Jeffrey Corbino,<sup>§</sup> and Burton C Suedel<sup>\*‡</sup>



# LEVERAGING NATURE FOR ENGINEERING VALUE

Following Hurricane Sandy:

- Risk industry-based tools used to quantify the economic benefits of coastal wetlands
  - Temperate coastal wetlands saved more than \$625 million in flood damages.
  - In Ocean County, New Jersey, salt marsh conservation can significantly reduce average annual flood losses by more than 20%.



## COASTAL WETLANDS AND FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

Using Risk Industry-based Models  
to Assess Natural Defenses in the Northeastern USA

October 2016



# USACE PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT: EWN IN BACK BAY NEW JERSEY



Mordecai Island

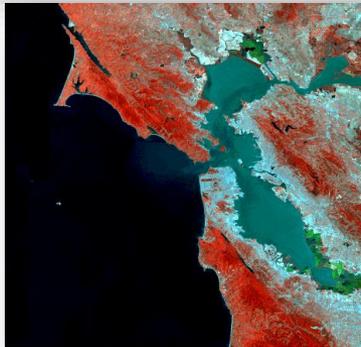


Stone Harbor



Avalon

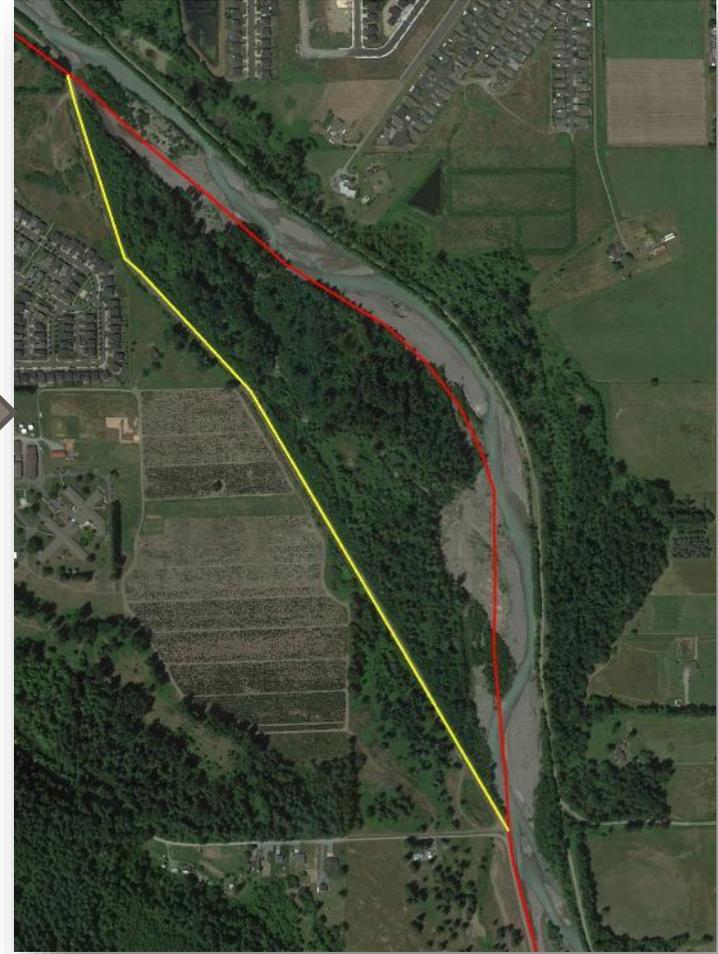
# HAMILTON AND SEARS POINT WETLANDS SAN PABLO BAY, CA



# SOLDIER'S HOME LEVEE SETBACK

April 2006

June 2016



# HUMBER ESTUARY; ALKBOROUGH, UK (INCREASED FLOOD STORAGE CAPACITY)





# KRUIBEKE, SCHELDT RIVER BELGIUM

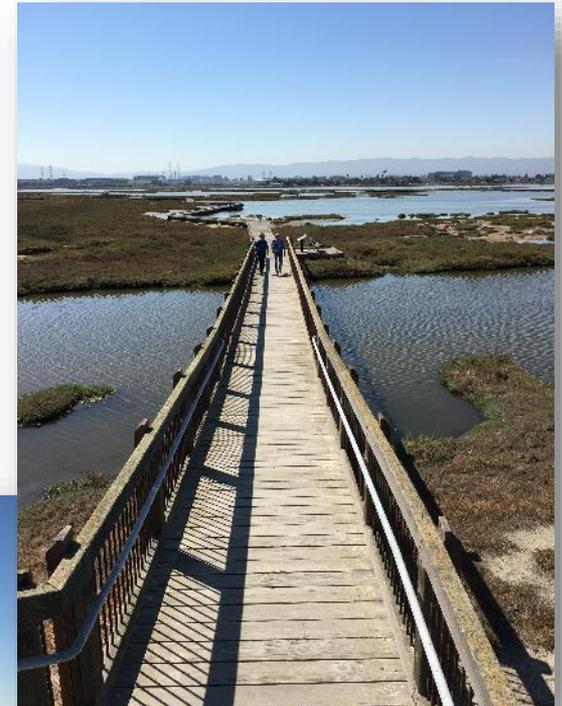


Dominiek Decleyre

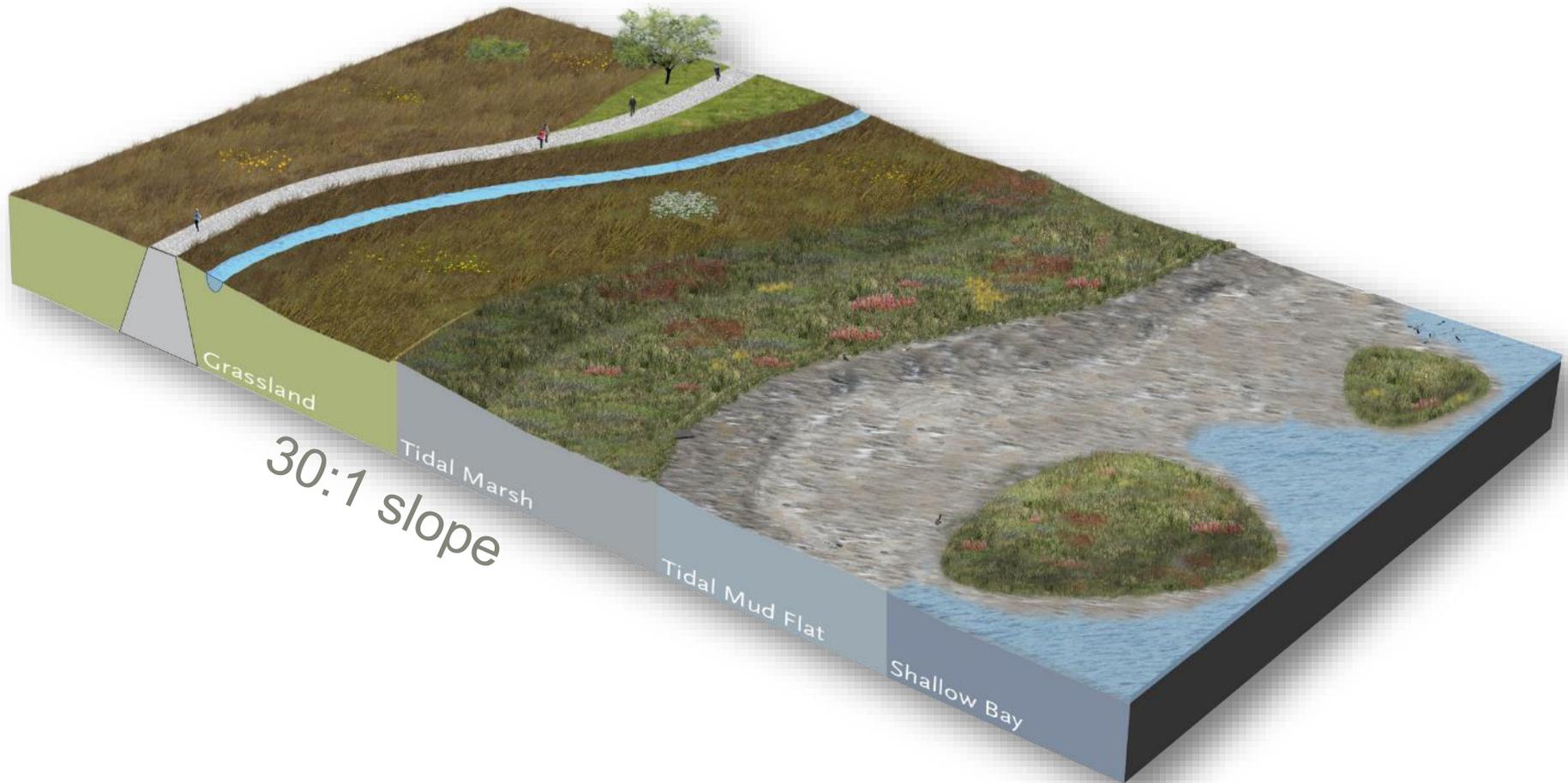


# US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE: DON EDWARDS SAN FRANCISCO BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

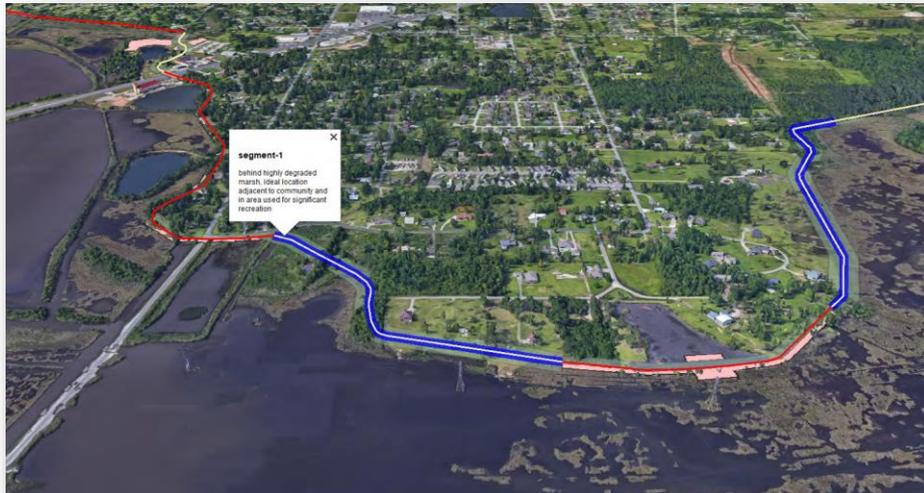
- Innovative 30:1 “horizontal levee” design to provide SLR adaptation
- Thin-layer Placement of sediment
- Strategic Placement of sediment
- Other opportunities



# “HORIZONTAL LEVEE” CONCEPT



# SYSTEMS: SABINE TO GALVESTON



3C HORIZONTAL LEVELS



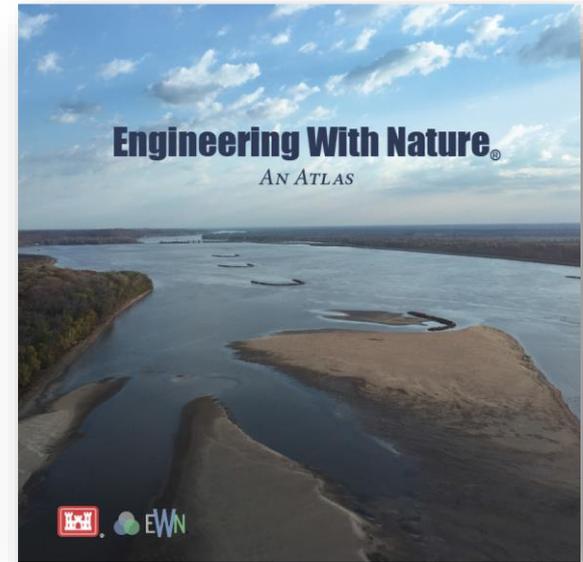
# EWN ATLAS LAUNCH EVENT

10:30-12:00

January 16, 2019

National Building Museum  
Washington, D.C.

“Engineering With Nature is an important initiative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.” James Dalton, USACE Director Civil Works



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

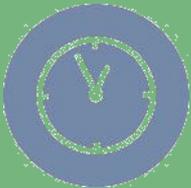
# Call for Project Nominations

## *Engineering With Nature®: An Atlas – Volume 2*

### Publication Launch fall 2020!

## Evaluation Criteria

Using science and engineering to produce operational efficiencies.



Using natural processes to maximum benefit.



Increasing the value provided by the project to include social, environmental, and economic benefits.



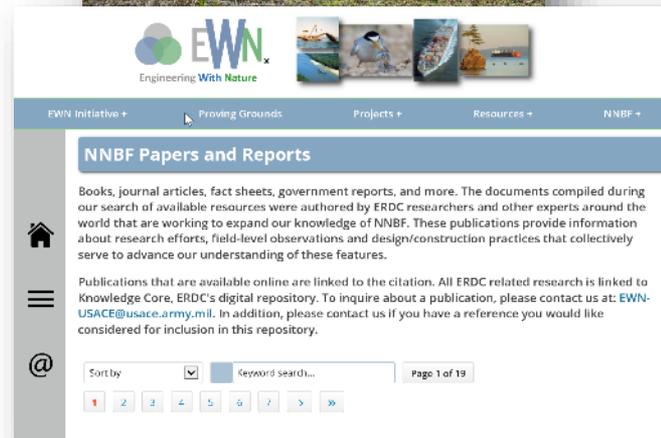
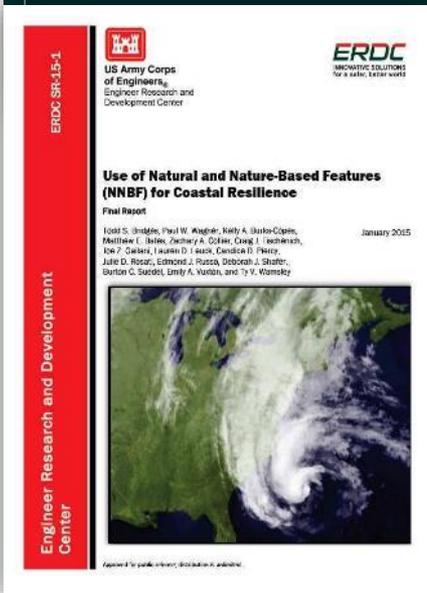
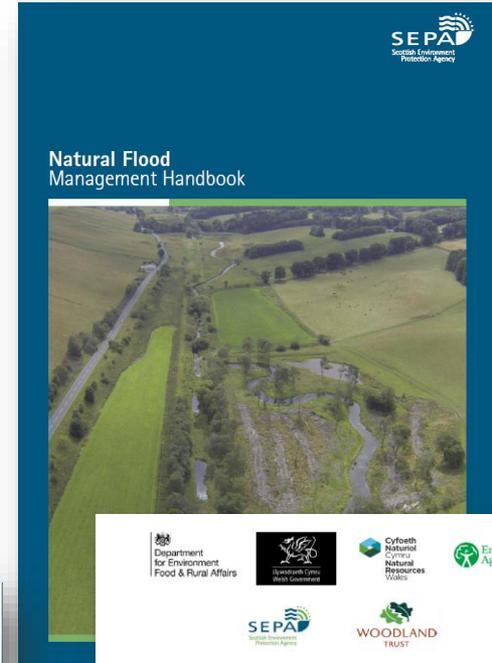
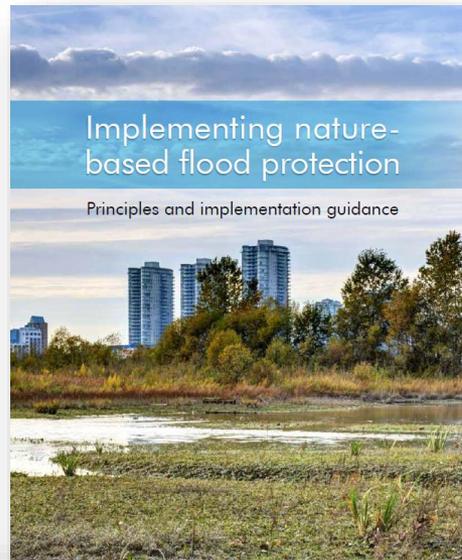
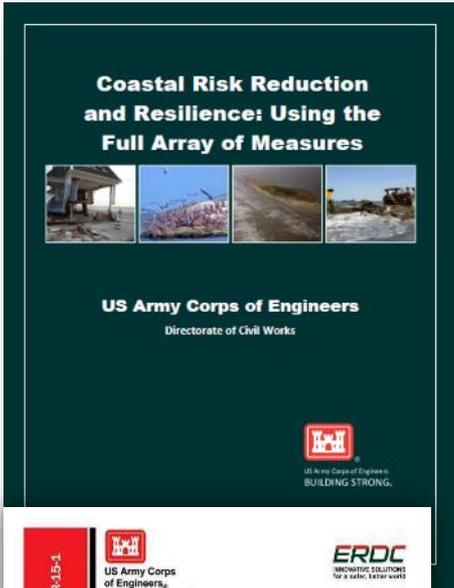
Using collaborative processes to organize and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners.



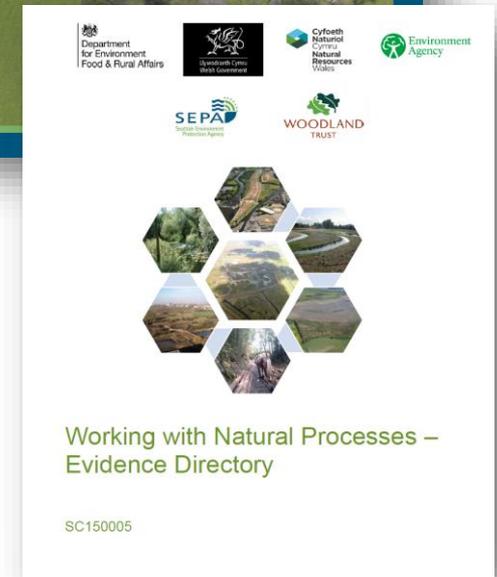
[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)

<https://ewn.el.erdc.dren.mil/atlasv2.html>

# NATURE-BASED GUIDANCE, STANDARDS, EVIDENCE



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org)



# INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL AND FLUVIAL SYSTEMS

**Purpose: Develop guidelines for using NNBF to provide engineering functions relevant to flood risk management while producing additional economic, environmental and social benefits.**

- Publish NNBF technical guidelines by 2020:
  - ▶ Multi-author: government, academia, NGOs, engineering firms, construction companies, etc.
  - ▶ Addressing the full project life cycle
  - ▶ Guidelines in 4 Parts
    - Overarching
    - Coastal Applications
    - Fluvial Applications
    - Conclusions



THE WORLD BANK



Environment Agency

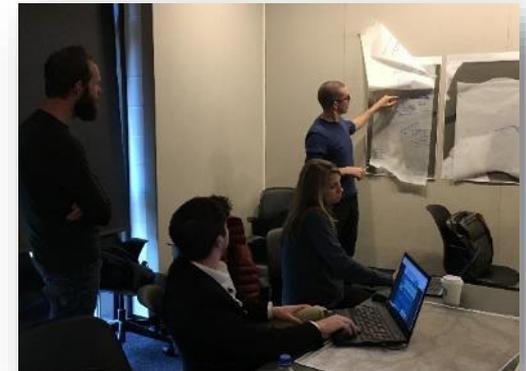


NLST

# INCORPORATING EWN/LA TECHNIQUES AND PRACTICES INTO USACE INFRASTRUCTURE

Work on USACE infrastructure pProjects with private/academic LAs

- Projects include:
  - Moses Lake Tide Gate Area (SWG);
  - Comite Canal Project (MVN);
  - Franklin Lock/Dam Recreation Area (SAJ);
  - Morehaven West Campground Site (SAJ);
  - Back Creek and Fishing Creek Jetties (NAB);
  - Proctor Creek (SAM); and
  - NEW: Sabine to Galveston (S2G) Project (SWG)
  - NEW: NJ Bay Bays Study (NAP)
- Team visits project sites and collects data
- EWN/LA Team met JAN 19 at Auburn to work on initial renderings
- Meetings w/ USACE Districts to discuss rendering beginning MAR 19
- Final report/renderings delivered to Districts JUL 19



# Urban River Parkways

*An Essential Tool for Public Health*

Richard J. Jackson, MD, MPH - UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Tyler D. Watson, MPH - UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Andrew Tsiu, MPH - UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Bianca Shulaker, MURP - USC Department of Urban Planning

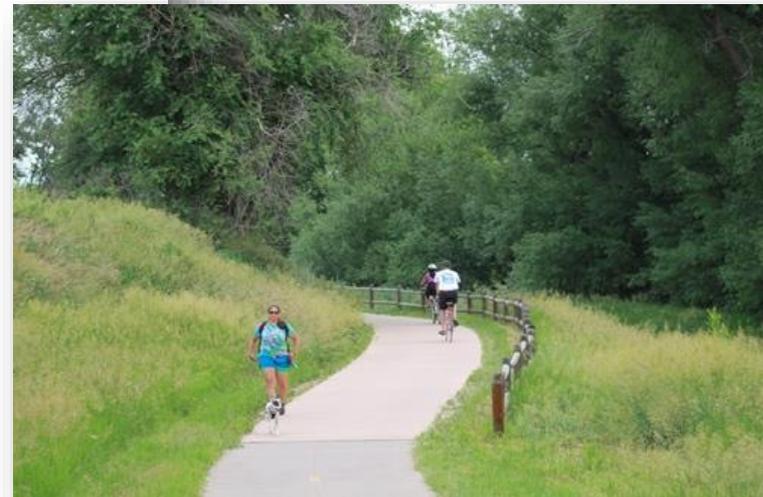
Stephanie Hopp, MPH - Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Mladen Popovic - UC Santa Barbara

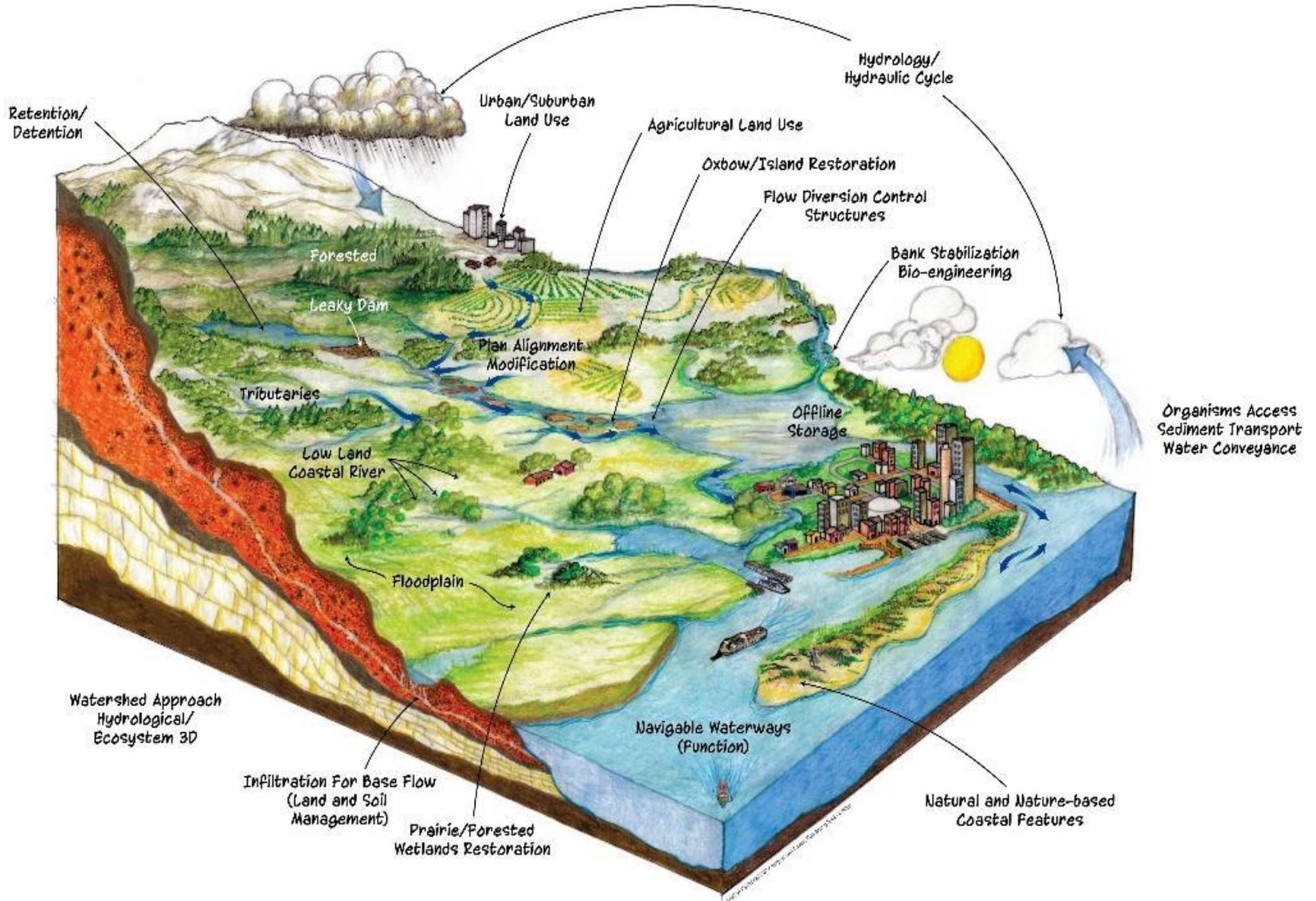
July 2014



Every \$1 spent on rec trails results in \$3 to >\$10 of direct medical benefit

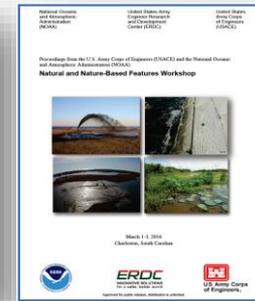


# A SYSTEMS VIEW OF SOLUTIONS



# COLLABORATION ACROSS GOVERNMENT

## USACE/NOAA Collaboration Workshop: Natural and Nature-based Features, Charleston, SC; 1-3 March 2016



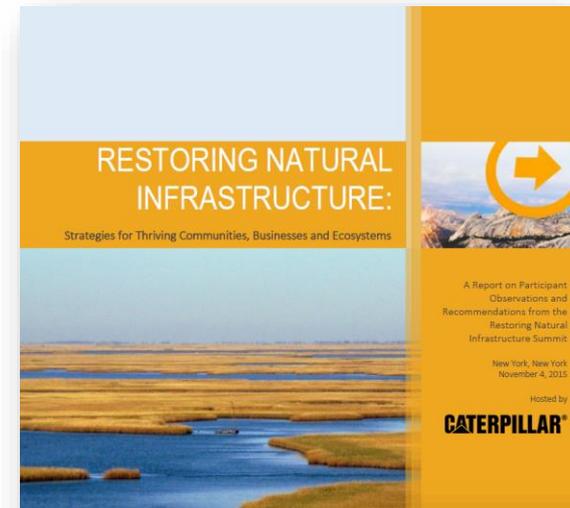
## USACE/NOAA-NMFS Collaboration Workshop Engineering With Nature, Gloucester, MA; October 5-6, 2016



[www.engineeringwithnature.org](http://www.engineeringwithnature.org) (NNBF)

# COLLABORATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- Caterpillar Inc.
  - ▶ Restoring Natural Infrastructure Summit; November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015; New York City
  - ▶ Natural Infrastructure Initiative – USACE Collaboration Work Streams
    1. NI Opportunity Evaluation Tool. Capitalizing on enterprise-level capability: CE Dredge DST
    2. Evaluation and Decision Making
    3. Field Application and Demonstration
- Western Dredging Association (WEDA)
  - ▶ Collaborative technical workshop on “Construction Methods Supporting Engineering With Nature”



<http://www.caterpillar.com/en/company/sustainability/natural-infrastructure.html>

# COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIA

- Texas A&M University



- Partnering through the Coastal Science and Engineering Collaborative (CSEC)
- Joint research on NNBF
- EWN Seminar spring 2018
- Developing graduate curriculum to support EWN

- University of Georgia



*Institute for Resilient  
Infrastructure Systems*  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

- Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS)
- Multiple levels of collaboration on EWN and NNBF
- EWN curriculum development

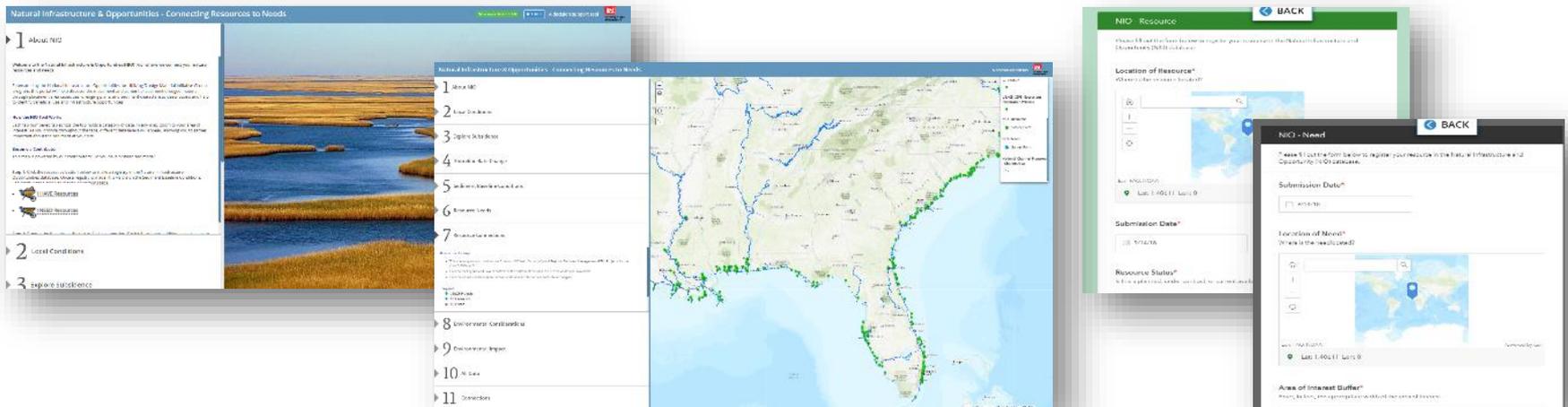
- University of Oklahoma

- Water Security
- Focus on mid-western and western landscapes and water resources
- Streams, rivers, reservoirs and related infrastructure and purposes



# NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES TOOL

The public facing *Natural Infrastructure Opportunities Tool*, developed in collaboration with the Natural Infrastructure Initiative, focuses on identifying natural infrastructure and beneficial use opportunities. Through map based visualizations of environmental, geomorphic and sediment conditions, as well as upcoming USACE projects, and an interface for users to add their resource needs and resource availability, this portal will help discover natural infrastructure connections and inspire innovative opportunities.



Partners: **CAT**



The Nature Conservancy



AECOM

<https://ewn.el.ercd.dren.mil/tools.html>

# ENGINEERING WITH NATURE ON CAPITOL HILL



## NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE: A SMART INVESTMENT

Come hear representatives from Great Lakes Dredge and Dock, Caterpillar, AECOM, The Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy discuss why and how their organizations are making investments in natural infrastructure.

**Thursday, March 21, 2019**  
10:30 am – 11:30 am  
2253 Rayburn House Office Building

### Featured Speakers

**Bill Hanson, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (moderator)**  
Vice President, Government Relations

**Don M. McNeill, Caterpillar**  
Strategic Growth Manager  
Director, Natural Infrastructure Initiative

**Michael J. Donahue, PhD, AECOM**  
Vice President, Water Resources and Environmental Services and  
Director, National Coastal and Ecosystem Restoration Practice

**Todd Bridges, PhD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
Senior Research Scientist (ST), Environmental Science, U.S. Army Engineer  
Research and Development Center

**Sarah Murdock, The Nature Conservancy**  
Director, U.S. Climate Resilience and Water Policy

[Click Here to Register](#)

**CATERPILLAR AECOM**

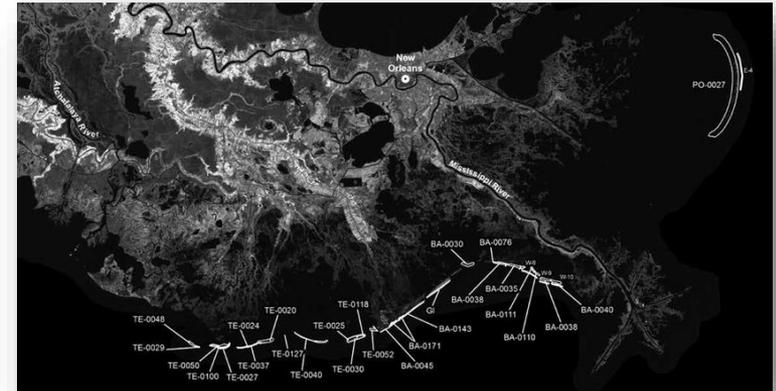


Photo © Jennifer Emmerling



# BUILDING PROGRESS

- There is tremendous potential to leverage natural systems and landscapes to build resilience.
- Project scale is critical and must match your goals.
  - “Go big or don’t bother.”
- Progress will be proportional to success of multi-organization collaboration and partnership.
- Field-scale piloting and demonstration are critical to progress.
- Affordability, affordability, affordability!
  - Don’t over-engineer!
- Document and communicate the value created.



# STEPPING STONES

1. Pursuing innovation while managing organizational risk.
2. Intervention based on “projection” of future need rather than “restoration” of past conditions.
3. Regulatory reform to incentivize positive action.
4. Partnering to achieve innovative financing of solutions.



“Satellite” Image of  
California, circa  
1851  
by Mark Clark

