

Barriers to Beneficial Use of Dredged Material: Industry Feedback

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WEDA Dredging Summit & Expo '23

Las Vegas (NV); July 18, 2023



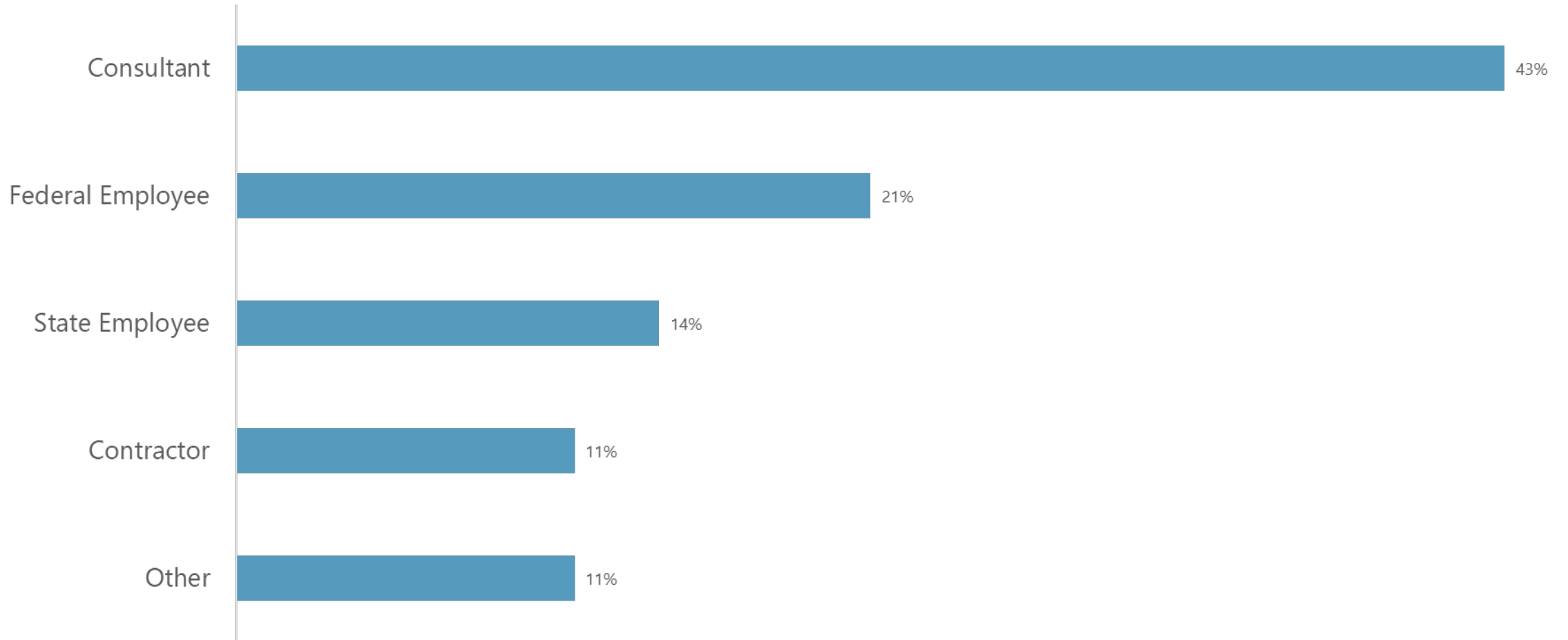
Overview

- Objective was to gather feedback from the dredging industry and stakeholders
- Gather input on barriers to the beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) in the United States
- WEDA members polled
 - Total of 70 respondents





Industry Feedback - Participants

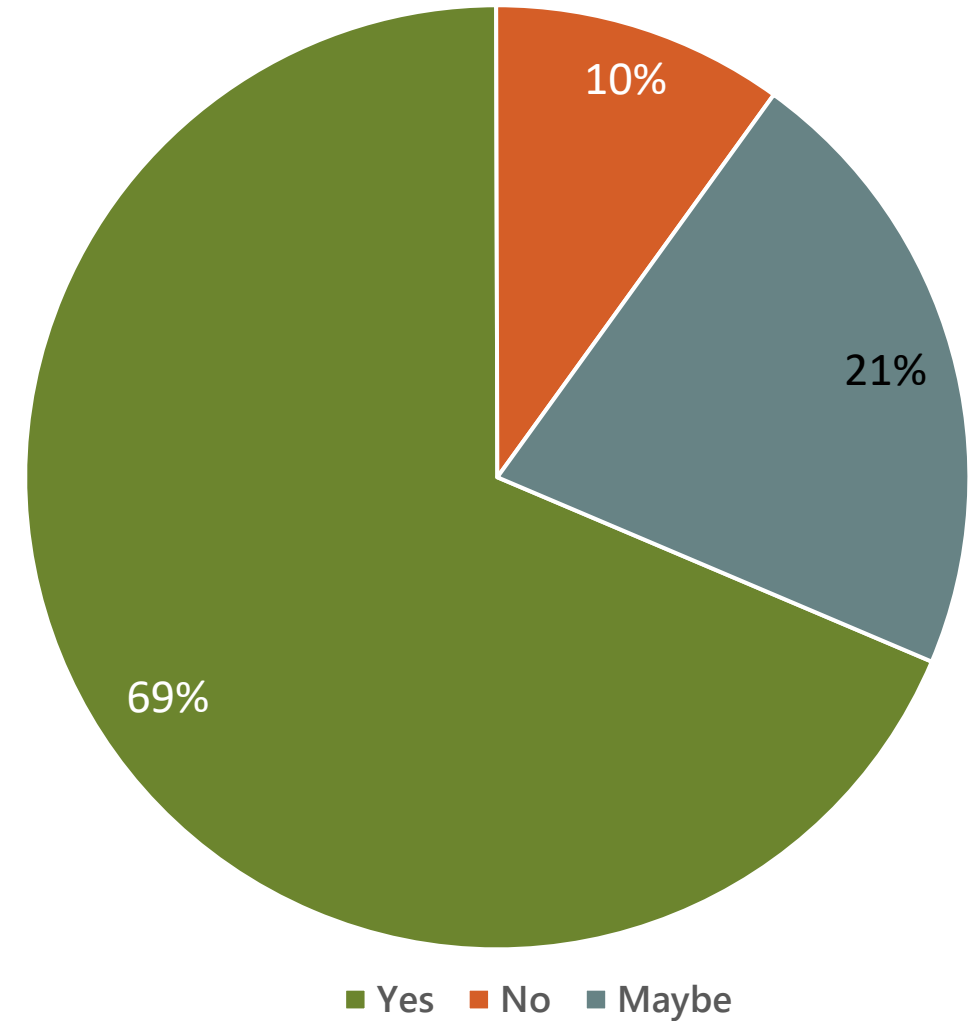


Note: Other category includes individuals from the following entities: NGO's, Ports, Local Government, Academia, and Private industry (e.g., oil and gas)

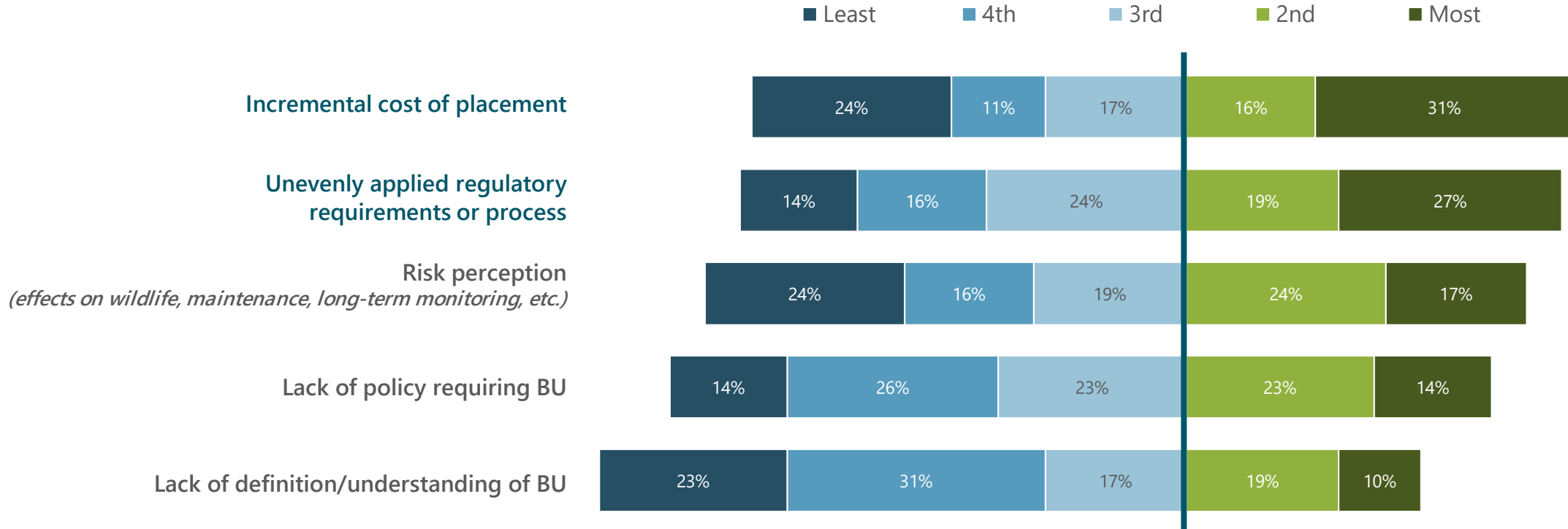


Limitations to Applying BU

- Feedback on whether there are limitations to when and where BU can be applied:
 - 69% agreed
 - 21% are ambivalent
 - 10% did not agree



Factors Preventing Widespread Use of BUDM

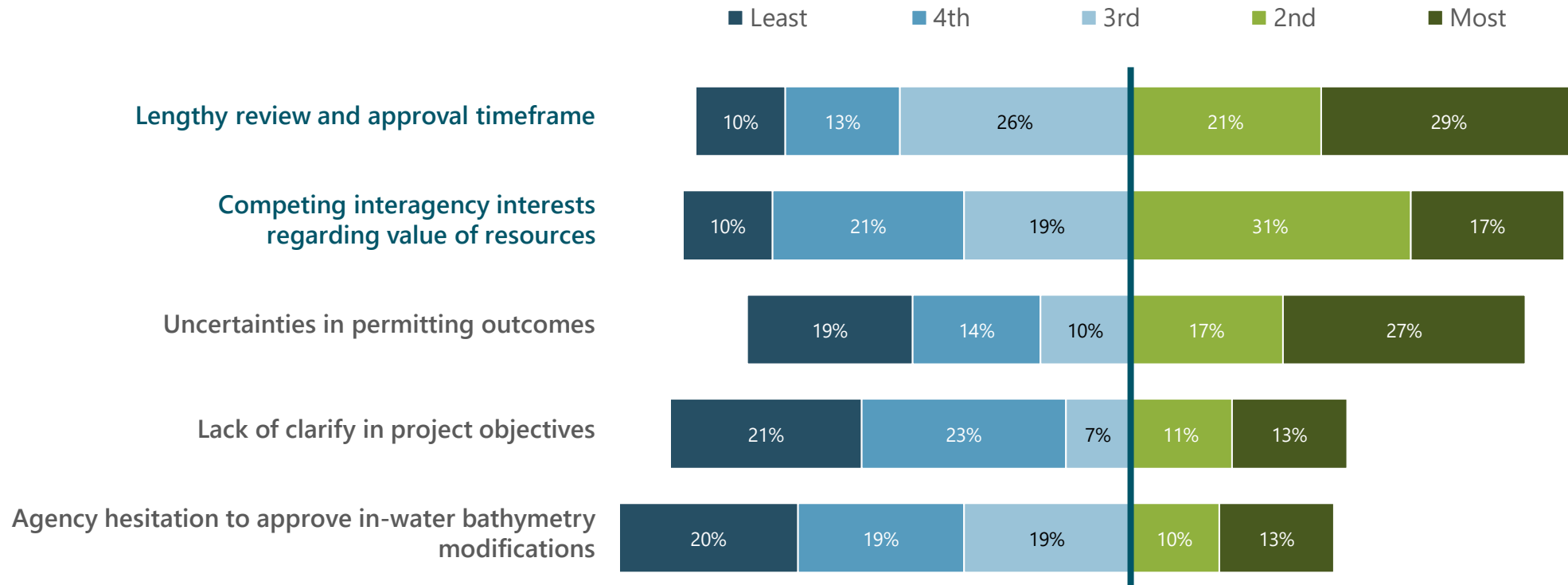




Sample Responses: Factors Preventing Widespread Use of BUDM

- Not all regulatory agencies are on board with implementation of BU
- Restrictions for use from the Federal Standard
- Lack of public education about dredge “material”
- Negative perceptions about dredging
- Too much bureaucratic red tape and processes

Regulatory Hurdles to Permitting BU Projects

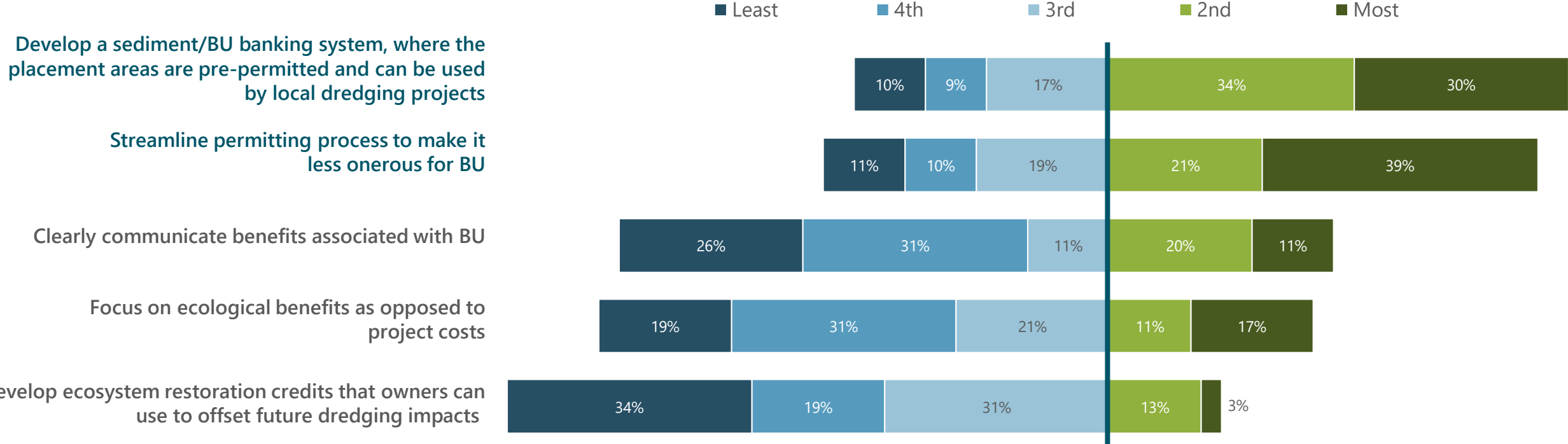




Summary Responses: Regulatory Hurdles to Permitting BU Projects

- Lack of coordination between USACE, state, and local agencies or entities
- State regulatory definitions of "waste," which includes dredged material
- Stakeholder concerns with sediment quality
- Agencies considering sites as "developmental projects" requiring mitigation for potential impacts" when the project is actually a "restoration" project
- Some agencies value shallow open-water habitat and do not want it transitioned into wetland habitat

Ways to Maximize BUDM

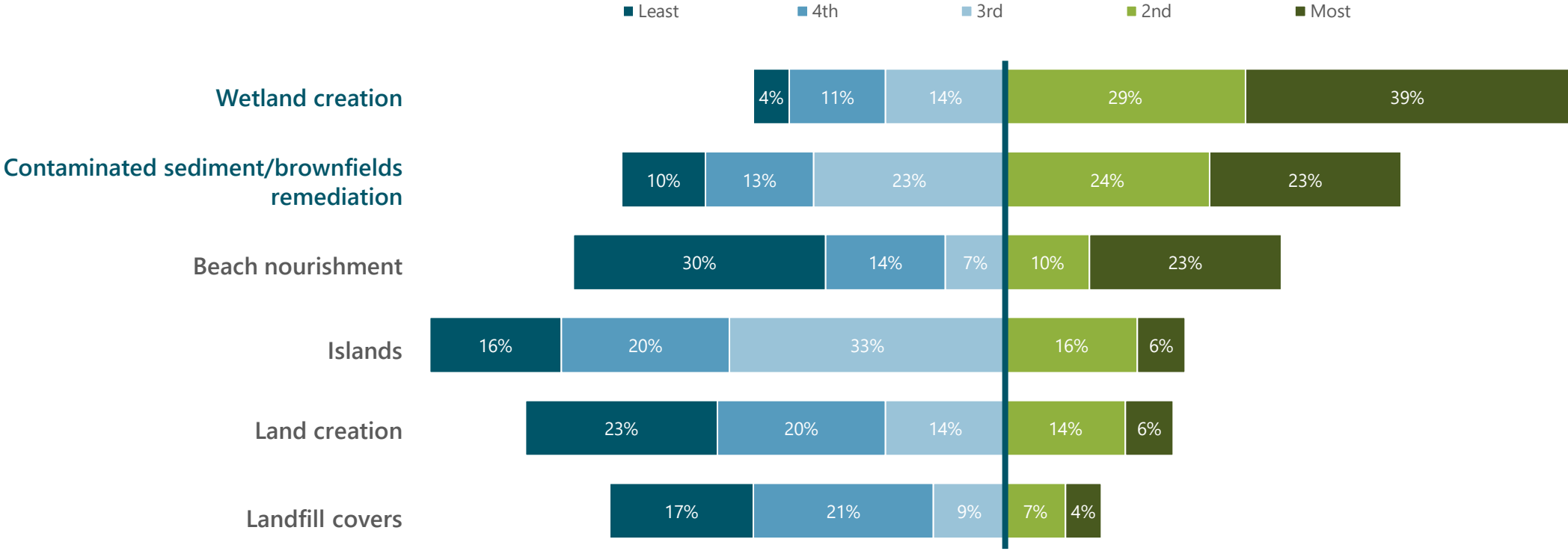




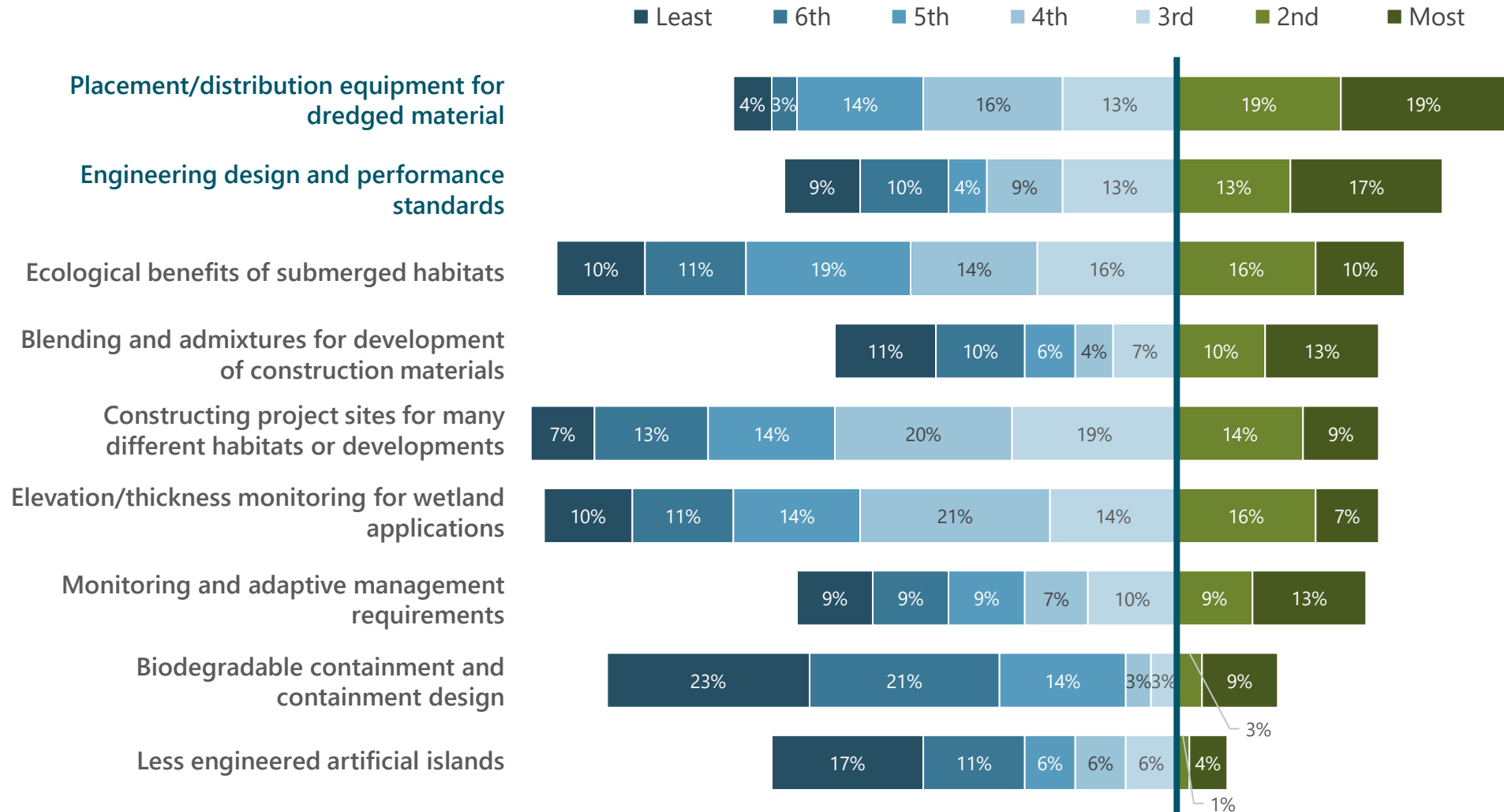
Sample Responses: Ways to Maximize BUDM

- Streamline regulatory, permitting, and land rights processes
- Create more accessible, pre-permitted BU banking areas available at low costs
- Develop ways to make the process more cost effective
- Make BU project opportunities a higher priority in permit review
 - Focus on “net” positive benefit
- Create preferential grant or funding award when BU implemented
- Circulate or highlight best practices for procuring BU projects
- Consider DM as a valuable commodity and look for ways to educate the public/agencies

Innovative Aspects of BU to be Implemented More Widely

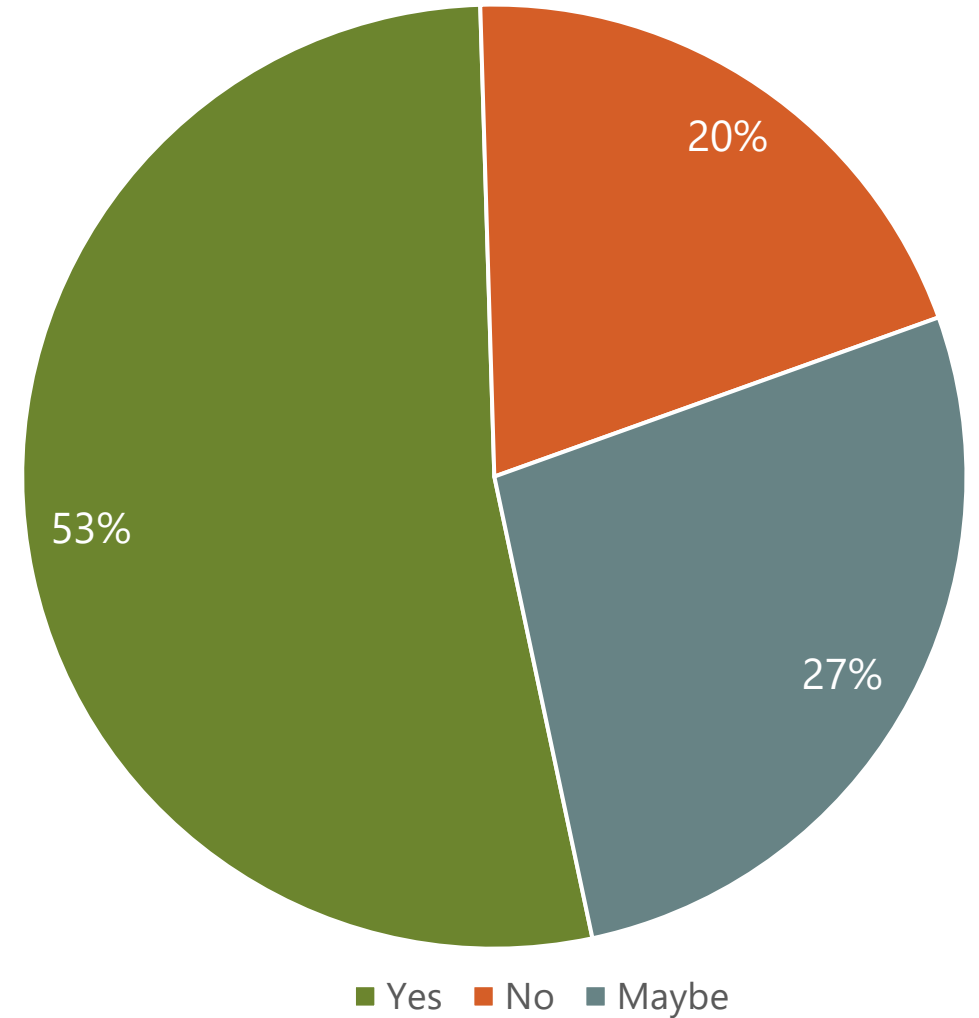


Research & Development Needs Related to BU

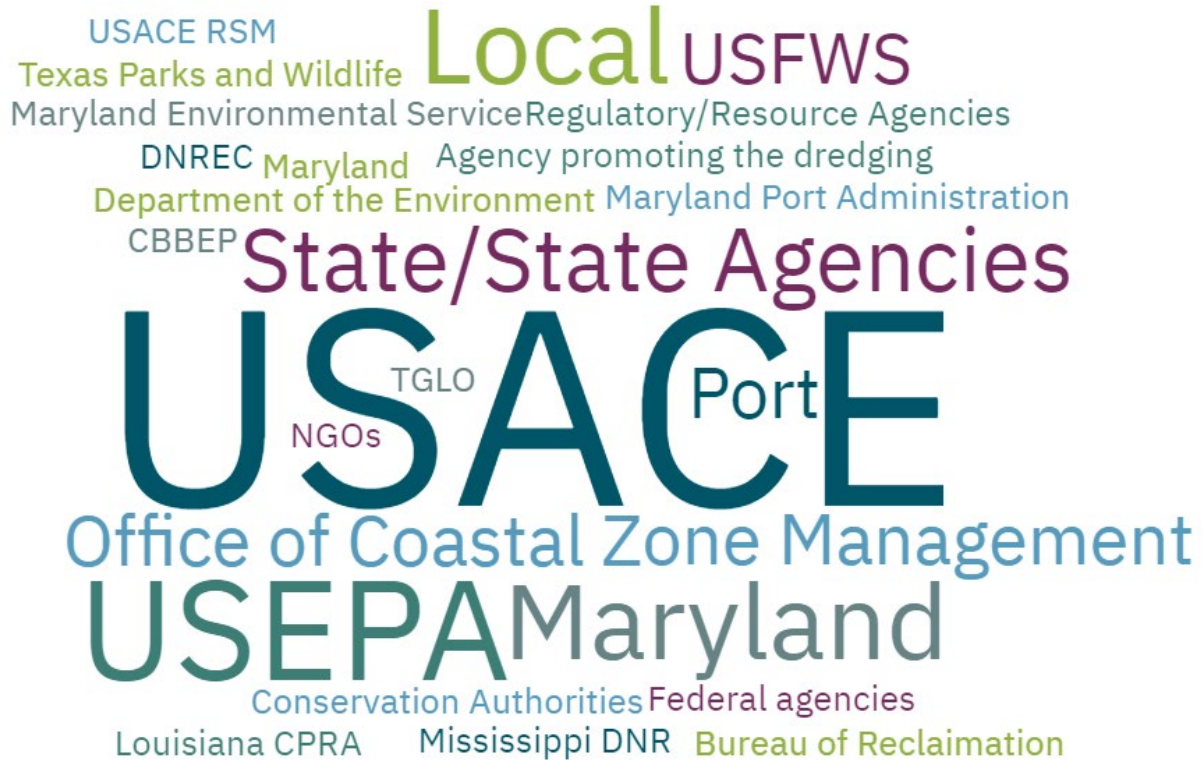


Feasibility of 70% of BUDM

- Feedback on whether it is feasible to achieve the USACE Chief's goal of 70% of BUDM by the Year 2030:
 - 53% agreed
 - 27% are not certain
 - 20% did not agree



Agencies with Most Positive Influence in Promoting BU



Sample Comments

"**USACE & USEPA** - They can set the standards for the industry and make the movement a Standard Operating Procedure or BMP for all projects."

"**USACE** with the 70/30 goal and the many dredging projects."

"**Partnership - USACE and the dredging industry.**"

"**Mississippi DNR**, because they are required to use sediment beneficially. Certain departments within USACE."

"**Louisiana (CPRA)**. They seem to let significantly more projects BU projects than any other agency."

"**[Maryland]** seems to lead the nation on this topic."

"**Delaware (DNREC)** is pushing research and development forward to give a clearer picture as to when IR/BU may be appropriate and beneficial."

"**USFWS**. They are on top of BU and do an excellent job promoting it."

"**Port authorities acting as the non-federal sponsor** seem to be well-positioned to promote BU."

Agencies with Least Positive Influence in Promoting BU



Sample Comments

"**USACE** and **USEPA** - They promote BU of dredge material but provide unrealistic requirements to permit and use BU sites that are not realistic or achievable."

"**USACE** - Their regulatory group works completely counter to their District/ERDC/R&D groups."

"**USACE** - The "BU promotion" is primarily directed at in-water use only and often ignores considerations for longevity of material once placed."

"**Municipalities** may be challenged by more rigid capital improvement plans and reliance on USACE project cycles."

"**Contractors** - The regulations prevent the contractors from promoting BU because it is expensive vs. time spent and all the hurdles they need to maneuver around."

"**National Marine Fisheries Service** is by far the most difficult agency to work with on BU projects. Their Essential Fish Habitat policies make it hard to do anything new or different."

"**States** tend to be the roadblock in implementing BU (often unintentionally), due to lack of understanding of sediment and related processes, and inconsistent CWA administration."

Summary of the Main Barriers to BUDM



The "Other" category includes the following items, which are made up of <2 responses:

- Beach Closings
- Constructability
- Fear of Failure
- Industry Standards
- Lack of Creativity
- Liability Transfers
- Long-Term Monitoring
- Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Obscure Goals/Objectives
- Research on Material Availability/Use
- Understanding the Natural System
- Water Quality Criteria



Thank You!

Questions?

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