

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

FY25 Q2 WEBINAR SERIES

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1:00 PM (CT)**

**Demonstration of a light availability calculator
for identifying suitable habitat for light limited
aquatic vegetation**



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USACE, and beyond, are seeking novel opportunities to utilize sediment as a resource for natural infrastructure projects that also support multiple economic, social, and ecosystem benefits. Indeed, light-limited areas that are otherwise suitable to support submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitats are ideal recipients of clean dredged material because an elevation lift can create suitable light conditions for SAV, while also enabling co-benefits, such as vegetation-induced sediment stabilization, which can further reduce sediment shoaling into nearby channels. However, few beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) for SAV habitat projects exist due to risk averse resource management approaches, which is further hindered by lack of data, tools, and outreach. Therefore, we are developing a spatially explicit Light Availability Calculator to help practitioners plan optimal locations for BUDM for SAV projects based on the available photosynthetically active radiation (PAR).

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