



WELCOME TO THE ACF DREDGING PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING

HOUSEKEEPING

- Please mute your microphones.
- We will run through a quick presentation followed by a listening session.
- Please hold your questions or comments until the listening session.
- If you would like your attendance recorded, please put your Name and Organization (if applicable) in the chat.

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Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF)
Dredging Project



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USACE, MOBILE DISTRICT
PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER MEETING
12 AUG 2025



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OVERVIEW

- Why Are We Here?
- ACF Background and Authorization
- Dredging and Channel History
- Evaluation Process and Ongoing Analyses
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Overview
- Next Steps
- Listening Session



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WHY ARE WE HERE?

FY 24 EARMARK \$3M BUDGET PACKAGE

- Budget Package Title: Pursuit of certification to restore dredging for the ACF.
- Description: Obtain NEPA compliant documentation to resume dredging of the ACF River system. Develop plan to restore navigable channel.
- \$100M+ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds received for the ACF in FY23 & FY24.



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ACF BACKGROUND

ACF NAVIGATION AUTHORITY:

In the ACF Basin, all five federal projects (Buford Dam, West Point Dam, Walter F. George Lock and Dam (WFG L&D), George W. Andrews Lock and Dam (GWA L&D), and Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam (JW L&D) are authorized to support navigation (section 2 of the RHA of 1945, further modified by the WRDA 1986 (P.L. 99-662)).

Locks were constructed at the WFG, GWA, and JW projects to facilitate navigation upstream to Columbus, Georgia, on the Chattahoochee River and to Bainbridge, Georgia, on the Flint River. The existing authorized navigation project includes a 9-ft by 100-ft navigation channel from Apalachicola, Florida, to Columbus, Georgia, on the Chattahoochee River, and to Bainbridge, Georgia, on the Flint River.

PREVIOUS STUDIES AND REPORTS

- ACF Final EIS for Water Control Manual Update, 2017
- Integrated Letter Report and Tiered Environmental Assessment of the Operational Analysis and Targeted Water Control Plan Updates for the ACF River basin in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, 2024



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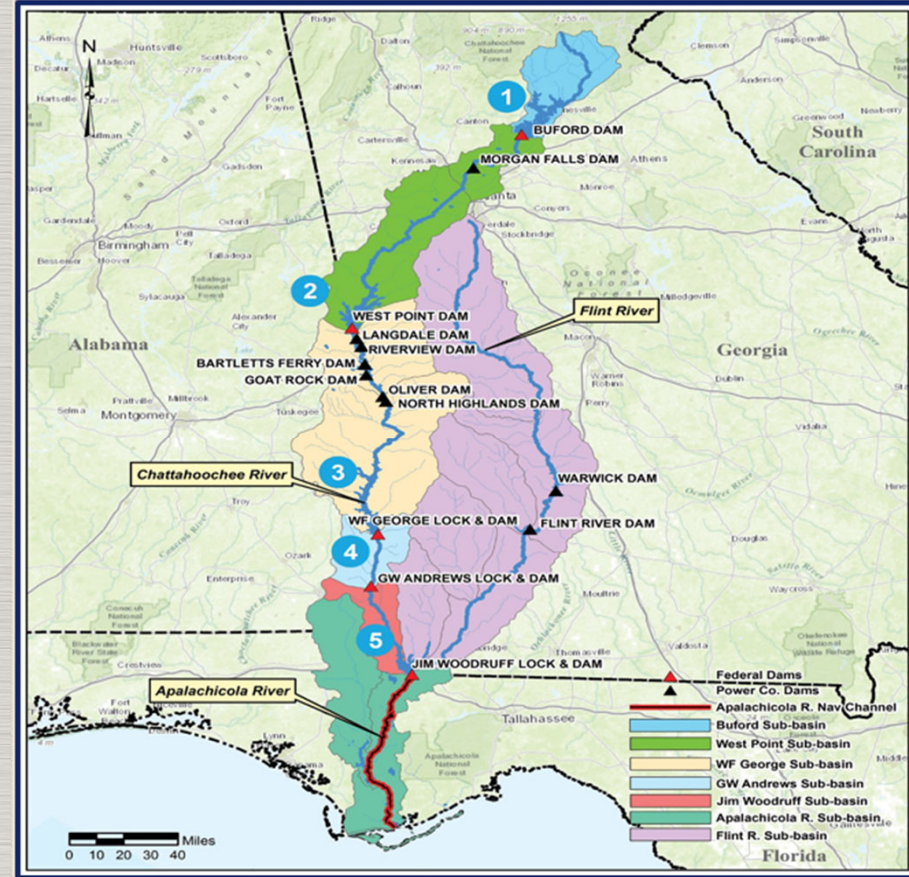
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AUTHORIZED PROJECT PURPOSES

A 9-ft by 100-ft navigation channel is authorized from Apalachicola, Florida, to the Phenix City, Alabama/Columbus, Georgia area on the Chattahoochee River and to Bainbridge, Georgia on the Flint River. The Evaluation Area does not include Apalachicola Bay.

Project Site	FRM	NAV	HP	REC	FWC	WS/WQ
All USACE ACF Projects				✓	✓	✓
(1) Buford Dam/Lake Lanier	✓	✓	✓			
(2) West Point Dam/West Point Lake	✓	✓	✓			
(3) Walter F. George L&D/Lake Eufaula		✓	✓			
(4) George W Andrews L&D		✓				
(5) Jim Woodruff L&D		✓	✓			



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NON-FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP

- The 1946 amendments to the 1945 River and Harbor Act required local interests to provide, free of cost to the US, all lands, easements, rights of way and disposal areas as and when required for provision and maintenance of the FL portion of the channel in the Apalachicola River below Jim Woodruff L&D.
- Local sponsorship was intermittently provided by the Boards of County Commissioners of the 6 FL counties adjacent to the waterway and withdrawn in 1988.
- Neither the original authorization or amendment made similar requirements for AL & GA. Those two states have operated at full federal cost.



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DREDGING HISTORY

Table 1. 1997-2001 Dredging Summary¹

Year →	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1997 through 2001
Apalachicola River	553,505	1,161,909	786,713		164,078	2,666,205
Chattahoochee River		240,728	410,653		134,547	785,928
Flint River		116,099				116,099
Total for System	553,505	1,518,736	1,197,366		298,625	3,568,232
GIWW Portion of the Apalachicola River						
GIWW			114,595			114,595
Historical Problem Reaches on the Apalachicola River						
Blountstown	98,983	164,379			16,834	280,196
Chipola Cutoff	123,989 ²	261,430	147,045		61,083	549,020
Corley Slough	68,364	263,080	169,044		69,042	569,530

¹values in cubic yards

²5-year analysis corrected value from original annual report

- Blountstown Reach (Mi. 76 – 81) ~136Kcy/yr
- Chipola Cutoff (Mi. 39 – 42) ~127Kcy/yr
- Corley Slough (Mi. 35 – 37) ~118Kcy/yr



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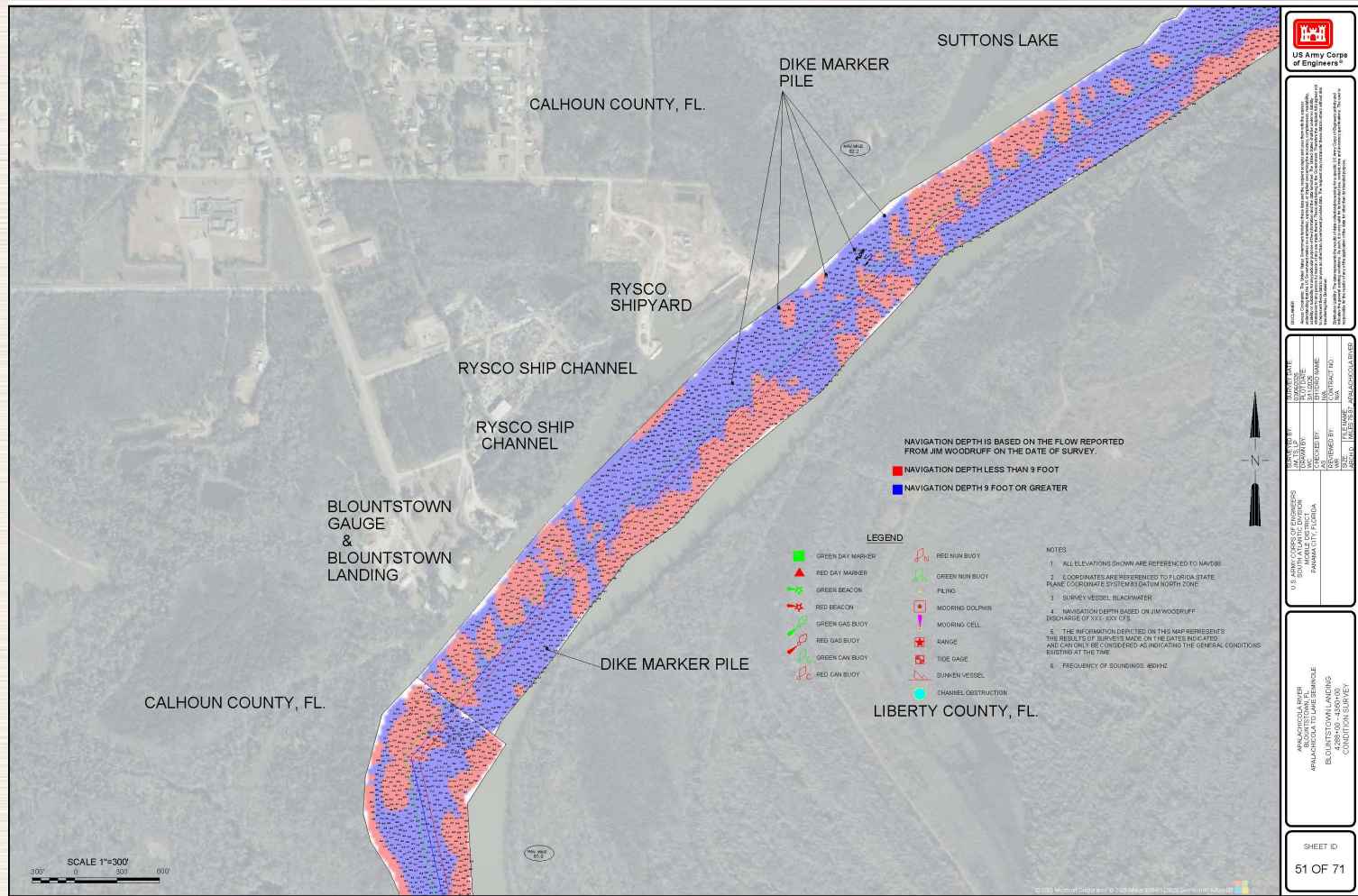
CHANNEL MIGRATION AT BLOUNTSTOWN REACH



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CURRENT CONDITIONS AT BLOUNTSTOWN REACH



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BLOUNTSTOWN REACH
 BLOUNTSTOWN, FLORIDA
 BLOUNTSTOWN REACH
 428500 - 433000
 CONDITIONAL SURVEY

SHEET ID
 51 OF 71



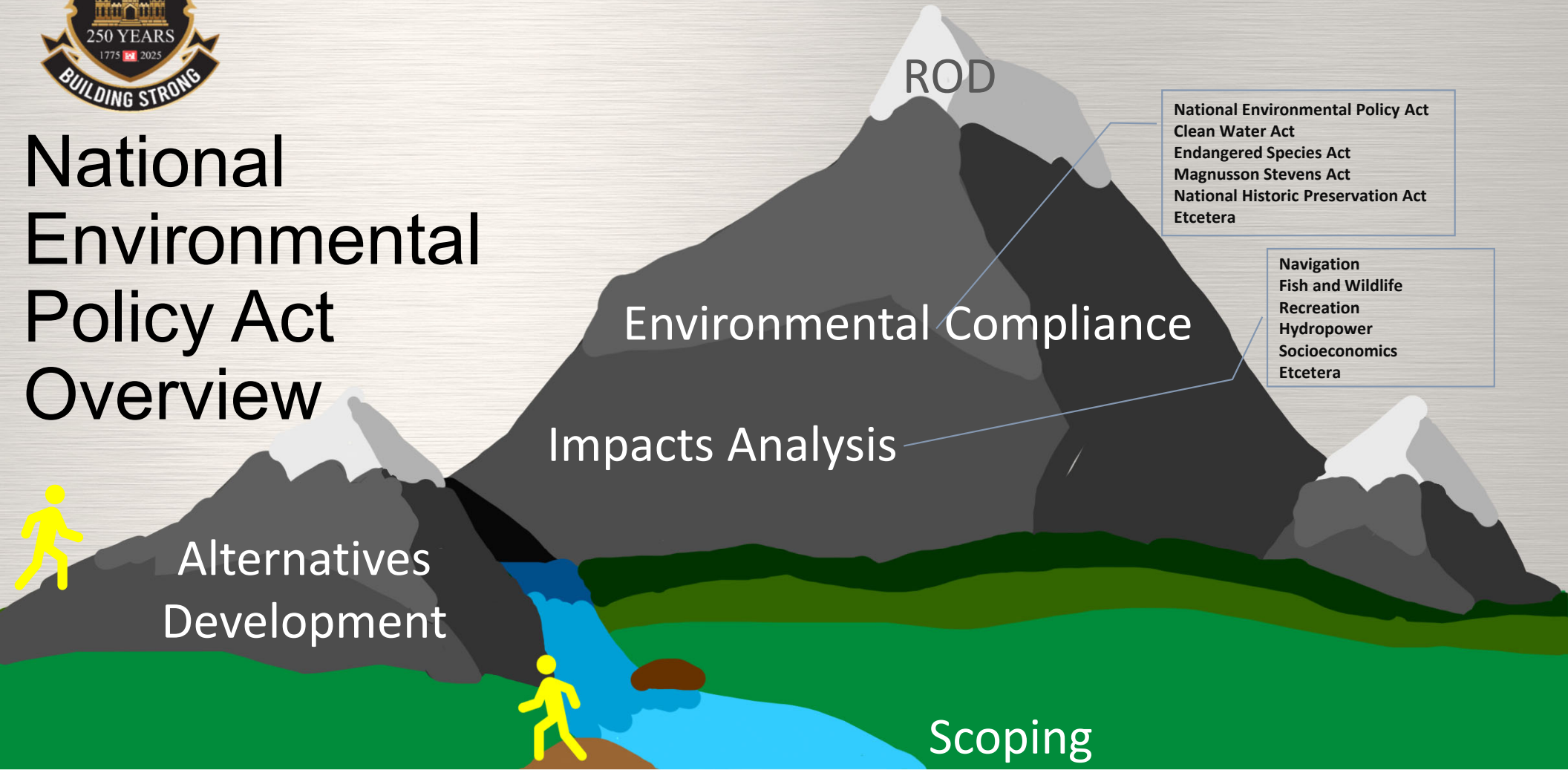
POTENTIAL PLACEMENT ANALYSIS



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National Environmental Policy Act Overview





Scoping Phase Feb – May 2025

- Develop and send cooperating agency letters
- Informal NEPA scoping meeting with federal and state agencies **1 MAY 2025**
- Determine NEPA requirements

Existing Conditions and Alternatives Development May – Dec 2025

- Establish routine meetings with federal and state agencies
- Prepare and manage SOW and MIPR for USFWS
- Prepare for and conduct formal NEPA scoping meeting **12 AUG 2025**

Alternative Analysis/Screening to Proposed Action April 2025 – Sept 2026

- Conduct additional NEPA scoping meeting(s)
- Select proposed action
- Conduct wetland delineation
- Develop draft 404(b)(1) analysis
- Conduct sediment concentration modeling
- Prepare compliance with environmental laws
- Request formal Section 7(a)(2) coordination **JUN 2026**
- Request Conference Opinion for Southern Elktoe **JUL 2026**
- Develop Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method **JUN 2026**
- Coastal Zone Management Act coordination with FDEP **AUG 2026**
- Essential Fish Habitat coordination with FDEP **SEP 2026**
- Conduct pre-app meeting with FDEP **JAN 2027**
- Submit Water Quality Certification request to FDEP **JAN 2027**



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**Proposed Action to
Final NEPA/EIS**
Jan 2027 – Nov
2027

- Publish Notice of Intent in Federal Register **AUG 2026**
- Conduct joint public notice with state agencies **MAR 2027**
- Circulate draft EIS **APR 2027**
- Prepare for and conduct public meeting(s)
- Circulate final EIS **JUL 2027**

ROD TO DMMP
Sep 2027 – Dec
2027

- Prepare ROD **OCT 2027**
- Develop Statement of Findings (included as part of the ROD) **OCT 2027**
- Compile Admin Record **OCT 2027**
- Prepare and issue Public Notice following signing of the ROD **NOV 2027**
- Respond to Final Review comments and develop Errata sheet **DEC 2027**



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NEXT STEPS

- Identify interested Non-Federal Sponsors
- Perform hydrographic survey of channel (complete)
 - Determine channel availability and sail line
 - Locate Mussel habitat
- Identify dredging locations
- Identify acceptable placement options
- Hold routine meetings with public, stakeholders, and agencies

- Floodplain Inundation Analysis (HEC-RAS)
- Refine existing HEC-ResSim model for reservoirs
- Determine dredged material quantity and composition
- Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Prepare Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP)
- Prepare Statement of Findings (Decision Document)



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LISTENING SESSION

- Flow concerns?
- Environmental concerns?
- Beneficial use ideas?
- Material placement ideas?
- Other concerns?



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CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEBSITE

- <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Program-and-Project-Management/Civil-Projects/ACF-Dredging-Project/>

EMAIL

- CESAM-ACFDredgingMailingList <CESAM-ACFDredgingMailingList@usace.army.mil>



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