

TestAmerica

THE LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

Incremental Sampling Methodology – Final ITRC Guidance

Mark Bruce Ph. D.

ISM Benefits All

Laboratory



Consultant



Regulators



Industrial company or
other potentially responsible party



Community or
environmental advocate

Chasing Uncertainty Sources

- Instrumental analysis
- Sample preparation
- Laboratory sub-sampling
- Field sample collection



ISM Advantages

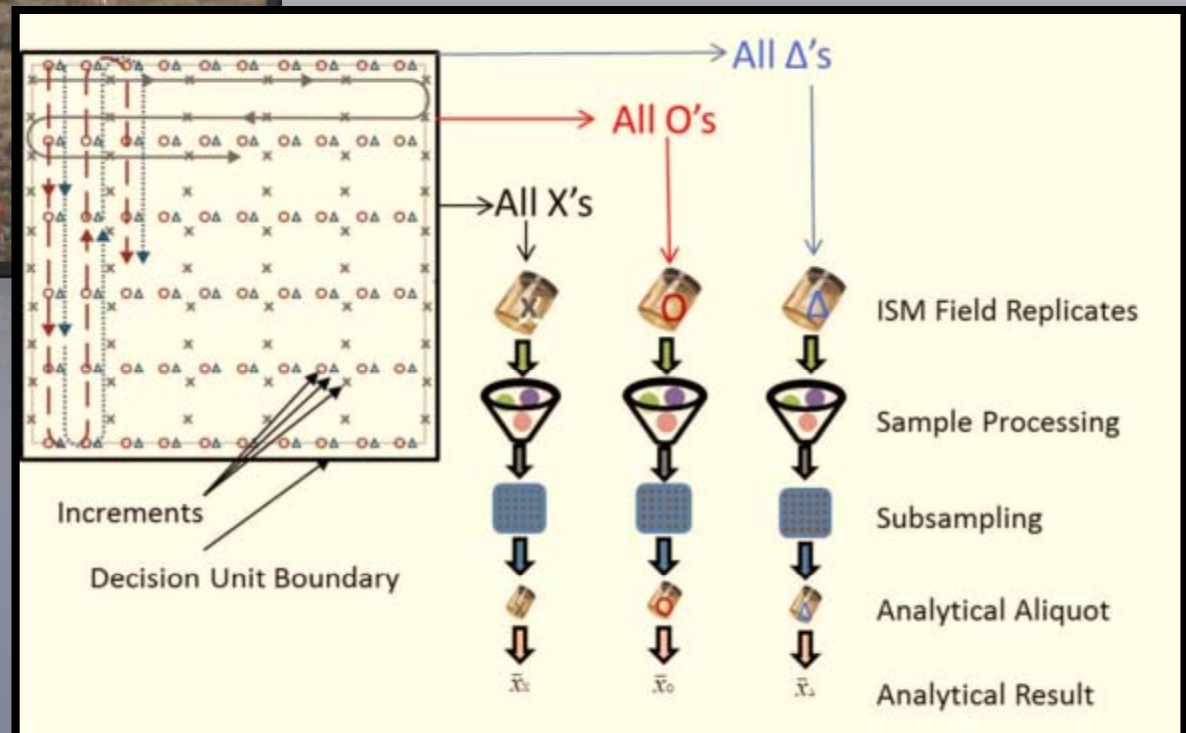
Advantage

- Better spatial coverage
- Higher Sample Mass
- Optimized processing
- Fewer non-detects
- More consistent data

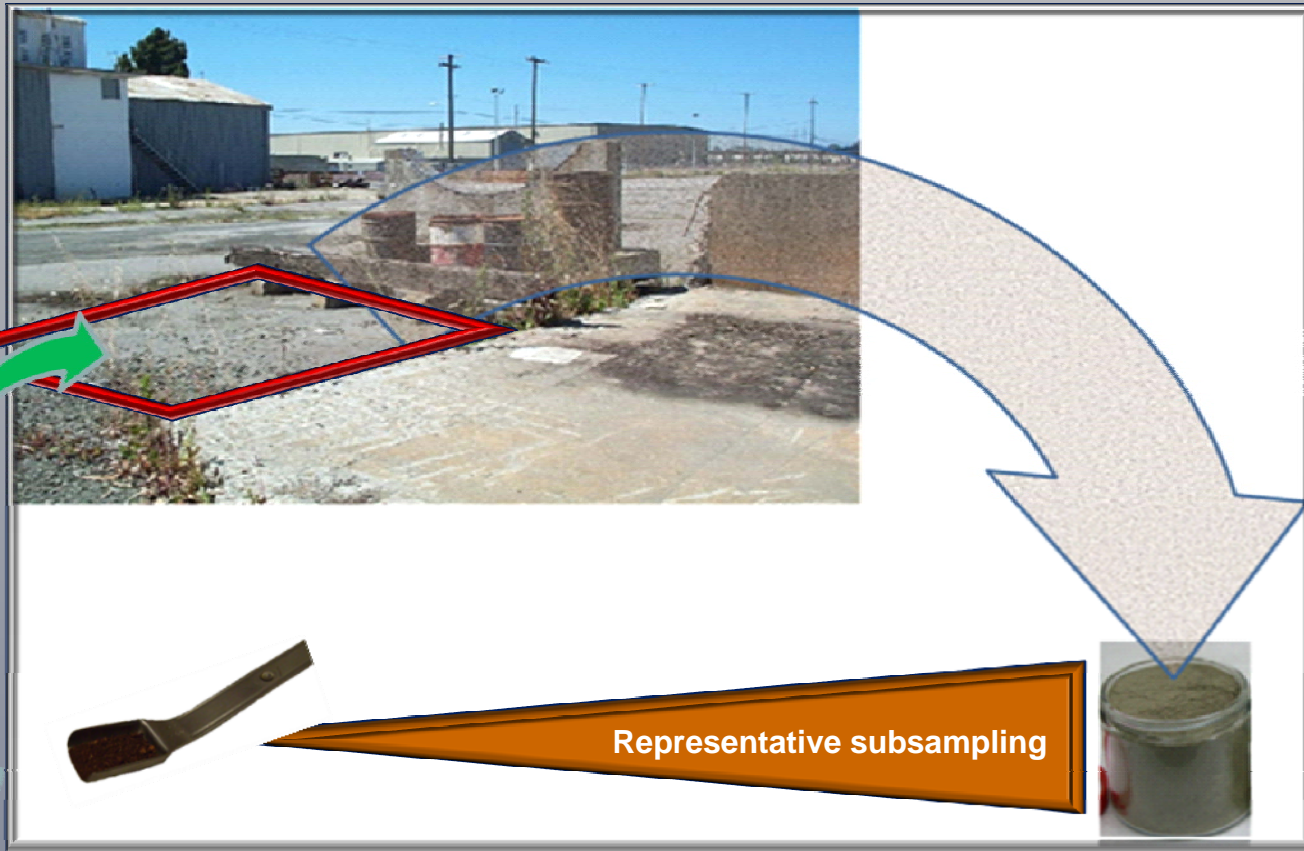
Effect

- Includes high & low concentrations in proper proportions
- Reduces errors associated with sample processing and analysis
- Representative subsamples for analysis
- Simplifies statistical analysis
- More confident decision

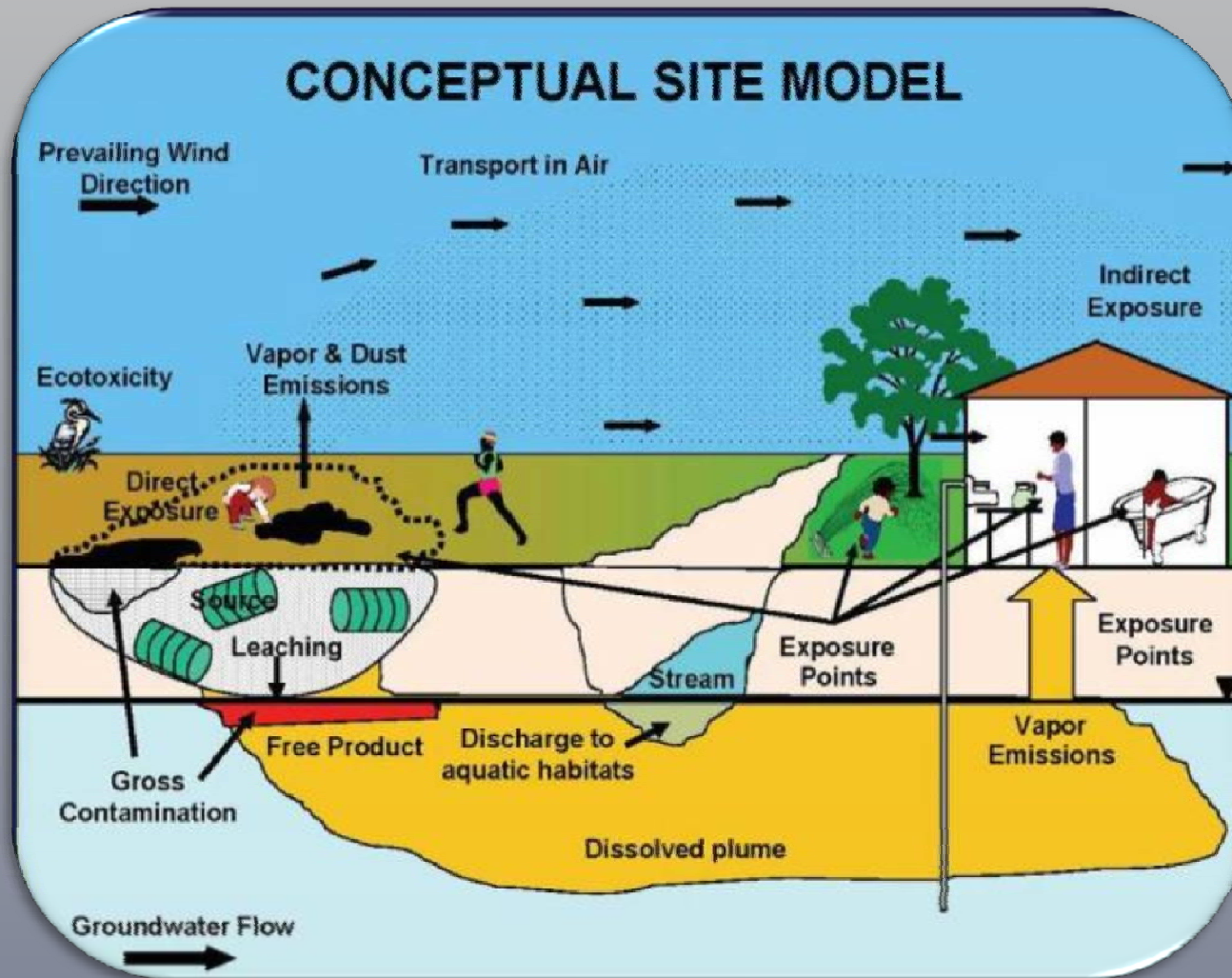
ISM is a “new” approach to site investigation



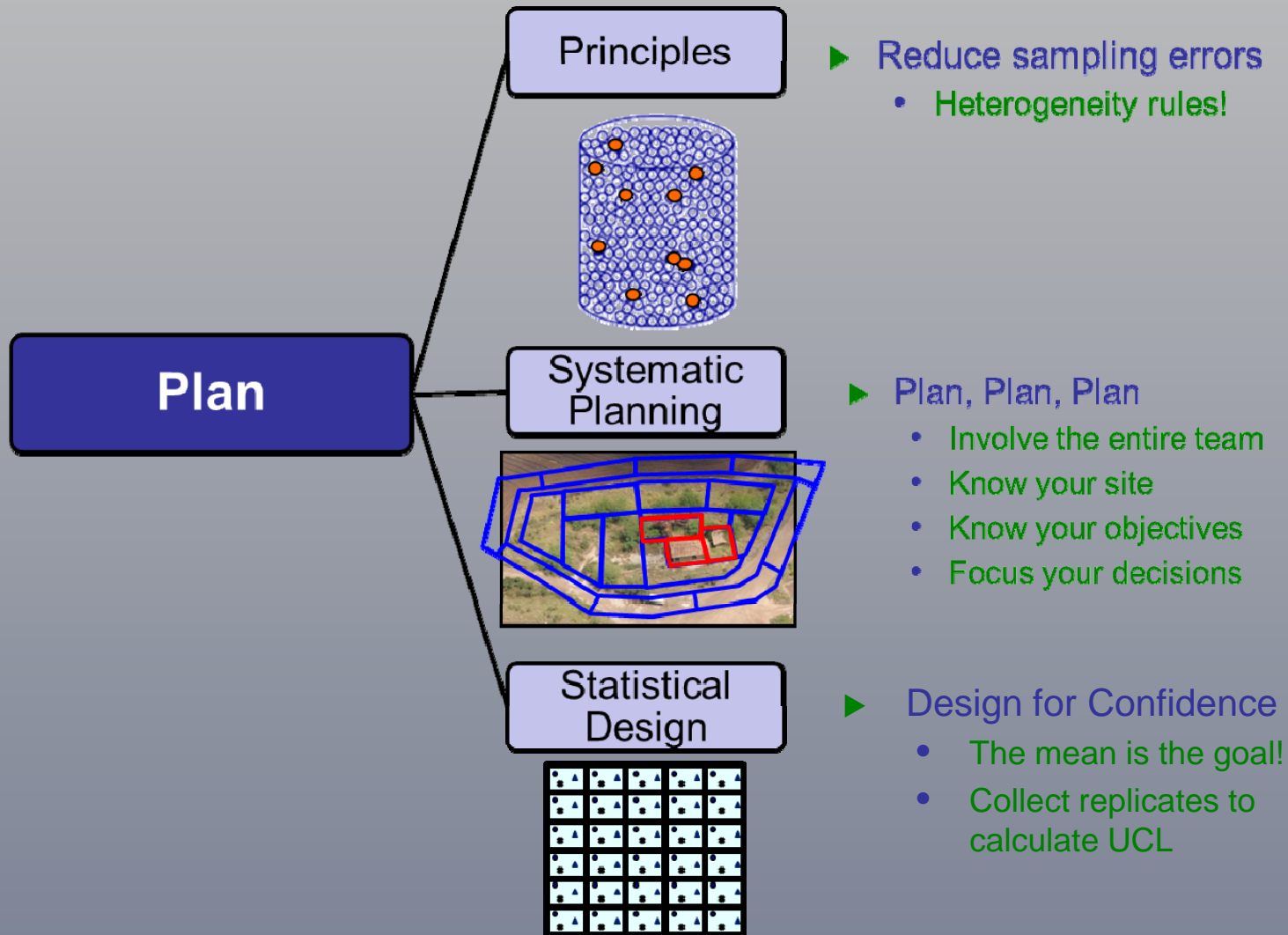
ISM Goal = obtain a representative sample!



ISM relies on systematic planning – to develop a Conceptual Site Model



Develop a plan to meet the objectives; sampling design should align with objectives.



Define the decision units

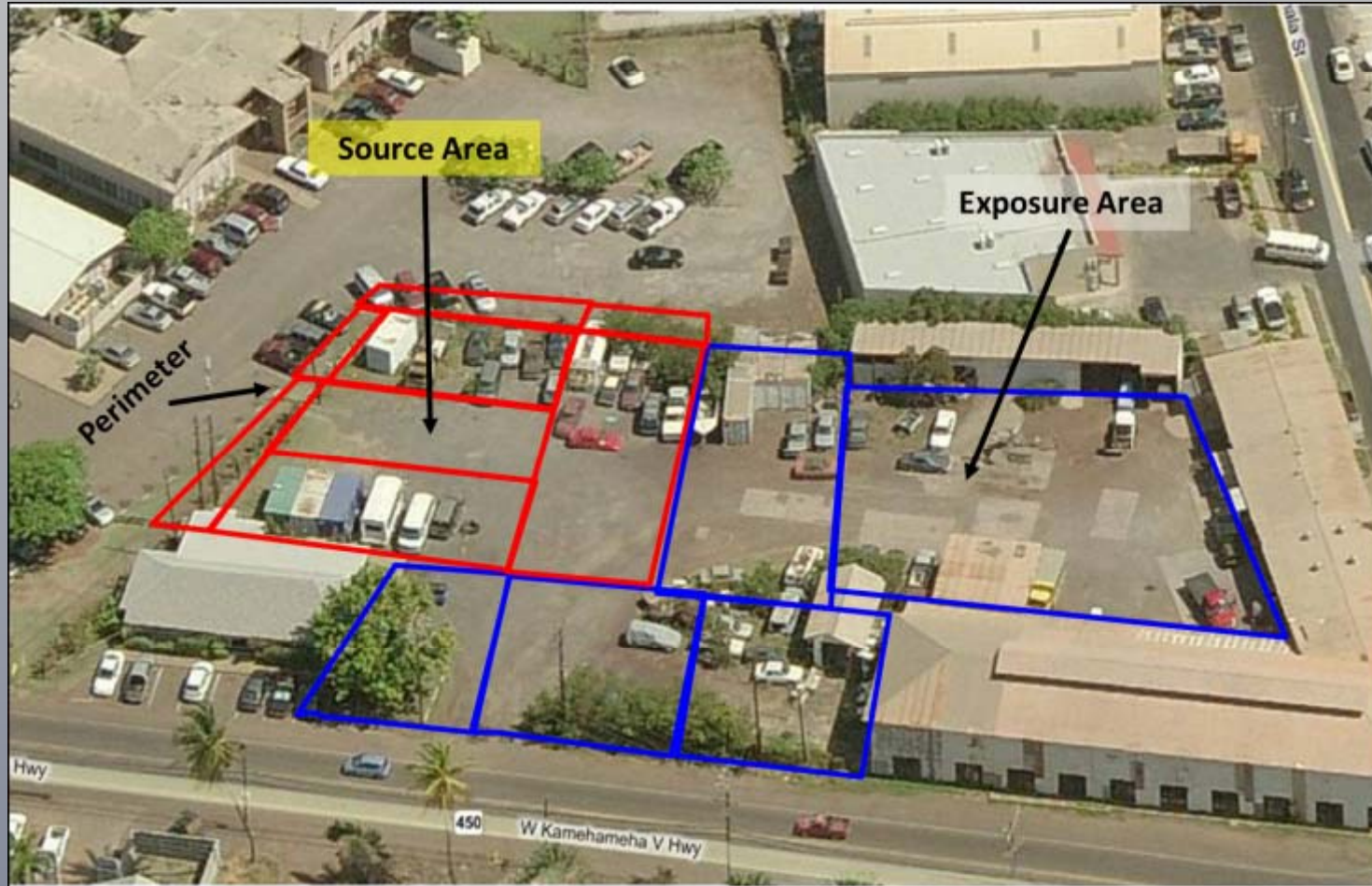


Source Area DUs: Heavy contamination + leaching

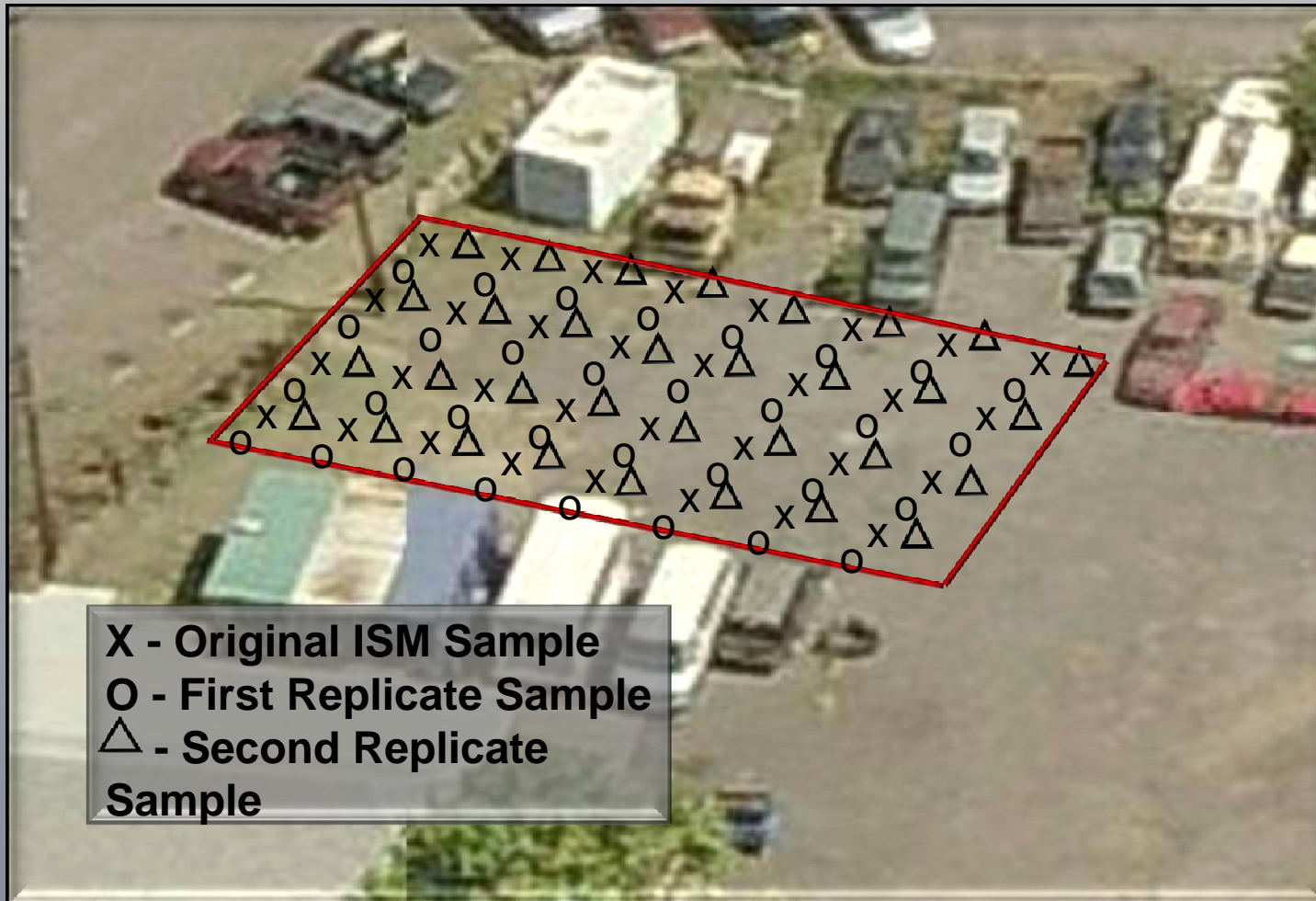


Exposure Area DUs: Maximum 5,000 ft²

There are several types of DUs



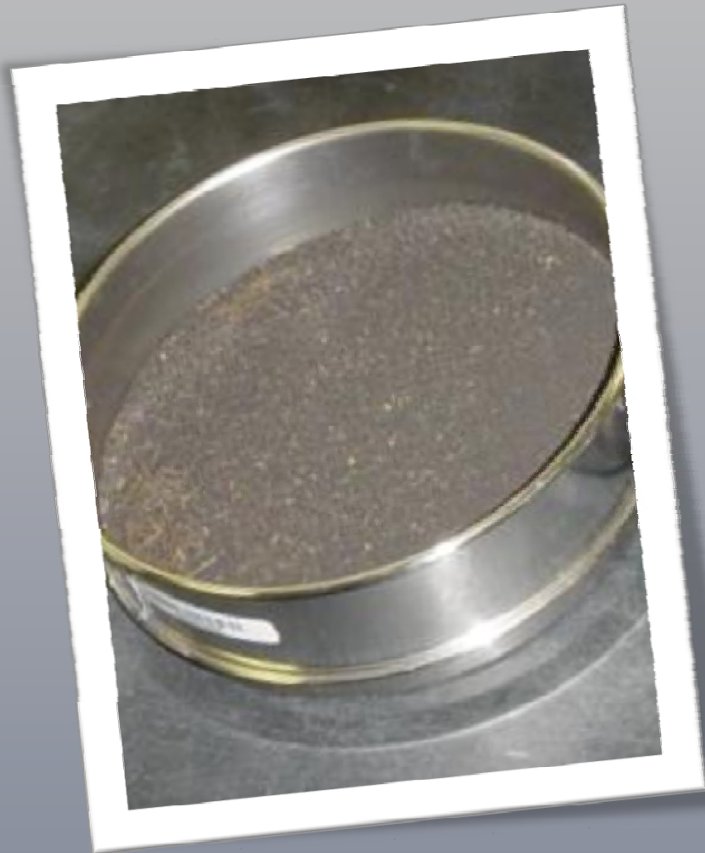
Randomly determine increments for sampling



Collect Samples



Process Samples



Disaggregating



Milling

Collect Subsamples

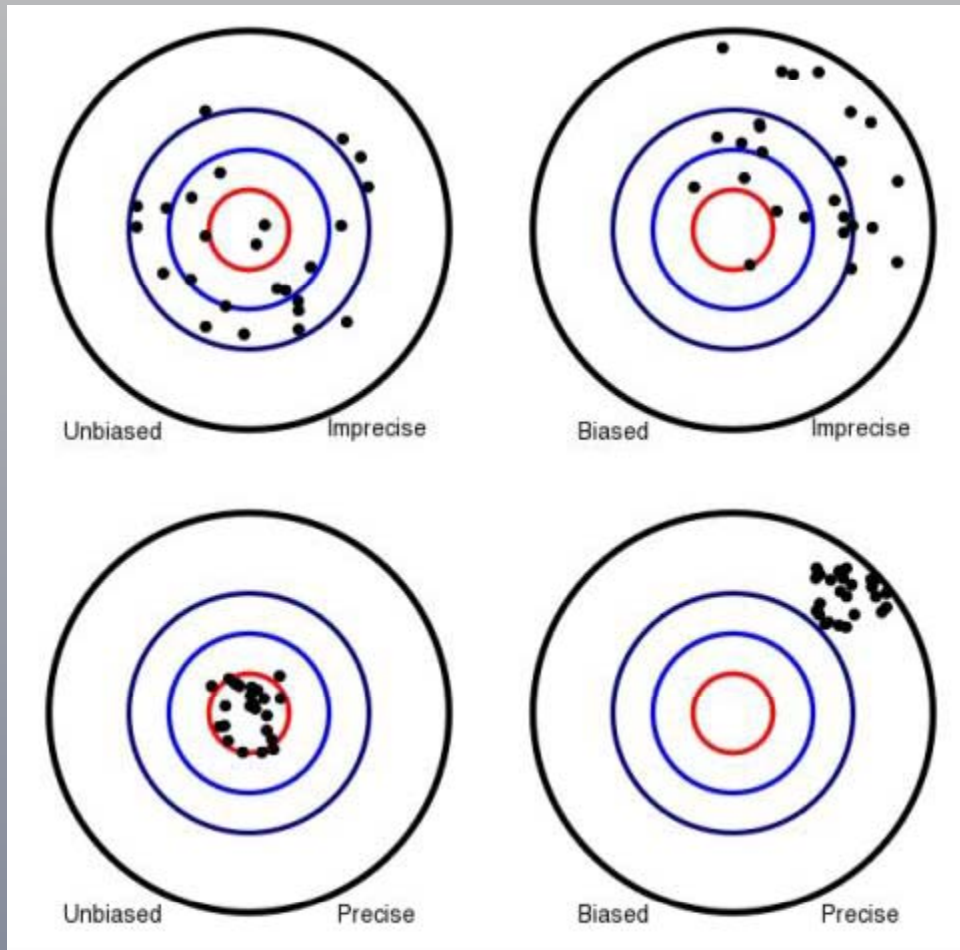


Splitting



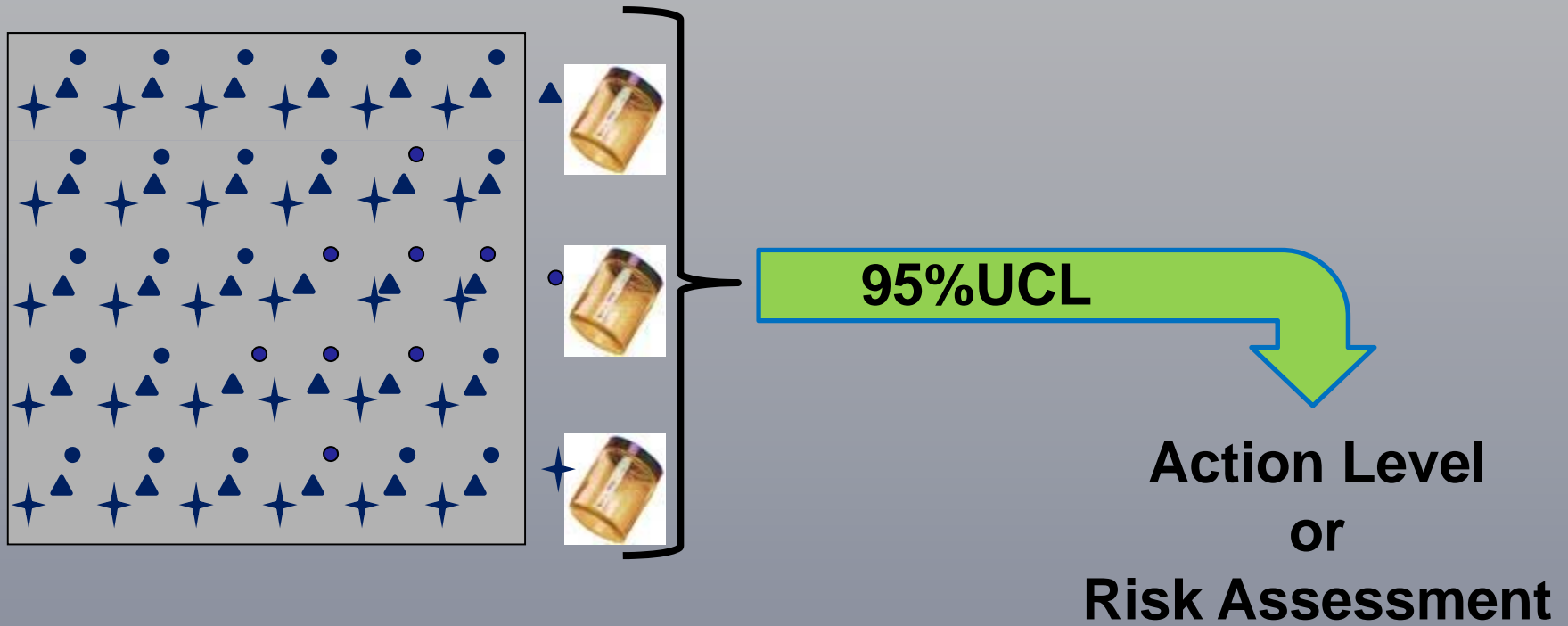
Subsampling

Assess the data



Make good decisions!

Decision Unit



**For additional information on ISM
please visit:**

www.itrcweb.org/ISM-1

www.itrcweb.org/teampublic_ISM.asp

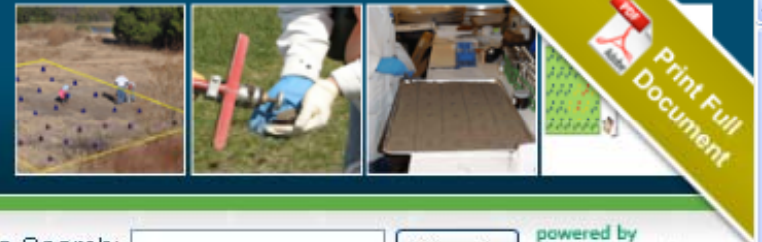
www.cluin.org/conf/itrc/ISM/





Incremental Sampling Methodology

Representative Sampling, Confident Decisions



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- ITRC
- ITRC ISM Public Pages
- Incremental Sampling Methodolgy Homepage
- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Nature of Soil Sampling and Incremental Sampling Principles
- 3.0 Systematic Planning and Decision Unit Designation
- 4.0 Statistical Sampling Designs for ISM
- 5.0 Field Implementation, Sample Collection and Processing
- 6.0 Laboratory Sample Processing and Analysis
- 7.0 Making Decisions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ISM is a "new" approach to site investigation

The diagram illustrates the Incremental Sampling Methodology (ISM) process. It starts with a field where a 'Decision Unit' is designated. A grid of 'Increments' is overlaid on the field, with markers for 'All X's', 'All O's', and 'All Δ's'. The process then moves to 'ISM Field Replicates', 'Sample Processing', and 'Subsampling'.



Incremental Sampling Methodology

Representative Sampling, Confident Decisions



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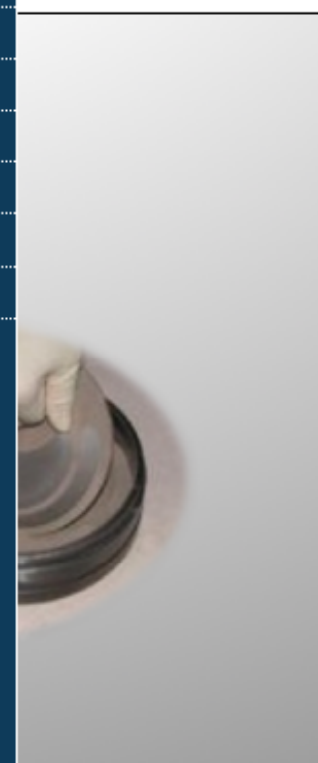
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ITRC	1.1 Summary of ISM as an Environmental Sampling Approach
ITRC ISM Public Pages	1.2 Traditional Investigation Approach Limitations
Incremental Sampling Methodology Homepage	1.3 How ISM Addresses Traditional Investigation Approach Limitations
1.0 Introduction	1.4 How ISM Compares to Compositing
	1.5 Purpose
2.0 Nature of Soil Sampling and Incremental Sampling Principles	1.6 Frequently Asked Questions
	1.7 Document Organization
3.0 Systematic Planning and Decision Unit Designation	1.8 Key Terms
4.0 Statistical Sampling Designs for ISM	
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Incremental Sampling Methodology Homepage	2.2.1 Microscale Heterogeneity
1.0 Introduction	2.2.1.1 The smallest particles often have the highest concentrations
2.0 Nature of Soil Sampling and Incremental Sampling Principles	2.2.1.2 Why laboratory duplicates often fail to match field samples
	2.2.2 Short-Scale Spatial Heterogeneity
	2.2.3 Large-Scale Spatial Heterogeneity
3.0 Systematic Planning and Decision Unit Designation	2.3 Foundational Concepts of Sampling
	2.3.1 All Concentrations Are Means
	2.3.2 Representative Soil Samples
4.0 Statistical Sampling Designs for ISM	2.4 Scale-Specific Sampling Considerations
5.0 Field Implementation, Sample Collection and Processing	2.4.1 Sampling Considerations-Microscale Heterogeneity
	2.4.1.1 Sampling error as a consequence of particle heterogeneity
	2.4.1.2 Measuring the error caused by within-sample heterogeneity
6.0 Laboratory Sample	2.4.1.3 The effect of subsample mass on data variability



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1 Principles	4.2.2.2 UCL of the mean based on Chebyshev inequality
3.0 Systematic Planning and Decision Unit Designation	4.2.3 Nondetects
4.0 Statistical Sampling Designs for ISM	4.3 Evaluating the Performance of Sampling Approaches
5.0 Field Implementation, Sample Collection and Processing	4.3.1 Definitions of Performance Metrics
6.0 Laboratory Sample Processing and Analysis	4.3.1.1 Coverage and magnitude of UCL errors
7.0 Making Decisions Using ISM Data	4.3.1.2 Bias in estimated mean
8.0 Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for ISM	4.3.1.3 Relative standard deviation of replicate samples
9.0 Case Study Summaries	4.3.2 Simulation Study Approach
	4.3.3 Objectives of the Simulation Studies
	4.3.4 Simulation Study Findings on ISM Performance
	4.3.4.1 Sample size (number of increments and number of replicates)
	4.3.4.2 Effects of sampling pattern
	4.3.4.3 Partitioning the DU
	4.3.4.4 Relative standard deviation



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6.2.2.7 Analytical splitting and subsampling techniques

6.3 Laboratory Analysis

6.3.1 General Sample Processing Considerations

6.3.2 Organics

Inorganics

6.4 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

6.4.1 Laboratory Accreditation/Certification

employed. Specifically, reference sections 3.2 and 6.3.1 provide the analytical and laboratory considerations that should be evaluated as part of the ISM design process.

DQOs and Laboratory Coordination

As outlined in USEPA DQO guidance (USEPA 2001), DQOs should be established to establish performance and acceptance criteria with respect to the laboratory methods used for the ISM.

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Appendix A - Statistical Simulations

Appendix B - August 2009 Survey Results

Appendix C - Glossary

- acceptable hazard threshold for noncarcinogens
- comparison of site and background data sets
- combination of data across multiple DUs
- extrapolation of statistics across DUs

One of the primary benefits of ISM sampling is that the sampling strategy is determined prior to sample collection. It is also effective and can be used to make decisions during project planning and sampling plan design, as discussed in [Section 3.2](#).

- CSM
- goals of the project and end use of the data
- scale of the decision

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- CSM
- goals of the project and end use of the data
- scale of the decision

Take Home Points for Labs

- Master Section 6
- Understand Sections 2, 3 & 5
- Familiarize with everything else

- Choosing ISM processing options without understanding the project objectives is like writing a love letter and addressing it ...

**to whom it
may concern**



Take Home Points for Consultants

- Master Sections 3, 4, 5 & 7
- Understand Sections 2, 8, 9 & 10
- Hire a lab that has mastered Section 6

Take Home Points for Regulator Teams

- Understand All Sections
- Divide and conquer
- Ask tough questions

Take Home Points for Responsible Parties

- Understand All Sections
- Divide and conquer
- Ask tough questions

Take Home Points for Community & Environmental Advocates

- Understand Sections 3, 4, 5 & 6
 - ~ Critical decisions that affect representativeness
- Familiarize with everything else
- Use Section 10 to start conversations

The Cost Savings of ISM

- Reduced overall analytical costs significantly
- Maintain analytical spend and structure sampling design to reduce uncertainty



Large potential ripple effects for:

- ~ Liability insurance coverage
- ~ Remediation costs when site concentration near decision threshold



Better Precision Changes Decisions

Florida Golf Course - Arsenic Data (mg/kg)

	Discrete n = 10 (mg/kg)	Incr-30 n = 3 (mg/kg)	Incr-100 n = 3 (mg/kg)
Mean	2	1.8	1.7
Std Dev	1.4	0.08	0.03
95%UCL	3.0	2.0	1.8

FDEP SCTL: 2.1 mg/kg

- ITRC ISM guidance publically available
 - ~ Feb 15, 2012
 - ~ www.itrcweb.org/ISM-1
- Internet based training
 - ~ May 8 & 15, Aug. 21 & 28, Nov. 6 & 13 2012
 - ~ www.clu-in.org/conf/itrc/ISM/

Representative samples



Better data



Better decisions

No one has to change

"No one has to change. Survival is optional."

... Dr. W. Edwards Deming



Acknowledgements



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