

*Deepwater Horizon* Florida Trustee Implementation Group  
2021 Annual Meeting

December 7, 2021 Webinar – Public Comment Period Summary

*Comment:* This is Julie Wraithmell, I am the executive director of Audubon Florida and of course we have been participants in the Gulf restoration and response to the *Deepwater Horizon* spill since 2010. I just wanted to say thank you for the comprehensive overview tonight and encourage you to continue investing in air traffic control. You know, one of the great strengths of NRDA is that it identifies the different assets that were harmed by the oil spill and ensures that money is invested in each. The shortcoming of that is that coordination across those different silos can sometimes be limited, and we've actually found projects that work at odds with one another. We simply can't allow that to happen and are grateful for your work on that, but we see that there's likely to be only an increase in the potential for a need for air traffic control, especially as we see additional investment coming in at the state level for resilience in the coming years. You know we recognize that there's going to be a lot more projects in the coastal zone that could have tremendous additive benefits for these resources, or could work at odds with one another, and so we'd love to have further conversations with the team about how we can set those programs up for successful collaboration rather than incidental conflict.

Additionally, I just wanted to mention that many of these projects, once they are on the ground or in the water, the the work doesn't stop there. In order to make sure that those benefits to the system persist, there sometimes has to be continued investment in maintenance activities, and so I hope we would continue to invest in those things so that our improvements are not short-lived.

And finally, I wanted to put my perennial vote in for the fact that we invest lots of money from Gulf restoration in improving recreational access, and yet we haven't put any money into increasing the capacity of on-the-water law enforcement to make sure that the folks recreating on our waterways are doing so safely and are enjoying a safe time visiting Florida, and also making sure that their recreational use isn't inadvertently harming resources. We should make sure that that function is keeping pace with our investments in access, it's a very important public purpose. Thanks for your time.