



Whirlwind Tour

Sarasota and Tampa Projects

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District

Attendance was high at two public meetings in July for the Lido Key shore protection study.



Information sessions before and after the meetings helped answer residents' questions





...and also provided a forum for information exchange.



Next day, the team takes a trip to Egmont Key where dredged material will soon benefit the eroding shoreline.

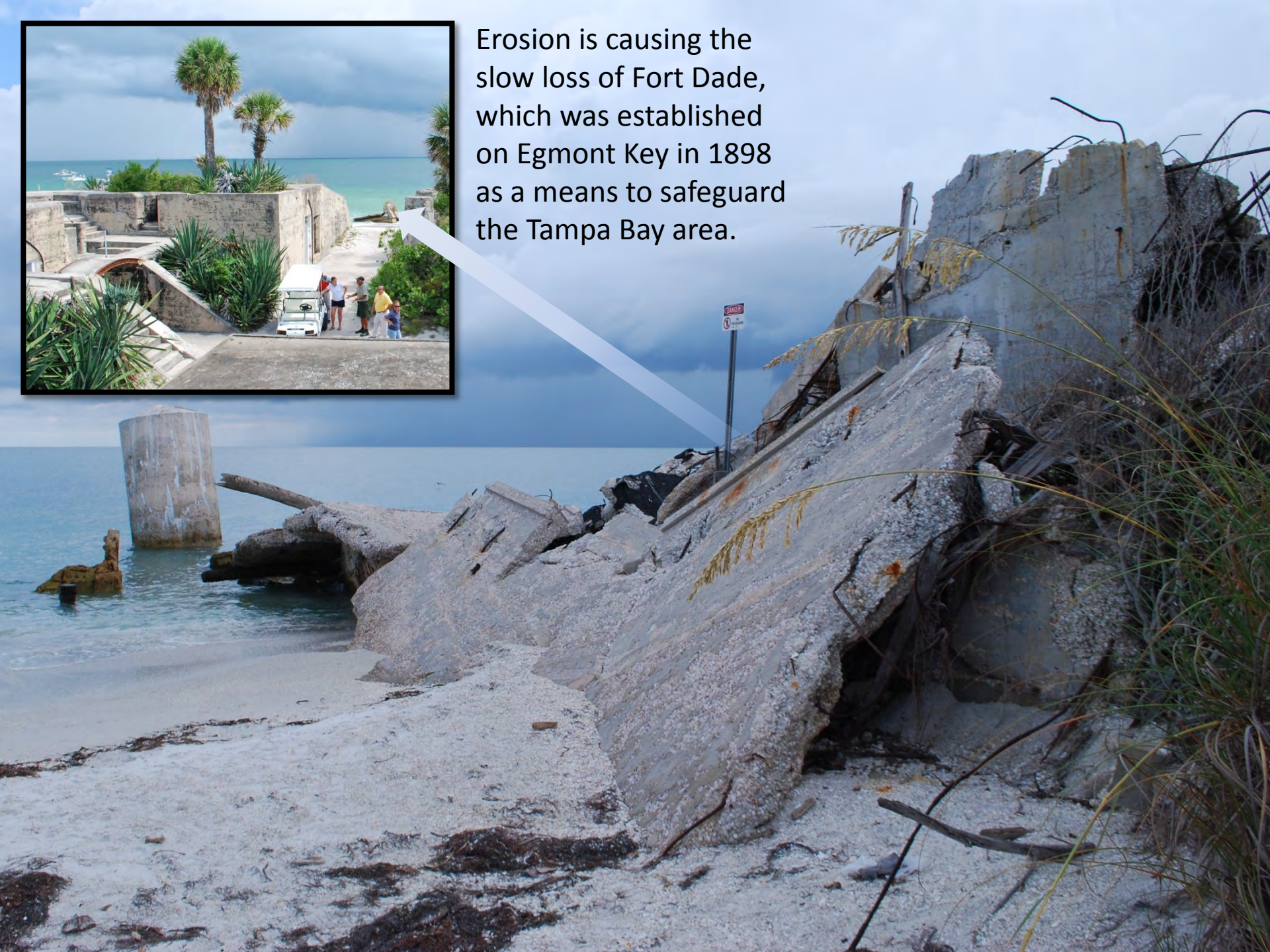
A Corps construction engineer describes ongoing work at another site to our boat pilot, also a Corps employee.



The project manager starts the tour with significant cultural and wildlife sites.



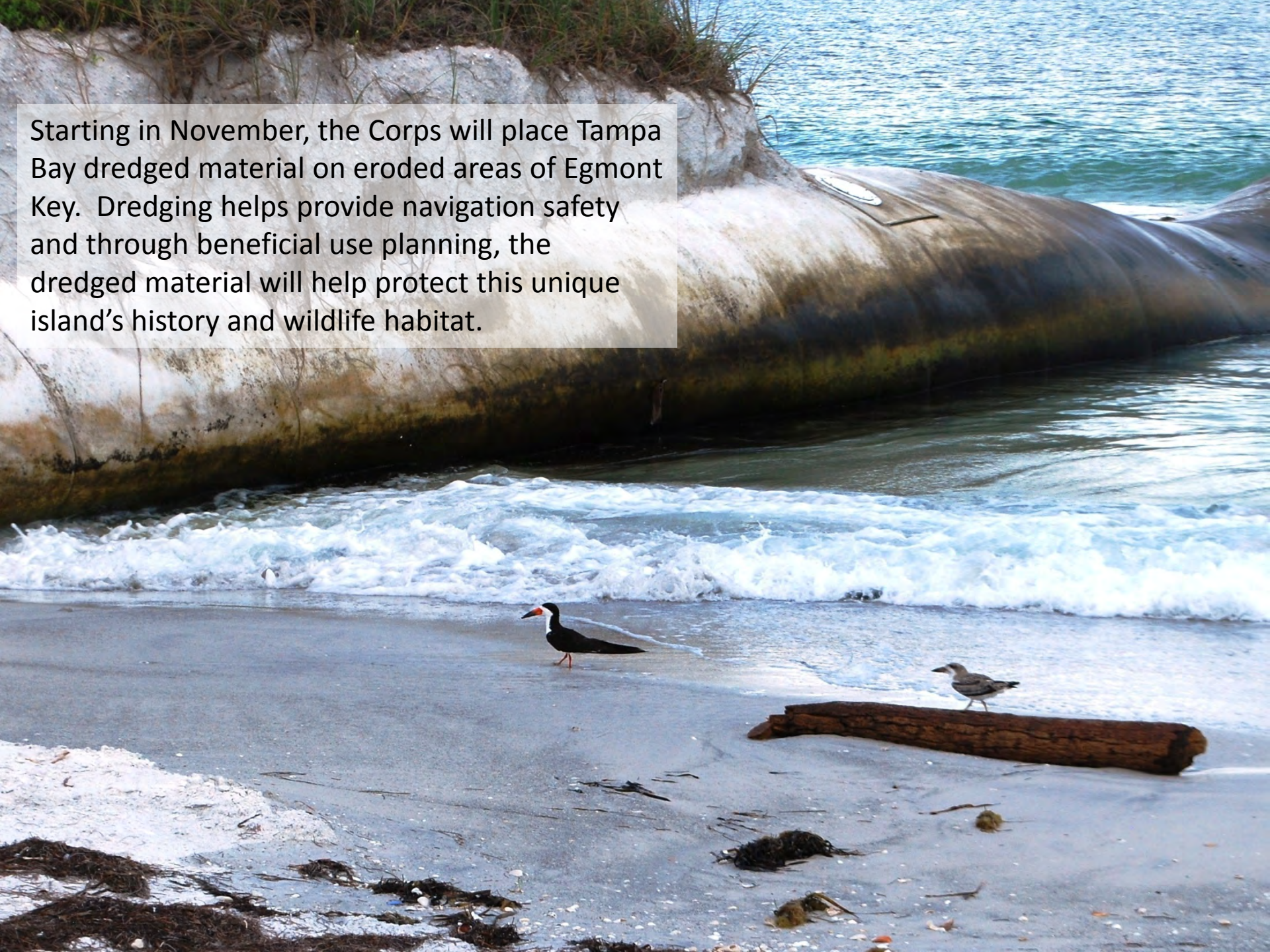
Erosion is causing the slow loss of Fort Dade, which was established on Egmont Key in 1898 as a means to safeguard the Tampa Bay area.



A Florida Park Service manager shows the team the extent of the beach erosion. NOAA and Corps reps exchange information.



Starting in November, the Corps will place Tampa Bay dredged material on eroded areas of Egmont Key. Dredging helps provide navigation safety and through beneficial use planning, the dredged material will help protect this unique island's history and wildlife habitat.



As we looked offshore, we saw a Corps contractor's vessels get caught in a storm while dredging sand for placement on the Treasure Island / Long Key shore protection projects.



The next stop is to nearby dredge disposal sites
and one in particular that's getting a dike raising.
Its also providing excellent bird habitat!



Welcome to “3D” or the third man-made dredge disposal site in the Tampa Bay vicinity. A construction crew at 3D is raising the dike to store more dredge materials. Shorebirds are loving the new social opportunities outside and inside the dike.



Corps contractors survey along the dike.
Below, water that accumulates inside the dike drains back to sea via large pipes.



From inside the dike, pipes can be opened or closed depending on the situation.



Tampa is seen in the background, and the bay sits between 3D and the city.

Contractors, including a bird specialist, and Corps team members four-wheel across 3D to get a closer look at work and the birds.



A Corps inspector confers with a worker and later takes soil compaction readings of the work.



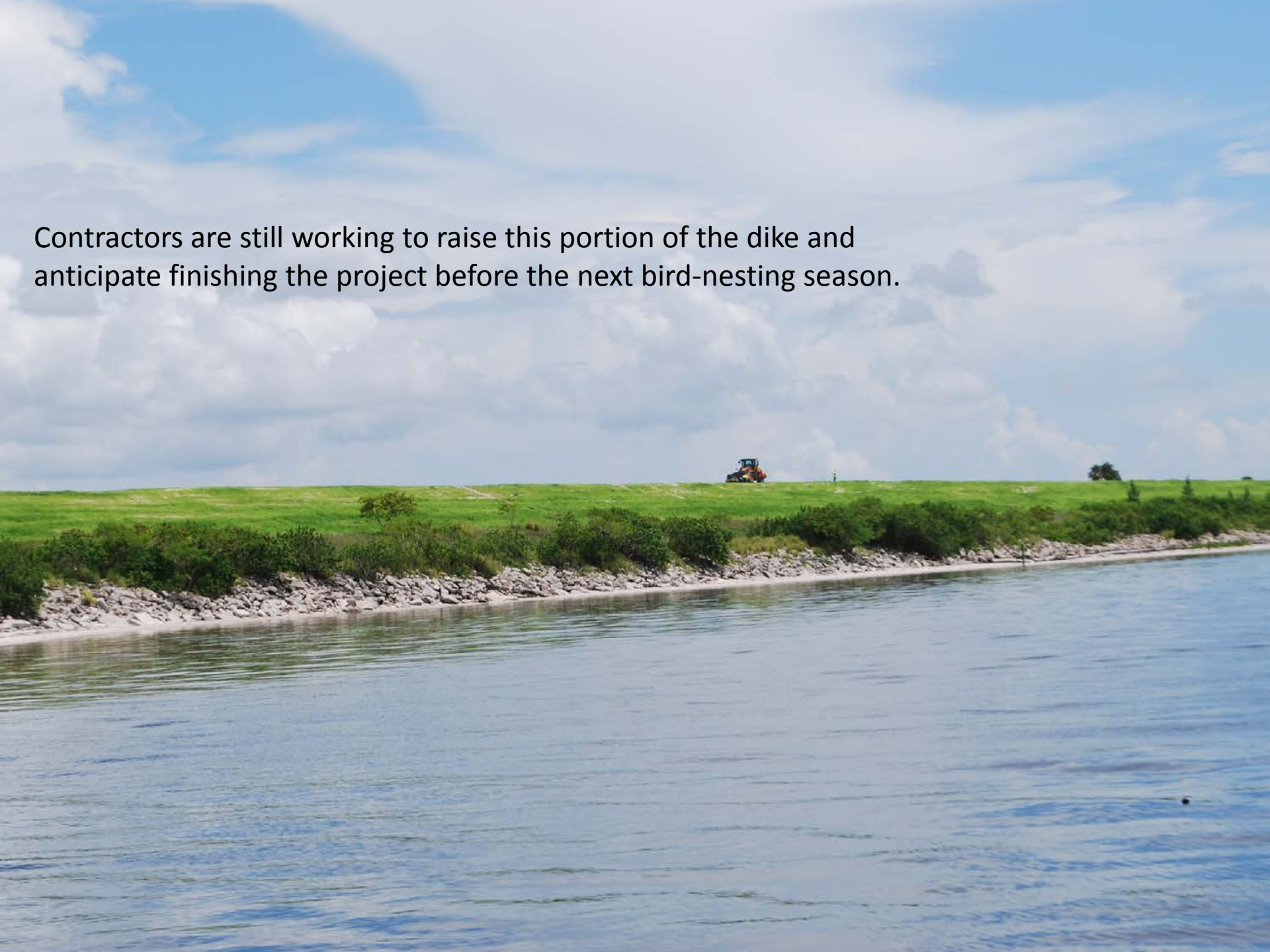
In a quieter area inside the dike, birds enjoy their own company.

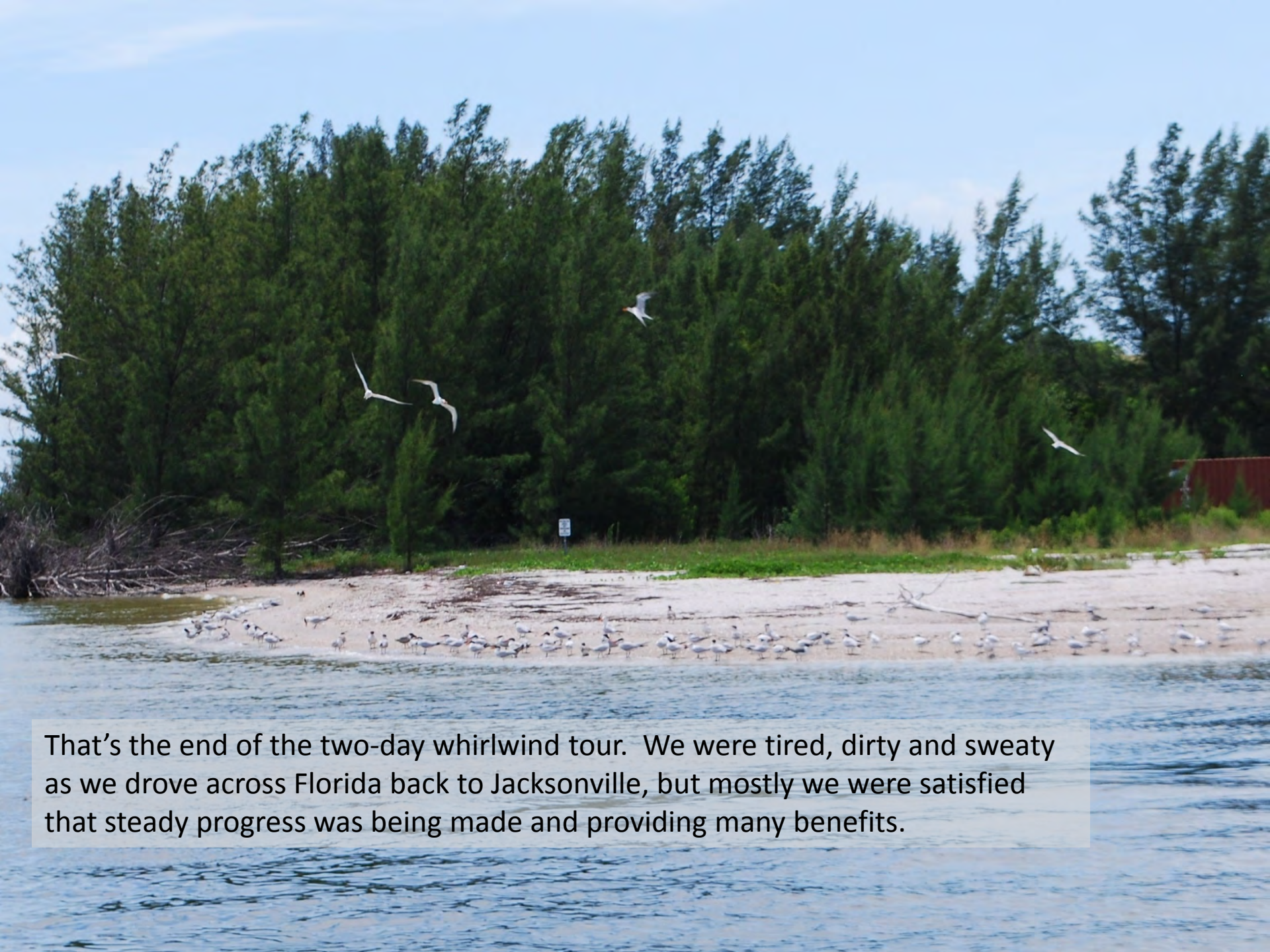




These guys were making a racket though (note the dike in the background).

Contractors are still working to raise this portion of the dike and anticipate finishing the project before the next bird-nesting season.





That's the end of the two-day whirlwind tour. We were tired, dirty and sweaty as we drove across Florida back to Jacksonville, but mostly we were satisfied that steady progress was being made and providing many benefits.

A close-up photograph of a beach covered in numerous seashells of various sizes and colors, including white, tan, and blue. A dark, thin object, possibly a piece of driftwood or a stick, is visible in the upper left corner. A semi-transparent, light-colored rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text.

Special thanks to our contractors, the Florida Park Service, and the City of Sarasota for being such gracious hosts!

*In service to our nation,
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Jacksonville District is responsible for 17 deep draft harbors and 20 shallow draft harbors in Florida and the Caribbean, as well as approximately 900 miles of navigable inland waterways. Jacksonville District is also responsible for 1,300 miles of the state's 1,800 miles of coastline. In fact, the Corps constructs and maintains over 30% of the nation's total shore protection.