

Kathy Owens

Audio Clip Transcript:

Everybody's there doing these crazy hours and just giving it everything they've got in this little room full of tables and computers, and we're all hearing each other working on coordinating rehab centers and getting trucks to pick up the oiled birds — stop traffic and get this truck there! — you're just hearing all this constantly and trying to get people to fill these positions and people are leaving and there's nobody there to get out into the field—you know it was just really insane. And then on CNN—we had a TV screen in the room—it was one of their first broadcasts that they were showing the effects on the wildlife. They put that first scene of folks out in the boats pulling out oiled pelicans and they just looked pitiful, pitiful, sad, horrible. And it was just one of those moments where, we all knew that's what was happening out there, but we were stuck in the command center and hadn't seen it. Everything just stopped and went dead silent in that room and we sat there and watched that. There were tears flowing, and these were tough people. It was just really traumatic to see it.”