

# The National Nature-based Solutions Policy Forum 2024

## Panel Summary: Federal Permitting for NBS

### Speakers:

- Craig Aubrey, Chief, Division of Environmental Review, Ecological Services Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Manisha Patel, Deputy Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
- Tunis McElwain, Deputy Chief, Regulatory Program, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Carrie Selberg Robinson, Director, Office of Habitat Conservation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Facilitator:

- Dr. Brett Branco, Executive Director, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

The Federal Permitting Panel at the NBS Policy Forum highlighted key initiatives and challenges in permitting Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) projects. Carrie Robinson from NOAA emphasized the importance of Essential Fish Habitat considerations in permitting processes. Manish Patel discussed the role of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Committee in advancing collaboration and innovation across permitting agencies. Craig Aubrey and Tunis McElwain provided insights from FWS and USACE, respectively, regarding regulatory frameworks and ongoing efforts to streamline permitting processes. During the Q&A session, participants addressed challenges such as communication, capacity, and the need for collaborative approaches. The panel underscored the significance of research and collaboration, highlighting ERDC's central role in supporting NBS permitting and implementation efforts.