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## **Developing a Management Strategy for Public-Facing Areas at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary**

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is a >13,000 acre National Audubon Society Sanctuary that protects the largest remaining stand of bald cypress forest in the world. Located in Southwest Florida, Corkscrew is a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar convention), a Wetland of Distinction (Society of Wetland Scientists), and a National Natural Landmark (US Department of the Interior). Sanctuary staff actively manage the mosaic of upland and wetland habitats to maintain habitat for native wildlife and maintain native plant communities. A 2.25-mile raised boardwalk provides the only regular public access to the Sanctuary and typically sees over 80,000 visitors each year. While stewardship of the Sanctuary's lands is guided by a Land Management Plan, the habitat directly surrounding the boardwalk is being established as a special management area to allow it to meet the needs of the diverse interests within Audubon for this immersive education and outreach experience. This practicum is the first step in that process, a workshop to bring together staff representing varied interests or interest groups to (1) better understand participants' perspectives on what is important about the boardwalk experience, (2) identify management actions that are unique to the boardwalk or that may need to be done differently than in other parts of the Sanctuary, and (3) discuss each interest group's role in management. Represented groups include administration (Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society), educators, land stewards, researchers, visitor center staff, facilities staff, volunteers, members, and visitors.