

## Hernando County Audubon Society Conservation Committee 2011-2016 Conservation Program Plan

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In setting goals for Conservation work done within the Hernando Audubon Society (HAS), the Committee shall, firstly, be moved by the bylaws that define our organization, specifically that section which defines our organization as "...a Chapter of the National Audubon Society." As such, while we seek to help both our members and others come to know and love, both in very active ways, our special part of this land called Florida and the native flora and fauna that defines this place. The Conservation Committee also works in response to the goals and objectives of Florida Audubon, and the National Audubon Society.

Doing this work is the process of getting HAS members to experience, understand, appreciate and defend our special part of the world, and to also learn to see and understand the broader vision of this world in which we live.

Accordingly, we have defined particular conservation work through a long-range vision that addresses our individual goals and objectives. While not everything on this list will be an active HAS issue at any one time, these components should be kept in mind throughout this period.

Specifically, we seek to accomplish the following:

- (1) Develop and implement a plan to assist in work needed to "help maintain and improve" Audubon's Ahhochee Hill property; coordinate that plan with Ahhochee Hill staff and other groups/organizations involved.
- (2) Identify Special Places in Hernando County, both coastal and inland, whether they are federal, state or local lands. Where necessary, establish bird counting procedures and documentation. Do so on a regular basis; engage informed and active volunteers, and connect information gained to such tools as [www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com).
- (3) Verify, update, and adopt "Florida Important Bird Area" list as appropriate to our geographic area of concern. Develop and implement programs relative to species of special concern (as defined by appropriate agencies). This could include the consideration and discussion of any areas that HAS deems to deserve addition to the official list of IBAs and how to work towards fulfilling the requirements necessary to meet that designation.
- (4) Work with Hernando, Pasco and Sumter County Boards of County Commissioners and governmental agencies, through:
  - Relationship(s) with individual Commissioners and appropriate City/County staff;
  - Monitoring schedules of appropriate government meeting times and places; participating where appropriate; take stands within Florida Audubon guidelines;
  - Forging ongoing relationships with appropriate governmental staff;Using this process to inform and educate appropriate staff to our priorities and issues.
- (5) Monitor SWFWMD activities; attempt to have input wherever possible; consider joining with other organizations in actions to countermand SWFWMD actions.
- (6) Work with other Audubon Societies, Sierra Club chapters, and other activist organizations, both within our "region of concern" and otherwise, as needed.

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- (7) Maintain a core group of activists willing to become involved in one or more of the following at appropriate governmental levels:
- a. Water – river systems, lakes, oceans, drinking water and wastewater management
  - b. Pollution – water, air, land, and the effects on human or animal populations
  - c. Environmental hazards – garbage dumping (private or public), non-native species
  - d. Land use – planning and management, esp. budget management and Environmentally Sensitive Lands
  - e. Transportation – route planning and management
  - f. Waste management
  - g. Any other such issues as required.

Adopted 13 August by Hernando Audubon Society Conservation Committee, Robert Keim, Chair.