

Citizen Resolution # 020822

(For Hearing Officer completion)



WCC to Oppose Recreational Sandhill Crane Hunting in Wisconsin

The Eastern Sandhill Crane population has only recently recovered from the brink of extirpation. Last October, Wisconsin State Senators proposed SB 620, a bill that would require the state Department of Natural Resources to establish a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes. It is estimated that 2/3 of the Eastern population of Sandhill Cranes breed right here in Wisconsin. Sandhill Cranes are miscast as game birds, are biologically different from typical game birds, and mate for life. They will only have one or two eggs, and only one chick will generally survive to adulthood from five nesting pairs (International Crane Foundation). Simply stated, it takes 10 cranes to raise one. That is because cranes are not usually successful parents until several failed nesting attempts. Nesting attempts usually start at 3-4 years of age and typically become successful around 6-8 years of age when they learn how to avoid predators. In addition, Sandhill Cranes already face threats from habitat loss, climate change, as well as increased potential for power line collision from solar and wind turbine development (International Crane Foundation). Looking beyond specific Sandhill Crane challenges, millions of dollars are invested annually in crane-related tourism and associated businesses, which is a growing industry in Wisconsin. Long-term biological studies would need to be done to properly assess the impacts of hunting the breeding population of Sandhill Cranes in Wisconsin, and the potential for illegal/accidental shooting of Whooping Cranes (a severely endangered species) to ensure a recreational hunting season would not bring two species to the brink of biologic collapse.

Do you support the WCC taking a formal position against a Sandhill Crane hunting season in WI?

Additional Information provided by author:
<https://savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/sandhill-crane/>

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Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.