

APPENDIX 6: Response Protocols

WCEP Contact Information

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John French
U.S. Geological Survey
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
c/o BARC-East Bldg 308, Rm 221
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 497-5702

Jim Hook
International Crane Foundation
E-11376 Shady Lane Rd.
P.O. Box 447
Baraboo, WI 53913 USA
(608) 356-9462

Tom Stehn
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 100
Austwell, TX 77950
(361) 286-3559 ext.221

USGS National Wildlife Health Center
6006 Schroeder Road
Madison, WI 53711-6223
(608) 270-2400

Charlie Luthin
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin
PO Box 2317
Madison, WI 53701-2317
(608) 261-4384

Donn Waage
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111
(612) 713-5173

Private Land Issues

Contact WI DNR Regional biologist, DNR Whooping Crane Coordinator, or USFWS biologist as situation warrants.

Citizen Involvement

The public should contact their local WI DNR office to report all whooping crane observations. Probable sightings or known observations should be recorded by staff on the Whooping Crane Observation Form (Appendix 7) for the WCEP monitoring database maintained by WI DNR. The form can be downloaded from the WI DNR central computer server and electronically submitted or mailed to the state whooping crane coordinator and database manager. Data management is accomplished through the main whooping crane database by the data management staff and whooping crane coordinator. A series of validations ensures that only true records will be added to the main database. All probable sightings are shared with WCEP field staff.

Field staff may serve as a liaison to private property owners when whooping cranes reside on their land. The WI DNR whooping crane coordinator and WCEP partners are available to help provide project information as needed. Additionally, all field staff has access to project brochures and other educational materials for public distribution. In certain instances, WCEP may request monitoring assistance from landowners.

Preventing human disturbance is important to a bird's success in the wild. Human disturbance can cause the birds to leave an area, which may limit their ability to obtain food. Wild cranes are particularly sensitive to human disturbance on their summer breeding grounds (i.e., Wisconsin and central Canada). One-year old released birds are more likely to become habituated to humans. As they get older, the birds become increasingly wary.

When encountering a whooping crane, every effort should be made to remain at least 100 yards from the bird. If possible, remain concealed in a vehicle. Binoculars or a spotting scope are recommended to increase visibility. It is especially important to avoid disturbing a crane during evening roosting or when nesting. To learn more about bird watching guidelines, refer to The Bird Watcher's Code of Ethics developed by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology at <http://www.uwgb.edu/birds/wso/ethics.htm>. Additional information on the effects of disturbance on nesting cranes can be found under Nest Sites and Territory Management, Section 6.9).

Law Violation

When a report or complaint is received of the intentional or unintentional killing of a whooping crane, it should be reported to the local conservation warden for the county in which the incident occurred. Such reports may be made either directly to the warden or through the nearest DNR Service Center, Sheriff's Department or by calling the DNR violation hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (847-9367). Wardens will document the report and disposition of the investigation into the killing or possession of a whooping crane on law enforcement complaint form (Form #4800-48).

As soon as practical after receiving a report of the killing or possession of a whooping crane the warden or the warden supervisor shall notify the Regional Enforcement and Science leader and the Bureau of Endangered Resources. The investigating state warden will coordinate the investigation with the USFWS federal warden as appropriate on all intentional shootings. Any seized carcass of an unlawfully killed or possessed whooping crane will be tagged by the warden with a seizure record tag (Form # 4100-190). Proper chain of custody will need to be maintained for any incidents that might result in enforcement action.

Dead Crane Data Sheet

Contact: Wisconsin to Georgia USGS National Wildlife Health Center 6006 Schroeder Road Madison, WI 53711 Phone: 608-270-2445 Fax: 608-270-2415	Contact: Georgia and Florida Marilyn G. Spalding Department of Pathobiology Box 110880 College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida Gainesville, Florida 32610 Ship to: 2015 SW 16 Avenue, Bldg. 1017, Rm. V3-111 Work. 352 392-4700 ext 5816 Lab phone. 352 392-4700 ext 5849 FAX: 352 392-9704 Home: 352-495-9275 Email: rosie@nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu
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Carcass Handling

1. Chill the carcass with wet ice bag(s). Birds may be shipped with frozen blue ice packs.
2. Contact USGS National Wildlife Health Center or Marilyn (see above) and include this data sheet in package with carcass.
3. Courtesy call to conservation warden and USFWS Law Enforcement Agent if needed.
Reports may be made directly to the warden or through the nearest WI DNR Service Center, sheriff's department, or by calling the WI DNR violation hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (847-9367). The investigating state warden will coordinate an investigation with the USFWS federal warden as appropriate on all shootings.

Agent contacted, name and number:

Submitter:

Cell phone number:

Date collected:

Crane identification number:

FWS band:

Found dead (circle one): Yes No Euthanized (circle one): Yes No

Euthanasia method:

Specific location where found including county and state:

Describe site features (vegetation, water, feathers, tracks, fences, roads, power lines):

Clinical signs? Any unusual behaviors or changes in physical appearance:

History:

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Environmental factors:

Additional comments or observations: