



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

***Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species*
FOR USE TO GUIDE SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY SPECIES**

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species* do not have regulatory authority. Therefore, the following are recommendations only. This abbreviated version of a chapter in *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species: Volume IV* (see http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/phs_vol4_birds.pdf) has been streamlined for easier application. Where applicable, these recommendations should be put into practice consistently across a landscape to be most effective. The following recommendations are not site-specific. Where available, a professional in a relevant field (e.g., wildlife biologist) should evaluate the site and surrounding landscape when applying these recommendations.

Attach parcel map with species location indicated if available.

General Recommendations

- Conserve ponds and wetlands within 2 mi of grain fields to provide roosting sites.
- Avoid modifying water levels while cranes are nesting. Dams or irrigation ditches that alter water levels and cause negative changes to vegetation should be avoided in crane breeding or migration areas (known concentration, nesting, and migration staging areas are designated and mapped in PHS).
- New powerline corridors should be constructed out of primary flight pathways. New power line corridors should be located away from crane migration and breeding sites, or buried underground. Existing powerlines in flight pathways should be strung with highly visible markers to avoid collisions.
- Remove fences not intended to control grazing and that are near areas used by cranes.
- Limit or eliminate grazing at crane breeding sites. All grazing or haying should not occur until after mid-August and neither of these activities is recommended during the breeding season. All hay should be removed and residual hay cleared immediately after mowing.
- Hunting activity should be avoided near established roosts, or restricted to 4 hours after sunrise until 2 hours before sunset. Hunting should also be avoided near major feeding areas.
- See table below for buffers.

Table. Recommended protective buffers for specified activities.

Activities	Buffer width	Buffer around	Timing	Comments
Road & foot travel	1310'	crane nests	March - September ^a	--
Logging operations	2620'	crane nests	March – September ^a	--
Construction & development	3940'	crane nests	March – September ^a	--
New construction & increased traffic	2620'	known feeding areas	Year-round ^b	Preferred feeding areas include wet meadows, grasslands, grain fields, and pastures.
Construction of roads & buildings	1640'	known night roosts	Year-round ^b	Often roost and feed near ducks and geese.

^a Seasonal buffer. ^b Permanent buffer.

I have read and understand the above recommendations (s) placed on Parcel # _____ located in the _____ Quarter of _____ Quarter of Section _____, Township _____, Range _____ (East/West meridian) with actual street address of _____.