

SANDHILL CRANE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Procedure 1: Survey cranes in Arizona to provide information for hunt recommendations.

- A. Conduct coordinated ground and aerial survey of sandhill cranes in the Sulfur Springs Valley concurrent with the midwinter waterfowl survey.
- B. Conduct aerial survey of the Lower Colorado cranes to support the survey conducted along the Lower Colorado River.
- C. Assist with coordination and provide on the ground assistance to refuge and tribal personnel to conduct surveys on the Lower Colorado Refuges and the Colorado River Indian Tribal Lands.
- D. Assess recruitment estimates for cranes in northern breeding states each year.

Procedure 2: To determine demand, harvest, and success rate of hunting.

- A. Continue to conduct mandatory sandhill crane hunter questionnaires.
- B. Conduct mandatory check stations every third year to determine subspecies, age, and gender of harvested cranes to satisfy Rocky Mountain population (RMP) management plan requirements for hunting RMP cranes.
- C. Explore hunter completed cards to replace mandatory check station requirements.

Procedure 3: Pursue additional hunting opportunities for sandhill crane hunting in Arizona.

- A. Work with landowners in the Sulfur Springs Valley to maintain and improve hunter access to cranes.
- B. Work within the flyway system to maximize hunter opportunities for sandhill cranes.
- C. Establish a hunt for Lower Colorado River Cranes along the Lower Colorado River refuges.