

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5  
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org) • Email: [ofah@ofah.org](mailto:ofah@ofah.org)

OFAH FILE: 404/450  
October 2, 2014

COPY

Mr. John Vanthof, MPP  
Timiskaming-Cochrane  
Room 156, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A5

Dear Mr. Vanthof:

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), our 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers, and our 720 member clubs across the province, we are writing to indicate our strong support for your proposal to the Canadian Wildlife Service for a **limited sandhill crane hunt** in specific Wildlife Management Units (WMUs), where the science and damage to crops supports such an initiative.

For your information, we have attached copies of our previous correspondence with the Canadian Wildlife Service around this issue. Please also find attached copies of a 2014 letter/resolution from the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association, and past correspondence from local groups in the Manitoulin area in support of a hunt.

We trust that this material will be of some assistance, and thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours in Conservation,

Greg Farrant  
Manager, Government Affairs & Policy

GF/gh  
Attach.

cc: OFAH Sporting Dogs/Small Game/Migratory Birds/Wetlands Advisory Committee  
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director  
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish and Wildlife Services  
Dawn Sucee, OFAH Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
• Andrea Vanderburg, OFAH Fish & Wildlife Information Liaison

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OFAH FILE: 404/453  
January 28, 2009

**FAX # (819) 953-7177**

Ms. Virginia Poter  
Director General  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
351 St. Joseph Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

Dear Ms. Poter:

**Subject: Sandhill Cranes**

Last year, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) requested that the Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) explore the possibilities of opening a sandhill crane hunt in Ontario where opportunities exist.

We provided \$28,000 for a research project to answer some fundamental questions regarding sandhill crane habitat use, activity budgets, migratory routes, as well as conduct a landowner opinion survey, and develop a population estimate.

We understand that the C.W.S. asked the Ontario Waterfowl Advisory Committee to discuss these issues, which we believe took place late last year.

We ask that the C.W.S. please identify for us:

- 1) The criteria necessary to initiate a limited sandhill crane hunt in Ontario;
- 2) What outstanding research needs exist; and
- 3) Is the C.W.S. conducting or proposing additional research?

Furthermore, given the significant financial contributions already put forth by the O.F.A.H. and its zone members, we strongly recommend that any additional research needs that would build upon the findings of Long Point Waterfowl, which we previously provided, be assumed by the C.W.S.

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OFAH FILE: 404/453  
May 13, 2008

Ms. Virginia Poter  
Director General  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Environment Canada  
351 St. Joseph Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Hull, Quebec  
K1A 0H3

Dear Ms. Poter:

**Subject: Sandhill Cranes**

To help alleviate crop losses, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) is requesting that the Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) explore the possibility of opening regulated sandhill crane hunting seasons in central Ontario.

It has been brought to our attention that the C.W.S. has been issuing "kill permits" to control nuisance sandhill cranes on Manitoulin Island and along the north shore of Lake Huron. This has been in response to rapidly expanding sandhill crane populations (breeding and migratory) and associated complaints from local farmers that their crops were being depredated. We are also aware that several individuals and organizations have petitioned the C.W.S. to open a sandhill crane hunt similar to other jurisdictions (e.g. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and 12 U.S. States), but that the C.W.S. is not prepared to consider this proposition until better population estimates and habitat use information are available.

As a result, we provided nearly \$30,000 in funding to the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Fund (L.P.W.W.R.F.) to provide some of the fundamental population, migration and habitat use information that the C.W.S. was seeking.

During the late summer and early fall of 2007, L.P.W.W.R.F. researchers conducted roadside activity budgets, population surveys (both ground-based and aerial), and public opinion surveys toward sandhill cranes. The L.P.W.W.R.F. also assessed daily habitat use throughout late summer and fall.

During peak fall migration 5,196 birds were observed within the study area, which represents a small proportion of the area currently inhabited by large populations of fall-staging cranes. Sandhill cranes were observed stripping off the heads of barley and wheat stocks, and some trampling of standing crops was also noted. Once cereal grain fields began to be harvested, sandhill cranes switched to feeding within harvested fields, therefore, we also suggest that farmers utilize scaring techniques (propane bangers) during summer and early fall.

Public opinion surveys indicate that sandhill cranes are causing economic losses for many landowners, and that they are perceived as a problem by a large proportion of farmers in the region. These problems have increased substantially over the last decade and are a direct result of rapidly expanding crane populations.

As part of the study, the L.P.W.W.R.F. captured four sandhill cranes in the region and fitted them with satellite transmitters. All cranes migrated south through Michigan and continued on toward traditional fall stopover sites in northern Indiana (Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area) and southern Tennessee (Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge) before settling into their wintering areas in Florida and southern Georgia. The return migration of birds this spring suggests that sandhill cranes that stage in the central Ontario region breed in western Quebec and in the boreal forest regions north of the Great Lakes.

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