

Two positive events have happened recently involving whooping cranes.

Despite the continuing drought in Florida, one pair of whooping cranes is nesting. This is a pair that nested two years ago and had their nest predated. They are currently sitting on egg(s). Unfortunately, if the drought continues, the nesting marsh where they are at may dry up, making any chicks hatched more vulnerable to predation.

All but two of the 11 ultralight sandhills flown last fall between Wisconsin and Florida have returned to Necedah NWR right where they were raised. Other sandhills released one by one into flocks of wild sandhills last fall in Wisconsin have also returned. USFWS is currently working to get the proposed rule finalized that would designate whooping cranes in the east as experimental nonessential. Project personnel are hopeful that this reintroduction with up to 12 whooping cranes may proceed this fall.

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