



MEDIA RELEASE

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Anger and Outrage as Two Endangered Whooping Cranes Shot in Texas International Crane Foundation Calls on Citizen Action

Texas – Texas Parks and Wildlife officials have confirmed that two Endangered Whooping Cranes were shot in Harden County, Texas on Sunday, January 10. One individual has been identified as the suspect. The International Crane Foundation commends the quick action of authorities, while also expressing anger and outrage at the news of another shooting.

“This is devastating and unacceptable. Of just 600 Whooping Cranes in the world, two are gone in an instant because of what appears to be a cowardly act of violence. Whooping Cranes face enough challenges to survival without senseless vandalism,” said Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Texas Program Director.

“Needlessly and inexplicably, there are two less Whooping Cranes in the world today. Our sadness is matched only by our resolve. We are calling on citizens to take action to help raise awareness to prevent future shootings by joining the national campaign to protect Whooping Cranes,” continued Smith.

Citizens can learn more about the national campaign to protect Whooping Cranes and take action by visiting <http://www.savingcranes.org/i-give-a-whoop/>. Here, citizens will receive information on how to report suspicious or illegal behavior, receive a water bird identification guide, and have the opportunity to join others from across the country in pledging support for Whooping Cranes.

“Over the past five years, more than 20 Whooping Cranes have been shot and killed in the United States. It’s high time that this preventable threat comes to an end. It’s going to take all of us working together to make it crystal clear that this senseless violence just won’t stand. My hope is that citizens use this tragedy as a reason to join the campaign to protect Whooping Cranes,” concluded Smith.

In the 1940s, there were fewer than 20 Whooping Cranes left in the wild. The two cranes shot in Texas were members of the Louisiana flock which numbers just about 30.

The International Crane Foundation plays a leading role in the conservation of Whooping Cranes, from captive breeding and release programs, habitat protection, citizen education and engagement, and threat reduction along their flyways. Learn more about the International Crane Foundation and our work to protect Endangered Whooping Cranes at www.savingcranes.org.

*The International Crane Foundation works worldwide to conserve cranes
and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they depend.*

International Crane Foundation

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