

## Representing Hunters

WWA is a hunting organization—we represent waterfowlers who collectively offer more conservation value than they consume with the birds they harvest. WWA ensures that this historically sustained commitment is respected by state policy makers. From influencing the DNR's season-setting decisions, to educating legislators on sandhill cranes or taking them on their inaugural duck hunt, WWA was the strongest voice for the interests of duck hunters in Madison in 2022.



## Advocacy

“ ... promote governmental policies that protect Wisconsin's resources and promote the rights of citizens to hunt.”



# 2023: *POLICY – SANDHILL CRANES*

## GOAL 1 (continued)

*Bring an ethical and sustainable Sandhill Crane hunt to Wisconsin*

### *What we've done*

- Developed series of articles to provide background and education about this complex issue. Topics covered in these articles include:
- Held Legislative Briefing in State Capitol to provide overview and education to state lawmakers and their staff (incorporating USFWS representative)



# 2024: *POLICY - SANDHILL CRANES*

## GOAL 1 (continued)

*Bring an ethical and sustainable Sandhill Crane hunt to Wisconsin*

## *What's next?*

- Ask for a Legislative Council Study Committee to review the impacts and management opportunities associated with a growing sandhill crane population in Wisconsin.



**Sandhill Crane Fact Sheet for Policymakers**  
(October 2022)

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) management of sandhill cranes (SHC) has created a strong, healthy, and expanding population. This population imposes an economic cost on farmers and presents opportunities beyond watching them. A Wisconsin SHC hunt will not impact the SHC population health or birdwatching opportunities.

**Sandhill crane population:** The SHC population in Wisconsin is very strong... and growing fast.

- There are more than 1.4 million sandhill cranes in North America. (USFWS 2022 data)
- Wisconsin's 51,000 SHC are managed as part of the Eastern Population, which is growing 5% per year. (USFWS data)

**Ramifications of a growing SHC population:** The growing population of Wisconsin SHC is creating

Year	Total Population (Thousands)
1970	10
1975	15
1980	20
1985	25
1990	30
1995	35
2000	40
2005	45
2010	50
2015	55
2020	60
2022	65

# 2024: *POLICY - CONSERVATION* *FUNDING*

## GOAL 2: Reauthorize Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program

For more than 30 years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has provided funding to local governments, nonprofits, and the Wisconsin DNR to preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat, to protect water quality and fisheries, and to expand opportunities for outdoor recreation in parks, trails, wildlife areas, and forests.

Unfortunately, funding for the program is set to expire in 2025.

*WWA supports reauthorization of the Stewardship Program and will be actively engaged to ensure that funding for this critical conservation program continues.*

