

Blog Post

## Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Establishment of Nonessential Experimental Population of Endangered Whooping Cranes in Southwestern Louisiana

Posted on **September 3, 2010** by Paul M. Bohannon

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), proposes to reintroduce whooping cranes (*Grus americana*), a federally listed endangered species, into habitat in its historic range in southwestern Louisiana with the intent to establish a nonmigratory flock that lives and breeds in the wetlands, marshes and prairies there. They propose to classify the flock as a nonessential experimental population (NEP) according to section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. Releases will be within the historic breeding area in southwestern Louisiana near White Lake in Vermilion Parish. This proposed rule provides a plan for establishing the NEP and provides for allowable legal incidental take of whooping cranes within the defined NEP area. The objectives of the reintroduction are to advance recovery of the endangered whooping crane. No conflicts are envisioned between the reintroduction and any existing or anticipated Federal, State, Tribal, local government, or private actions such as oil/gas exploration and extraction, aquacultural practices, agricultural practices, pesticide application, water management, construction, recreation, trapping or hunting.

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