

SP0070104-13 Legal Requirements and Responsibility To The Public – Laws To Be Observed –
Compliance With Federal Endangered Species Act And Other Wildlife Regulations (Florida
Sandhill Crane)

COMMENTS FROM INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Comments: (9/18/2023)

Please consider incorporating the following: The Department has determined that the project occurs within known habitat of the Florida Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis Pretenis*). The Department will provide instruction at a preconstruction meeting regarding: 1. The presence of the species. 2. The appearance, habits, and biology. 3. Its protected status. 4. The need to avoid disturbance to this species. Posters informing on-site personnel of the potential for Florida Sandhill Crane presence within the project area must be placed in the construction office and throughout the construction site. Stop work if Florida Sandhill Crane(s) is/are observed within the project area. Work may resume, with Engineer approval, once the Florida Sandhill Crane(s) leaves on its own volition if there are no active nesting sites. Contact the Engineer if a new Florida Sandhill Crane nest is discovered near or within the project area. If a potentially active nest is discovered, immediately stop construction activities within 400 feet (122 meters) of any suspected active Florida Sandhill Crane nesting site(s). If the nest is active, the 400-foot buffer zone around the nest site should be clearly demarcated and no pedestrian traffic, vehicle operations, site preparation, staging, clearing, or project activities should occur within the delineated buffer zone until nesting is complete. If flightless young are present in a wetland, avoid land use conversion within 1,500 feet of the nest site until after young are capable of sustained flight which occurs approximately 70 days after hatching).

Response: The proposed verbiage appears to be an older version of modified special provisions. OEM has coordinated with the District Environmental Management offices, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and Central Office Construction to provide special provision verbiage that is more in line with the FWC guidelines for addressing sandhill cranes on construction projects.

Action: No action needs to be taken.

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Comments: (10/11/2023)

“Provide notification to the Engineer at least 30 days prior to conducting project activities within 400 feet of suitable nesting habitat (shallow freshwater marshes with an average water depth from 5 to 13 inches). For work occurring during the breeding season (December 1 – August 30), the FDOT Monitor will conduct a survey and identify active nests locations within 5 days of survey completion.” As shown or detailed in the plans? Or just any suitable nesting habitat? May want to add more detail.

Response: Any suitable nesting habitat. The plans act as a guide for where that habitat occurs within or adjacent to the project limits. Coordination and clarification on locations can occur during the pre-construction conference and as needed during progress meetings.

Action: No action needs to be taken.
