

Whooping Crane Exhibit

International Crane Foundation

Baraboo, Wisconsin

Applied Ecological Services was retained to assist in finalizing the design and writing specifications for a created wetland that served as the focal point of a live Whooping Crane exhibit at the International Crane Foundation, Baraboo, Wisconsin. We were also asked to assist in the construction and planting of the wetland which is home to the federally endangered birds under the care of the Foundation.

The design team created the wetland surface water elevation several feet higher than the viewing area. This unique design of the open air exhibit allows viewers to be within a short distance of the Whooping Cranes and to feel immersed in the wetland habitat.

The wetland installation by AES serves as the key habitat in the exhibit which is viewed by thousands of visitors annually. The emergent, wet prairie and aquatic plantings have not only provided the setting for a fascinating educational interpretative exhibit, but the created ecological communities have also apparently provided a fertile habitat for the rare birds. The birds have begun breeding, and thus the wetland exhibit has been affectionately dubbed the “Whooping Crane Honeymoon Suite”.

AES is proud to have contributed to this extraordinary world-class exhibit.

