

Press Release
Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition
January 16, 2024

It is with gratitude and sadness that Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition (CCCC) announces the resignation of Executive Director, Erin Gelling. Erin began volunteering with CCCC in 2014. For the past three years, she has served as CCCC's first Program Director and Executive Director.

Erin's impact on CCCC has been significant. She successfully expanded crane educational programs for both children and adults. She worked collaboratively with other environmental organizations to promote habitat conservation and restoration that benefitted both Sandhill Cranes and other wildlife. Erin played a key role in ensuring the success of the livestreaming crane nest camera, with more than 40,000 views of the livestream and more than 38,000 views of the highlight videos received over the past three years. Her excellent presentations at the Yampa Valley Crane Festival and other festivals promoted crane conservation and CCCC's work around the U.S. CCCC thanks Erin for all her excellent service and wishes her the best in her new endeavor as a Rangeland Management Specialist on the staff of the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Erin states: "Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the program director, then executive director of CCCC. It has been a pleasure to work with a dedicated group of board directors and volunteers on behalf of Sandhill Cranes. I'm proud of the work the organization has accomplished in the last three years. I have learned valuable skills that I will take with me as I pursue the next step in my career. My new position will entail advising and consulting with private landowners in managing rangeland for livestock and wildlife. This will provide me with a unique opportunity to conserve and restore habitat for species like Sandhill Cranes. I am confident for the future of CCCC and stay committed to the mission."

Erin leaves CCCC in a strong position to continue its work on behalf of the conservation of Rocky Mountain Greater Sandhill Cranes and their habitat. CCCC's Board of Directors, headed by President, Nancy Merrill, and CCCC's Operations Coordinator, Stephanie Appel, will be running the organization until a new Executive Director is on board.

The search for CCCC's next Executive Director is already underway. The position description is currently posted on CCCC's website: coloradocranes.org. Any interested candidates are encouraged to check out the job posting and apply. Please direct any questions during this transition to Nancy@coloradocranes.org.