

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Monte Vista

## *National Wildlife Refuge*

### *Monte Vista Crane Festival*



*Sandhill cranes / USFWS*

#### **Background**

The Monte Vista Crane Festival is an event celebrating the return of the entire Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes on their journey from wintering areas in the central Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico and the Republic of Mexico to summer nesting grounds in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This festival takes advantage of impressive concentrations of sandhill cranes on Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge during the spring and is one of the largest wildlife viewing events in Colorado.

The 28th annual Monte Vista Crane Festival will be held in March 2011. Visitors will be able to view approximately 20,000 sandhill cranes concentrated on the refuge while touring on their own or participating in one of the many bus tours guided by the National Wildlife Refuge System. The event is organized by a small committee of Monte Vista residents and attracts several thousand visitors, mostly from Colorado and New Mexico. Visitors are not only able to view sandhill cranes, but are exposed to their natural history and the myriad

of management issues facing private and public land managers in the San Luis Valley, including the Alamosa, Baca, and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuges. Visitors also enjoy an educational and craft fair, special speakers, and presentations as part of the festival.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6, NWRS**

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