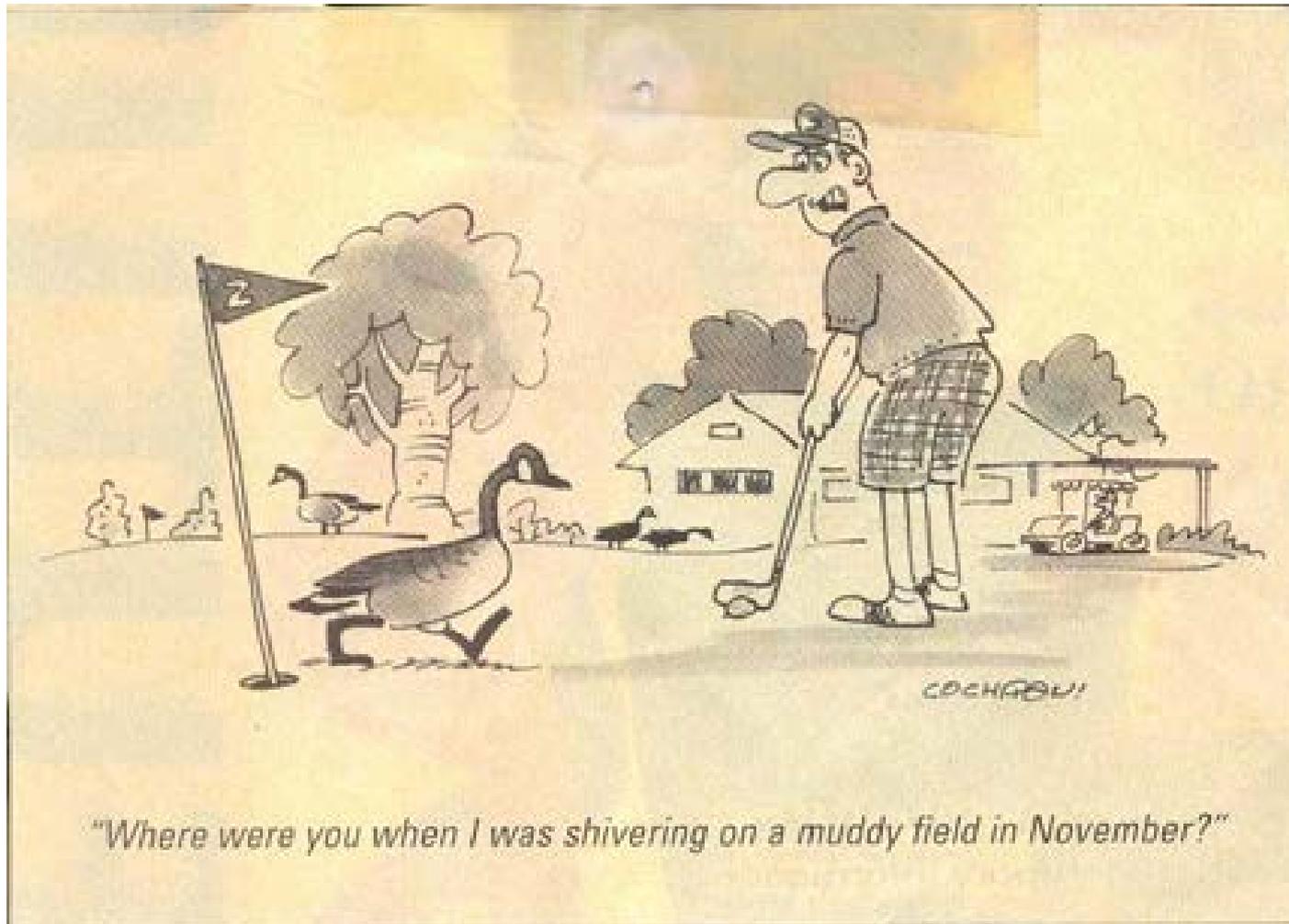


1st Canada Goose Stakeholder Group Meeting

Pierre, SD

September 3, 2015





Division of Wildlife

- **MISSION GOAL:** The Division of Wildlife will manage South Dakota's wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats for the their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare, and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and it's visitors.
- **MISSION STATEMENT:** "Serving People, Managing Wildlife"
- **OUR VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
 - Wildlife enhances the quality of life in South Dakota.
 - Wildlife is a public trust resource.
 - Hunting, fishing and trapping are fundamental wildlife management practices and legitimate recreational activities.
 - Land stewardship and partnerships with private landowners are essential to sustaining wildlife for the future.

Wildlife Management & Public Involvement



Wildlife Management Plan

- Planning is an integrated system of management that includes all activities leading to the development and implementation of goals, program objectives, operational strategies, and progress evaluation.
- Management planning approach:
 - Where are we?
 - Where do we want to be?
 - How will we get there?
 - Did we make it?
- Management plans are used as guiding documents for decision making, implementation of actions, justification to the public as to how wildlife populations and their associated habitats are managed.
 - Management decisions must include all biological information and consider the needs of all stakeholders.

Canada Goose Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group is a diverse group of citizen stakeholders who have been asked to assist Department of Game, Fish and Parks Staff and the Game, Fish and Parks Commission in conducting a review of the broad range of issues affecting Canada goose management in South Dakota.
- Stakeholder Group will assist GFP Staff and the GFP Commission by offering insight, ideas, and alternatives that could be considered in regard to the Department and Commission positions on various Canada goose management goals, strategies, challenges and related recreational opportunities.

Canada Goose Stakeholder Group

- The basic objectives of the Canada Goose Management Stakeholder Group are to:
 - Provide an additional link between the GFP Staff and the GFP Commission and the citizens we serve;
 - Identify challenges and opportunities and develop ideas and suggestions regarding the range of issues affecting the management of Canada geese and associated recreation in South Dakota; and
 - Promote communication, increased awareness and mutual understanding between and among the Stakeholder Group members regarding the diversity of Canada goose management challenges.

Canada Goose Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group will function in an advisory capacity only and will provide a discussion forum for members to share their personal perspective and the perspective of the group or organization they may represent on a diversity of issues related to Canada goose management.
- Stakeholder Group is granted no authority over rule-making or rule enforcement on public or private land, has no budgetary authority or authority over personnel management, nor is it granted any authority over any state or federal agency or non-governmental organization.

Canada Goose Stakeholder Group

- Stakeholder Group Member Roles and Responsibilities – Working Group members will:
 - Make a commitment to attend the scheduled Stakeholder Group meetings;
 - Offer their thoughts and ideas and communicate with others in a respectful manner while maintaining an open mind with regard to the views and perspectives of other Working Group members, and;
 - Serve as a sounding board and provide feedback and ideas to GFP Staff and the GFP Commission.

Division of Wildlife Staff

- GFP Staff Roles and Responsibilities – GFP Staff will:
 - Provide a diversity of information regarding Canada goose management to the Stakeholder Group;
 - Serve the role of facilitator for the meetings, including keeping order, achieving the meeting agenda and providing a comfortable working atmosphere for Working Group members to share ideas and opinions;
 - Schedule and arrange meeting room facilities, including providing all necessary communication related to the meetings;
 - Listen attentively and respectfully to all viewpoints; and
 - Gather meeting notes and make them available to the public via the GFP website.

Current CAGO Management Plan

GOAL

The management goal for the resident population of giant Canada geese in South Dakota is maximum recreational opportunity consistent with the welfare of the population, habitat constraints, and landowner/public tolerances.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives have been identified to successfully implement the goal of this management plan:

Objective A: Maintain a giant Canada goose spring population index in South Dakota of 80,000-90,000 birds (3-year average).

Objective B: Provide maximum hunting opportunity consistent with population objectives, based on 3-year average, and a quality hunting experience.

Objective C: Reduce crop damage and nuisance problems caused by locally-breeding Canada geese.

Objective D: Provide Canada goose viewing and photographic opportunities for the public.

Current CAGO Management Plan

OBJECTIVE A

Maintain a giant Canada goose spring population index in South Dakota of 80,000-90,000 birds (3-year average) and distributed as follows:

USFWS survey Strata 44 - 13,600-15,300

USFWS survey Strata 48 - 48,000-54,000

USFWS survey Strata 49 - 18,400-20,700

Strategy A-1

Use the USFWS May Breeding Population and Habitat Survey as the monitoring method to determine spring population trends of resident giant Canada geese in South Dakota.

Strategy A-2

Restore, create, enhance, and retain wetlands throughout South Dakota to provide habitat for giant Canada geese.

Strategy A-3

Minimize other causes of mortality, particularly lead poisoning, botulism, and wounding losses.

Current CAGO Management Plan

OBJECTIVE B

Provide maximum hunting opportunity consistent with population objectives, based on 3- year average, and a quality hunting experience.

Strategy B-1

Use a system of limited tags in areas where hunting pressure needs to be limited for a quality hunt experience (e.g. Bennett County).

Strategy B-2

Use the full federal framework during the early fall and regular Canada goose hunting seasons with maximize bag limit and number of days allowed when the spring population index exceeds the population objective of 90,000 birds (3-year average). Consider an August Management Take in areas experiencing damage to agricultural crops.

Strategy B-3

Use the full federal framework during the regular Canada goose hunting season and make appropriate adjustments to bag limit and/or season length during the early fall season when the spring population index is within the population index range of 80,000-90,000 birds (3-year average). Consider an August Management Take in areas experiencing severe damage to agricultural crops.

Current CAGO Management Plan

OBJECTIVE B (continued)

Strategy B-4

Consider reductions in bag limit and/or season length during the early fall and regular Canada goose hunting seasons when the spring population index falls below the population objective of 80,000 birds (3-year average). Consider an August Management Take in areas experiencing severe damage to agricultural crops.

Strategy B-5

Use a Department post-season hunter survey to collect and monitor harvest data for Early Fall September Canada goose hunting seasons.

Strategy B-6

Use USFWS harvest surveys to collect and monitor harvest data for regular Canada goose hunting seasons.

Strategy B-7

Continue to band all released birds and conduct a standardized banding/band analysis program throughout South Dakota, particularly in areas with little or no previous banding history.

Current CAGO Management Plan

OBJECTIVE C

Reduce crop damage and nuisance problems caused by locally-breeding Canada geese.

Strategy C-1

Maintain an operational Wildlife Damage Management (WDM) program to assist producers in reducing crop damage caused by Canada geese.

Strategy C-2

Use techniques other than trap and relocation for crop depredation complaints.

Strategy C-3

Release Canada geese obtained from the WDM trap and relocation program and surplus Canada geese from zoos into suitable wetlands away from golf courses, city parks, recreational lakeshore areas, etc., where they may become a nuisance problem.

Strategy C-4

Obtain and use the USFWS Special Canada Goose Permit in areas where warranted and when other WDM program techniques are unsuccessful.

Strategy C-5

Consider using the 'Management Take' provision of the 'Final Rule for the Control of Resident Canada Goose Populations' when established hunting seasons and WDM programs are unsuccessful.

Strategy C-6

Cooperatively work with municipalities on urban Canada goose management plans and strategies.

Current CAGO Management Plan

OBJECTIVE D

Provide Canada goose viewing and photographic opportunities for the public.

Strategy D-1

Maintain resident giant Canada geese on public lands (GPA's, WPA's, meandered lakes) that are accessible to the public whenever possible.

Strategy D-2

Provide viewing and photographic opportunities of resident Canada geese on state and federal refuge areas.

Questions?

