

Public Comments on Current Canada Goose Plan

1.

Less dewalts, more buffer strips. No other comments.

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2.

In several objectives “Quality hunt “– or some version of it is used: if that has any influence I believe you are missing the mark- by a bunch: the August “hunt” chases the geese out of the NE or scatters them so much that by the actual “real” opener comes around goose hunting is a myth- and they don’t return until very late in the season- often only a few days before freeze up moves them out: the days of actually scouting geese and having a quality hunt are almost over; my understanding of the data shows that the total kill is little different; it just happens at a different time; and be honest, you are not preventing much depredation in August- its already been done: so why punish the actual “core” hunters who enjoy doing it right

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3.

The biggest issue we have with all game in SD is landowners who want to use our hunting dollars to control it without allowing hunters to control the population. Unless of course, they pay huge amounts to walk onto the land. GFP needs to stand up to these greedy land owners and simply tell them, if you use our service, your land becomes a walk in program for at least a year.

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4.

Have notice as the winter gets later a lot of geese move in to the Sioux Falls area. Purpose a season around the Sioux Falls Metro to go later in the season to harvest more of these geese that in the spring move out around the rural area to nest and raise their young and do the crop damage during the summer and Early Fall. Thanks Todd Shuman

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5.

Hello,

I have done a lot of early goose hunting In the past 10-15 years. The September season was great, then the august season came and was average at best. No crop is out, birds don’t decoy and they don’t have a pattern. If we would just have one season with high bag limits and NO PLUGS in shotguns I think there would be many more geese killed. The august season is just educating birds

for the September season, making both seasons worse. They don't decoy very well but yet they are being educated. If we had just a September season the geese would have a pattern and be comfortable in fields. Plus there is more crop out, not only wheat but silage as well.

The idea of the GFP drilling eggs with hunters dollars is a terrible one, at best.

Thanks

BRIAN L JORGENSEN

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6.

Dear Sirs:

I feel very strongly that the current management plan is overly aggressive in killing geese to protect crops. Have witnessed a dramatic and sudden decrease in goose numbers and hunting quality/success over the last 3 years. In McCook Co we had fantastic hunting opportunities for about a decade now with the liberalized killing we have not harvested a goose there in 2 years, seeing a small fraction of what had become huntable numbers. Similar findings in Marshall and Brown county.

-Early season is detrimental to regular season hunters- fair chase questionable, too many birds killed and educated by few hunters (August season especially)

-Nest/egg destruction is revolting and damaging to conservation principles hunters stand for

-Rifle hunting by landowners is more significant than estimated, populations are virtually erased in some areas

-Quality hunting opportunities as important as landowner complaints. Pendulum has swung too far.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

Leo Flynn
3771 Ireland Pl
Rapid City, SD 57702
6054307692

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7.

we need to harvest more in the fall (10) per person per day

in the spring we need to harvest all you can shot with decoy, banded flag, electronic calls, and blinds

it should be open to all SD hunters not the one that the state ones to have hunting them (drawing to hunt no it should be to all hunters)

I am a farmer it is hard to see the goose eat your profit than you make a living on

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8.

Hi. I think goose management is overkill. Seems like the goose opportunity by fall is 10% of what it was. We went from world class duck and goose hunting to world class duck hunting only. I live in the state. Have hunted for 30 years and the reintroduction program was the best thing for the working man hunter.

My opinion let them breed, get old enough to fly and then let us have at them. Really from a hunting opportunity perspective on the eastern side of the state progressively increasing limits through the season would be awesome. 1) keeps enough birds alive to increase success. 2) keeps hunters hunting and spending money 3) still eliminates the birds by end of season.

Why spend money here when we can make some. Or redirect funds used for goose management to the walk in program and give farmers and hunters the synergy benefit. If there is crop depredation it's probably a pretty good hunting area. This might be a sustainable way to do it. Matter of fact o would pay another 50 bucks to have access to crop depredation fields in the fall...

We need to think long term sustainable or we will be too high or too low on the mark and spending money in suboptimal ways.

Thank you,

Josh

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9.

Why not open the season for 2 weekends in late March for 3 geese. Open to all hunters.

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10.

Dear Sirs:

I am a land owner in McCook & Minnehaha counties.

I would say that an over population condition exists.

I suggest widening the harvest parameters before these things start bringing in diseases and/or are the cause of a serious aircraft accident.

Best regards,

B Peters
Crooks SD

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11.

I have hunted the 2010- 2014 goose seasons I am in favor of the same seasons and limits for the next 5 years farmers are already complaining about the pairs of geese around I hunted the spring goose season I am not in favor of that season

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12.

Hello,

I am sending this email to project my opinion of the resident Canada goose management plan. I am an avid outdoorsman/hunter who lives in Madison, SD. There can be a lot said about what has occurred in the last few years with the resident Canada goose management plan.

First off, the current use of state resources with the resident Canada goose management is absolutely absurd! I know from my own personal experience (farming runs in family and own farm land) that the damage from Canada geese to crops is tremendous and can be devastating to some farmers. That being said, WHY is the state giving away state resources to farmers!? If the farmers are having problems with geese eating THEIR crops, it should be THEIR responsibility to up their own fence protecting their crops. If they want the help/services from the GFP then they should pay for it. Enough with the handouts, farming is already subsidized enough! Much of this is the farmers fault for putting in drain tile, draining sloughs, and planting too close to existing water without leaving a buffer zone. If farmers are to be given assistance then there should be a list provided to the public of the assisted farms and ANYONE who asks shall be given permission, essentially making it public land but you need to ask first (up to the discretion of the farmer to let people drive in or not).

Second, the survey population numbers are an absolute joke. I believe along with many of my fellow outdoorsman (many of which are GFP employees, research students, and even former goose depredation interns) believe that survey population numbers produced by USFWS/SDGFP are seriously inflated. When it comes to scouting/hunting season and the USFWS/SDGFP publishes that there are 200,000 -300,000 geese and after months putting on thousands of miles (many times 100+ miles away) searching for geese, it becomes overwhelmingly apparent that there just aren't as much geese in the state that is projected by the USFWS/SDGFP. I don't know if this is a publicity stunt to justify larger bag limits, a depredation season, or egg drilling so that there isn't an outcry by

the general population and to “try” and keep the farmers happy by showing them you’re doing something.

Third, the depredation season needs adjustment. If there was a REAL major problem with the Canada goose population such as claimed by SDGFP that would justify a depredation season then change the rules to deal with the problem. 1.) Shooting hours extended to 30 min after sunset – Not unethical in one bit, Canada has this during their regular season and they have stricter hunting policies than us! (should also adopt this during the regular season but that’s a different discussion). 2.) Unplugged shotguns – If there was such an overpopulation like SDGFP is claiming, deal with the issue and stop trying to gradually cull the population. That being said, there would need to be much more evidence (actual FACTS not whining/complaining farmers!) to support such a policy. 3.) Season dates – Whoever had the idea to start the August management season at the beginning of August a couple years ago should not be in the position there are in currently. Season dates need to be flexible to adjust for the hatch of that year and when molting/newborn birds can actually fly. The management season would be far more effective if it started at a date where most of the resident population could fly. Starting a season where much of the population cannot fly leads to roost busting/water swatting, increased pressure, and smarter birds that ultimately leads to smaller groups of feeding birds per field, decoy shy birds, and even a small migration of birds leaving to escape the pressure.

One thing that has been positive is keeping nonresidents out of the state during the August management season. I complement whoever’s decision that is, you got this one dead right!

I have many other views/comments but this is a little summary of my opinion of the resident Canada goose management plan.

If anyone reading this has a question for me or comments, please feel free to contact me by email: mstowater@hcpd.com or by cell: 605-759-4439. Thank you for your time.

Take Care,

McCord Stowater

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13.

Hi my name is Tim Brown from Watertown SD. I am writing you to ask of you to please stop the aggressive tactics that were used in the past Canada goose management plan. Drilling eggs and killing geese that are sitting on the nest is just not right. It doesn't give a goose a fighting chance. These tactics have also seriously affected the quality of goose hunting in South Dakota in recent years. Not only that but it has opened the door for farmers to feel that they can practice the same techniques. The numbers of resident geese has taken a substantial hit in the last three years and needs a chance to recover. Keep the aug and sept seasons regulations the same and let hunters have a chance to manage the population for you.

Thanks for reading this.

Tim Brown

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14.

Will the GFP ever listen to resident goose hunters when it come to the management plan? Clearly resident hunters want the most opportunity to harvest geese in the fall. Unfortunately the GFP has been committed to eradicating the resident Canada goose population that it once brought back from the brink. The GFP has continuously bowed down to the demands of farmers and other sources to remove by force any and as many Canada geese as possible from eastern SD. Your methods of drilling eggs, shooting geese and allowing farmers to shoot them without permits are disgusting. These methods are disguised by a fictional number you publish as fact. The methodology is flawed and based in no real science. I have watched as the opportunities to harvest geese have fallen dramatically and the competition for a hunting spot has risen dramatically. Not matter how many times we talk to the GFP and raise concerns they fall on deaf ears. I know while typing this email that the chances anyone will even read this email is slim to none.

Quit paying for ridiculous 5 year goose management plan studies. Save our money!

Tell farmers to protect their crops (assuming they don't want 7 bean pods eaten by geese) with temporary fencing that the GFP could provide. The farmers can provide their own labor to install the GFP provided materials. Same as Minnesota.

Eliminate the complaint system and direct the farmers to where and when they can pick up supplies for temporary fencing around the sloughs on their property.

Suggestion.....try not planting right up to the edge of a slough!

Leave nesting geese alone!! Put the boats and vehicles back in the garage and quit driving around looking for geese to kill. Save our money!

Start the Resident only season in September and limit the take to 5 geese per day.

Limit the numbers of non-resident hunters.

Protect and provide maximum hunting opportunities for resident goose hunters!!!!

Not real difficult and full of common sense. We don't need another committee or bureaucrat to get involved and come up with so call solutions.....listen to resident goose hunters!!!!!!

Have a good day.

Nick J.

Madison, SD

nick@egasf.com

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15.

To whom it may concern:

The current Canada goose plan that is being employed within the northeastern part of South Dakota is a joke. Over the last several years I have watched our resident goose populations decline severely. It used to be during hunting season it was fairly simple to go out scouting and find multiple feeds of 150 to 200 geese in an evening. However the past two years and last year especially it had become extremely difficult to even find a decent field to go and hunt. First off the fact that we have an over abundance of Canada geese is a lie. Yes there may be a select few areas where slight crop damage may be done but this is certainly not the cause across the vast majority of the state. Oiling eggs is something that should never have been started. I get that certain farmers are going to lose a few acres of beans due to geese, but this does not condone oiling of goose nests. Especially since many of the nests being oiled are on federal public land. This is land supposed to be a safe haven for waterfowl species not somewhere for the state to spend hunters dollars to kill off geese before they hatch. Also the august season has to go. Look at two years ago when the season opened the first Saturday in August, the geese could not even fly yet. Open the season September first and give the geese a fighting chance to learn to fly and allow hunters a fair chance at harvesting what few geese actually remain. So in conclusion the egg drilling needs to go along with the August season. I hope you will reevaluate the current flawed system and make some necessary changes for the benefit of everything. Too many people now refer to Canada geese as “sky carp” they are a magnificent bird who deserve the respect of hunters and government combined.

Thanks for your time:

Dylan Buckingham

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16.

GFP-

Every year there are more and more geese eating my soybeans. I've lost many acres to high water over the years and the high geese numbers only take more money from my farm. I'm tired of having geese eat my profits and it is about time that GFP starts to manage these birds or pay me for what the geese eat. If hunters can't shoot enough of them then let the landowners as I know what it takes. I let many hunters hunt my 1470 acres each fall and I'm tired of the fighting that goes on between groups in the morning. I do like the August hunting as at least some fellas can keep some birds away from my fields. You guys brought these birds to the slews, now you need to handle the problems these birds have caused for 20 plus years!

I like seeing sum of the birds but you need to do your job and kill these geese back to tolerable numbers, as the current state is ridiculou. I've battled with these birds since 1997 and I'm fed up.

Fix it!

