

## *Alternative G*

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### *G. Humane, Non-lethal Integrated Management Strategies*

Conflicts involving Canada geese will be resolved by humane, site-specific, non-lethal control methods, including but not limited to: Border collies; turf grass repellents (e.g., ReJex-iT<sup>®</sup>, Flightcontrol<sup>®</sup>); barriers; habitat modification; and clean-up projects. The Service will coordinate and promote these locally-based initiatives with the direct involvement of a committee of national humane organizations which have demonstrated long-standing interest in Canada goose protection and rescue and in humane, non-lethal control methods (e.g., The Humane Society of the United States; Coalition to Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese; Fund for Animals; Wildlife Watch, Inc.; Coalition to Protect Canada Geese; Citizens for the Preservation of Wildlife, Inc.).

Alternative G rejects numerical "population control" (killing) as both inhumane and of no significant practical value. There is no credible behavioral/biological basis for killing as a means of achieving site-specific relief. Egg addling, however, would be permitted under extreme circumstances, on case by case bases, under guidelines determined by the aforementioned committee.

Under this alternative, the Service is required to de-politicize this issue, to take a proactive stand against false or exaggerated information, including unfounded allegations that Canada geese in any way pose a significant threat to human health or safety. The Service will also publish specific criteria by which claims of goose "damage" can be measured. The criteria will be reviewed by 3 private major insurance providers and the Risk Management Agency.

The Service is required to freeze issuance and renewal of permits to kill geese (e.g., depredation permits), and to discontinue goose round-ups/slaughters until scientific studies have been conducted (the protocol subject to public review) to determine the impact of hunting and hunting-based state and federal wildlife management and propagation programs and activities, including Pittman-Robertson and other so-called "restoration" projects; baiting programs; crop manipulation and production areas; and those of private "cooperators" and captive rearing operations on suburban/urban goose conflicts. The studies will be conducted in conjunction with the aforementioned national humane organizations, with oversight from a major college or university that is not the recipient of DOI/USFWS or state wildlife department grants/funding.