

ABSTRACT

In recent years, the numbers of Canada geese that nest and/or reside predominantly within the conterminous United States (resident Canada geese) have undergone dramatic population growth and have increased to levels that are increasingly coming into conflict with people and human activities and causing personal and public property damage in many parts of the country. Conflicts between geese and people affect or damage several types of resources, including property, human health and safety, agriculture, and natural resources. This document evaluates alternative strategies to reduce, manage, and control resident Canada goose populations in the continental United States and to reduce related damages. The objective of this DEIS is to provide a regulatory mechanism that would allow State and local agencies, other Federal agencies, and groups and individuals to respond to damage complaints or damages by resident Canada geese. This DEIS is a comprehensive programmatic plan intended to guide and direct resident Canada goose population growth and management activities in the conterminous United States. We have analyzed seven management alternatives: 1) No Action; 2) Increase Use of Nonlethal Control and Management (no currently permitted activities); 3) Increase Use of Nonlethal Control and Management (continued permitting of those activities generally considered nonlethal); 4) New Regulatory Options to Expand Hunting Methods and Opportunities; 5) Integrated Depredation Order Management (consisting of an Airport Depredation Order, a Nest and Egg Depredation Order, a Agricultural Depredation Order, and a Public Health Depredation Order); 6) State Empowerment (PROPOSED ACTION); and 7) General Depredation Order. Alternatives were analyzed with regard to their potential impacts on resident Canada geese, other wildlife species, natural resources, special status species, socioeconomic, historical resources, and cultural resources. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will have a 90-day comment period. We will consider all public comments received during the comment period in preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

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