

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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RE: PUBLIC MEETING  
RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT  
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6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Ramada Inn & Conference Center  
999 U.S. Route 1, South  
North Brunswick, New Jersey

B E F O R E:  
DAVID J. CASE, Case & Associates  
RON W. KOKEL, Wildlife Biologist

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**CITTONE REPORTERS**  
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PROCEEDINGS

1 MR. CASE: I think we'll go ahead and  
2 get started.

3 My name is Dave Case. I'm the  
4 facilitator for tonight's meeting. I would  
5 like to welcome you and thank you for taking  
6 the time out of your schedule to be here.

7 The process we'll follow tonight is  
8 similar to the last meeting we had two  
9 years ago in Parsippany.

10 First I'd like to introduce a  
11 few people.

12 From the New Jersey Division of Fish and  
13 Wildlife,  
14 Paul Casselli, the  
15 supervising Wildlife Biologist for the  
16 Department; Ted Nichols, Wildlife Biologist;  
17 Larry Hardy, the  
18 Division of Wildlife Management; and Brian  
19 Swift from the New York Department  
20 of Conservation.

21 There is also a number of other state  
22 biologists. They are in town  
23 for a meeting dealing with the Canada goose  
24 issue. A number of them are sitting up  
25 front. If you happen to be from

1 Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, or Delaware, come  
2 up front and talk to a representative.

3 George Hass is the  
4 migratory bird coordinator in the  
5 Massachusetts regional office and handles  
6 permits.

7 We'll have some time after the  
8 meeting, if you have specific questions,  
9 come up and talk with these folks.

10 The purpose of this meeting  
11 is to get your  
12 comments on the draft Environmental Impact  
13 Statement that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
14 has prepared on resident Canada geese.

15  
16 Ron Kokel will give a presentation,  
17 an overview of the EIS and the proposed  
18 alternative by the Fish & Wildlife Service.

19 As you came in, you received a card  
20 with a number on it. We'll ask people to  
21 come up one at a time. I'll call your  
22 number and go to the next number if you  
23 don't jump up right away. State your name  
24 and spell your last name to make sure we get  
25 it correctly. Albert is the court reporter

PROCEEDINGS

1 and he's capturing everything that is said  
2 tonight as part of the public record.

3 If you represent an organization  
4 officially, let us know that and where you  
5 are from. Please remember to spell your  
6 last name. The process again is to get  
7 your comments. I apologize in advance,  
8 there are a lot of people here tonight. We  
9 expect more to come in to speak. If anyone  
10 goes too long, I'll ask you to hurry along so  
11 everyone can speak tonight.

12 I'll pass around sign-up sheets. If  
13 you want to receive a copy of the final  
14 impact statement, please  
15 sign-up. If you received a copy of the  
16 first one, that means you are on our list  
17 already and note that, but sign-up again.  
18 We want to make sure we don't send you two  
19 copies, they are pretty thick. If you  
20 haven't received a copy, but want to  
21 receive a copy, just check that box as  
22 well. We want to make sure that everyone  
23 that signs up gets a copy.

24 Again, I'll start by introducing Ron  
25 Kokel, Waterfowl Biologist with the U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service. He'll start with  
2 the presentation. Ron.

3

4

5 ROB KOHEL: Good evening everybody.  
6 I am Rob Kokel. I'm with the U.S. Fish and  
7 Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory  
8 bird Management. I'm stationed in  
9 Arlington, Virginia. And on behalf of our  
10 Director Steve Williams, I'd like to  
11 welcome all of you that are here tonight.

12 This is the ninth  
13 of eleven public meetings that are being  
14 held across the country for the purpose of  
15 developing public participation and input  
16 into our process of developing an  
17 environmental impact statement on resident  
18 Canada geese. The DEIS was developed in  
19 full cooperation with the U.S. Department  
20 of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

21 First, why are we here? Well, we're  
22 here to explain the environmental impact  
23 statement, it's proposed action, and to  
24 listen to your comments. The Draft  
25 Environmental Statement considers a range

1 of management alternatives for addressing  
2 expanding populations of resident geese.  
3 And, as such, our main purpose is to listen  
4 to you and to invite your comments on what  
5 our recommended actions are.

6 First, a brief explanation of the  
7 National Environmental Policy Act; or NEPA.  
8 NEPA requires completion of an EIS to  
9 analyze environmental and socioeconomic  
10 impacts that are associated with any  
11 Federal significant action.

12 Second, NEPA also requires public  
13 involvement including a scoping period  
14 before the draft is issued and a comment  
15 period after the draft.

16 We began this process in August of  
17 1999 when we published a notice that  
18 announced our intent to prepare this EIS.  
19 Then, in February of 2000 we held nine  
20 public meetings across the U.S., in  
21 response to scoping designed to seek public  
22 input into this process. Scoping ended in  
23 March of 2000. One meeting was held  
24 in Parsippany.

25 In response to scoping, we received

1 over 3000 comments and over 1250 people  
2 attended the nine public meetings.

3 What did we find out  
4 during scoping? During scoping we found  
5 that the top issues of concern included  
6 several things: the property damage of  
7 conflicts caused by resident geese; the  
8 methods of conflict abatement; sport  
9 hunting opportunities on resident geese;  
10 the economic impacts caused by resident  
11 geese; human health and safety concerns;  
12 and the impacts to the Canada geese  
13 themselves.

14 NEPA also outlines a specific format  
15 for an environmental impact statement.  
16 There's a purpose or needs section; an  
17 alternative section; an affected  
18 environment section and environmental  
19 consequence section.

20 What are we talking about when we're  
21 talking about resident geese? In the EIS  
22 we define resident geese as those geese  
23 which nest within the lower 48 states in  
24 the months of March, April, May or June or  
25 reside within the lower 48 states in the

1 months of April, May, June or August.

2           The purpose of the EIS was  
3 three-fold. One, to evaluate alternative  
4 strategies to reduce, manage and control  
5 resident Canada goose population in the  
6 U.S.; second, to provide a regulatory  
7 mechanism that would allow state and local  
8 agencies, other Federal agencies and groups  
9 or individuals to respond to damage  
10 complaints; and third, to guide and direct  
11 resident Canada goose population management  
12 activities in the U.S.

13           The need for the EIS was two-fold.  
14 First, increasing resident Canada goose  
15 populations coupled with growing conflicts,  
16 damages and socioeconomic impacts that they  
17 cause has resulted in a reexamination of  
18 the Service's resident Canada goose  
19 management.

20           The draft environmental impact  
21 statement examines seven management  
22 alternatives. First alternative,  
23 alternative A, is no action. That's the  
24 baseline to which everything else is  
25 compared. Alternative B, is non lethal



1 control and management which includes only  
2 non federally permitted activities.  
3 Alternative C, is non lethal control and  
4 management which includes some federally  
5 permitted activities. Alternative D,  
6 expanded hunting methods and opportunities.  
7 Alternative E, integrated depredation order  
8 management. Alternative F, the proposed  
9 action which we term State empowerment.  
10 Alternative G, the general depredation  
11 order.

12 Under the first  
13 alternative, the no action alternative, no  
14 additional regulatory methods or strategies  
15 would be authorized. We would continue the  
16 use of all hunting seasons on resident  
17 geese. The issuance of depredation permits  
18 and the issuance of any special Canada  
19 goose permits.

20 Under the second alternative, the non  
21 lethal control and management which  
22 includes non federally permitted activity,  
23 we would cease all lethal control of  
24 resident Canada geese and their eggs. Only  
25 non lethal harassment techniques would be

1 allowed. No permits would be issued and  
2 all special hunting seasons would be  
3 discontinued.

4 The third alternative, the non lethal  
5 control and management which includes  
6 federally permitted activities, would cease  
7 all permitted lethal control of resident  
8 Canada geese with several exceptions. One,  
9 we would also promote non lethal harassment  
10 techniques. There would be no depredation  
11 of special Canada goose permits issued.  
12 Egg addling would be allowed with a Federal  
13 permit and special hunting seasons would be  
14 continued.

15 The fourth alternative, expanded  
16 hunting methods and opportunities. Under  
17 this alternative we would provide new  
18 regulatory options to increase the harvest  
19 of resident Canada geese. We would  
20 authorize additional hunting methods such  
21 as electronic calls, unplugged guns, and  
22 expanded shooting hours. The seasons could  
23 be operational during September 1 to 15.  
24 They could be experimental if approved  
25 during September 16 to 30 and they would

1 have to be conducted outside of any other  
2 open season.

3           The fifth alternative we termed  
4 integrated depredation order management.  
5 This alternative actually consists of four  
6 different depredation orders. There's an  
7 airport depredation order; a nest and egg  
8 depredation order; an agricultural  
9 depredation order and a public health  
10 depredation order. Implementation of each  
11 of these orders would be up to the  
12 individual state wildlife agency. Special  
13 hunting seasons would be continued and the  
14 issuance of depredation permits and special  
15 Canada goose permits would also be  
16 continued.

17           Under the airport depredation order,  
18 we would authorize airports to establish a  
19 program which would include indirect and/or  
20 direct population control strategies. The  
21 intent of this program would be to  
22 significantly reduce resident goose  
23 populations at airports. Management  
24 actions would have to occur on the  
25 premises.

1           The second depredation order, the  
2           nest and egg depredation order, would allow  
3           the destruction of resident Canada goose  
4           nest and eggs without a Federal permit.  
5           The intent of this program would be to  
6           stabilize existing resident goose breeding  
7           populations.

8           The agricultural depredation order  
9           would authorize land owners, operators and  
10          tenants actively engaged in commercial  
11          agriculture to conduct indirect and/or  
12          direct control strategies on resident geese  
13          depredating on agricultural crops. Again,  
14          the management actions would have to occur  
15          on the premises where the depredation was  
16          occurring.

17          The fourth depredation order, the  
18          public health depredation order, would  
19          authorize state, county, municipal or local  
20          public health officials to conduct indirect  
21          and/or direct population control strategies  
22          on geese when recommended by health  
23          officials that there is a public health  
24          threat. Again, management actions would  
25          have to occur on premises.



1 calls, unplugged guns, expanded shooting  
2 hours, -- these seasons could be  
3 operational during September 1 to 15, again  
4 they could be experimental during September  
5 16 to 30 and they would have to be  
6 conducted outside of other open seasons.

7           Additionally, we would establish a  
8 conservation order which would provide  
9 special expanded hunter harvest  
10 opportunities during a portion of the  
11 migratory bird treaty closed period, that  
12 is August 1 to 31, and a portion of the  
13 treaty open period, September 1 to 15.  
14 Again, under the conservation order we  
15 would authorize additional hunting methods  
16 and these seasons would have to be  
17 conducted outside of any other open season.

18           Under the program the Service would  
19 annually assess the impact and the  
20 effectiveness of the program and there  
21 would be a provision for possible  
22 suspension of regulations, that is the  
23 conservation order and/or the hunting season  
24 changes, when the need was no longer  
25 present. We would also continue all

1 special and regular hunting seasons. We  
2 would continue the issuance of depredation  
3 and special Canada goose permits. The only  
4 state requirements under the program would  
5 be to annually monitor the spring breeding  
6 population of resident geese and annually  
7 report take under authorized activities.

8 The last alternative we termed a  
9 general depredation order. Under this  
10 alternative we would allow any authorized  
11 person to conduct management activities on  
12 resident geese that are either posing a  
13 threat to health and human safety or  
14 causing property damage. This action would  
15 be available between April 1 and August 31.  
16 It would also provide expanded hunting  
17 opportunities as identified under  
18 alternative D. We would have continued use  
19 of special and regular hunting seasons and  
20 the issuance of depredation and special  
21 Canada goose permits. Authorization for  
22 all management activities under this  
23 alternative would come directly from the  
24 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

25 We looked at two things under the

1 affected environment. We looked at the  
2 biological environment and the  
3 socioeconomic environment. Under the  
4 biological environment we looked at the  
5 resident Canada goose populations, water  
6 quality in wetlands, vegetation and soils,  
7 wildlife habitat and federally listed  
8 threatened and endangered species.

9 Under the socioeconomic environment  
10 we looked at the migratory bird program  
11 which includes a sport hunting program and  
12 a migratory bird permit program, social  
13 values and considerations economic  
14 considerations including property damages  
15 caused by resident geese, agricultural crop  
16 problems, human health and safety issues  
17 and the program cost.

18 The environmental consequences  
19 section forms the scientific and the  
20 analytic basis for comparison of all the  
21 different alternatives. It analyzes the  
22 environmental impacts of each alternative  
23 in relation to those resource categories  
24 that I just went over. And, again, the no  
25 action alternative provides a baseline for



1 all the analysis.

2 Under the no action we expect Canada  
3 goose populations to continue the growth  
4 that we are currently experiencing. In the  
5 Atlantic Flyway we expect the population to  
6 approach 1.6 million within ten years. In  
7 the Mississippi Flyway 450,000 within ten  
8 years. We would expect that there would be  
9 continued and expanded goose distribution  
10 problems and conflicts. There would be  
11 increased workloads and continued impacts  
12 to property safety and health.

13 Under our proposed action, we expect  
14 there to be a reduction in Canada goose  
15 populations, especially specific problem  
16 areas. We expect increased hunting  
17 opportunities; a significant reduction in  
18 conflicts; decreased impacts to property  
19 safety and health. While there would be  
20 some initial workload increases, as the  
21 populations decrease we believe that there  
22 would be long-term workload decreases, and  
23 above all the alternative would maintain  
24 viable resident Canada goose populations.

25 Some of the recent modeling that's

1       been done suggests that in order to reduce  
2       the four Flyways' populations from the  
3       current level of about three and a half  
4       million down to the Flyways' goals of 2.1  
5       million would require for ten years one of  
6       these options:  Either the harvest of an  
7       additional 480,000 geese; the take of an  
8       additional 852,000 goslings annually; the  
9       nest removal of 528,000 nests annually or  
10      the combination of an additional harvest of  
11      240,000 geese annually and the take of  
12      320,000 goslings annually.  One of these  
13      would have to occur each year for ten years  
14      over what is occurring currently.

15               Thus, we believe the only way to  
16      possibly obtain these kind of numbers is to  
17      give states the flexibility to address the  
18      problems within their respective state.  To  
19      address population reductions on the widest  
20      number of available fronts.  Since states  
21      are the most informed and knowledgeable  
22      local authorities on wildlife conflicts,  
23      the primary responsibilities and decisions  
24      should be placed with them.

25               What comes next?  First is the

1 development of a new regulation to carry  
2 out the proposed action. This should be  
3 forthcoming soon. Second, is the public  
4 comment period on the draft environmental  
5 impact statement, and it ends May 30th;  
6 and, third is publication of a final  
7 environmental impact statement. The  
8 Service's record of decision and a final  
9 rule which we anticipate for this fall.

10 As I just stated, the public comment  
11 period is open until May 30th and I think  
12 Dave has already outlined some of the  
13 various methods that you can use to submit  
14 your comments. These include any oral or  
15 written comments that you may submit  
16 tonight and any that you may subsequently  
17 send in to us. The address is printed on  
18 the back of the card that you received when  
19 you came here tonight.

20 Additionally, we've set up an  
21 electronic site where you can send e-mail  
22 comments and access all of the other  
23 pertinent information to the EIS process,  
24 including the draft environmental impact  
25 statement. And on behalf of the Service,

1 I'd like to thank all of you for attending  
2 the meeting, in particular those who will  
3 submit comments tonight.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. CASE: Thank you, Ron. Again,  
6 the process we will follow this evening.

7 If you'd like to give comments tonight,  
8 we welcome that. If not, there is an  
9 e-mail address on the back of your card.  
10 We handed out cards as you came in and will  
11 call you in the order you came in. If  
12 you don't jump up, I'll go to the next  
13 number. We ask that you come up to the  
14 microphone so everyone can hear and our  
15 court reporter, Albert, will be able to see  
16 you. State your name and spell your last  
17 name for us. If you represent an  
18 organization officially here tonight, what  
19 that organization is and where you are  
20 from.

21 Again, there are some  
22 handouts on the clipboard out there. If  
23 you want a copy of the Environmental  
24 Impact Statement, please fill that out.

25 I apologize in advance. There are over

1 80 people here tonight. Although it's a  
2 big room, there are quite a few of us. I  
3 apologize to everybody in advance, if you go a  
4 little too long, I'll ask you to hurry  
5 along. I would like to get started.

6 Number one. Number two. Three.  
7

8 TED NICHOLS: Thank you for the  
9 opportunity to comment on the draft  
10 environmental impact Statement regarding  
11 resident Canada goose management. Although  
12 resident Canada geese are a valuable  
13 natural resource, the New Jersey Division  
14 of Fish and Wildlife, hereafter referred to  
15 as Division, concurs with the U.S. Fish and  
16 Wildlife Service, hereafter referred to as  
17 Service, position that there is a need for  
18 action given the multitude of problems  
19 incurred by overabundant resident Canada  
20 geese.

21 Given the nationwide problem of  
22 overabundant resident geese, we believe a  
23 nationwide solution, where the federal  
24 government (for example, the Service)  
25 serves in the lead role, is warranted. As

1 such we do not concur with the Service that  
2 Alternative F, "state empowerment", should  
3 be the preferred alternative.

4           Based on the language in Alternative F,  
5 state empowerment, our agency would likely  
6 need to issue state permits to document the  
7 taking of geese. This alternative does not  
8 relieve the affected landowner of an already  
9 burdensome permit process. This alternative  
10 also transfers the one million-dollar cost of  
11 administering the permit program for managing  
12 this federal species, to the states without  
13 compensation. The Division believes the  
14 entire burdensome permit procedure, designed  
15 to protect against excessive take of a  
16 species, is unnecessary for resident Canada  
17 geese at this time. The resident goose  
18 population is twice the New Jersey and  
19 Atlantic Flyway population goals, indicating  
20 the need for population reduction, not  
21 protection. Given Alternative F in New  
22 Jersey with no additional funding, the  
23 Division would be forced to spread its  
24 already thin Wildlife Control Unit resources  
25 among conflicts involving black bears,

1 white-tailed deer, beaver, as well as other  
2 wildlife species, and now resident Canada  
3 geese.

4 We believe that the  
5 authority to act on problems associated with  
6 resident geese should be conveyed directly to  
7 the affected landowner through a federal,  
8 general depredation order. As such, the  
9 Division supports implementation of  
10 Alternative G, the general depredation order,  
11 with several amendments and clarifications.  
12 We believe this alternative, with our  
13 proposed amendments, provides the most  
14 flexibility to agencies and property owners  
15 to deal with goose and human conflicts.  
16 Alternative G frames the issue on a  
17 nationwide scale and transfers authority for  
18 action directly to the affected agency or  
19 individual.

20 New Jersey and other Atlantic Flyway  
21 states have repeatedly expressed the desire  
22 for a general depredation order that allows  
23 for nest and egg destruction and treatment as  
24 well as the taking of geese, subject to state  
25 guidelines, when geese are depredating

1 agricultural crops, creating threats to human  
2 health safety, damaging public or private  
3 property or creating a nuisance situation.  
4 Therefore, we recommend implementation of  
5 Alternative G with the following amendments  
6 and clarifications:

- 7 1. We recommend that the definition of an  
8 "authorized person" under the general  
9 depredation order be broadly defined to  
10 include virtually any property owner or  
11 manager that may be adversely affected  
12 by resident geese.
- 13 2. We would urge that damage, as defined  
14 under the general depredation order, be  
15 broadly interpreted. Grazing damage to  
16 vegetation as well as fecal deposition  
17 on lawns, walkways, docks etc., that  
18 diminishes aesthetics or conflicts with  
19 desired human uses should be included  
20 under the definition. This broad  
21 definition would address problems  
22 occurring from property damage and  
23 nuisance situations caused by geese.
- 24 3. The requirement that a non lethal  
25 harassment program certified by



1                   USDA-Wildlife Services be implemented  
2                   concurrently with the general  
3                   depredation order is not acceptable.  
4                   We are not aware of any wildlife  
5                   services certification program that is  
6                   currently in place, or how it would be  
7                   implemented. Furthermore, non lethal  
8                   approaches are often too costly and  
9                   ineffective to be a reasonable  
10                  requirement before other actions can be  
11                  taken. Non lethal approaches also do  
12                  little to address the underlying  
13                  problem of overabundant geese. We  
14                  believe that most people will choose  
15                  non lethal measures whenever they are  
16                  practical and effective, and we would  
17                  continue to advise landowners to  
18                  implement a combination of lethal and  
19                  non lethal measures in accordance with  
20                  integrated pest management principles.

21           4.       As written, the general depredation  
22                  order is limited to the premises where  
23                  the problem is occurring. Geese  
24                  associated with damage or other human  
25                  related conflicts often occur on

1 adjacent properties. For example,  
2 geese may fly through airport air space  
3 yet nest or congregate on an adjacent  
4 property off-site. Therefore, the  
5 scope of the general depredation order  
6 should be expanded to include adjacent  
7 properties as long as landowner  
8 permission is obtained.

9 5. Although we agree with the Service that  
10 expanded hunting opportunities are  
11 warranted to help reduce resident goose  
12 populations, the regulation changes  
13 proposed in Alternative G do not go far  
14 enough. Rather we recommend  
15 implementation of a conservation order  
16 for Canada geese be included in  
17 Alternative G. Specifically, the  
18 conservation order should allow for the  
19 take of Canada geese from August 1 to  
20 September 15, with no bag limits,  
21 unplugged shotguns, use of electronic  
22 calls and expanded shooting hours.

23 6. While Alternative G has an array of  
24 management actions needed to control  
25 resident Canada geese, we are concerned

1           that the reporting requirements may  
2           pose an unnecessary and undue  
3           administrative burden on both state  
4           agencies and the public.

5           In New Jersey, appropriate surveys and  
6           monitoring programs are in place to ensure  
7           that the resident Canada goose population  
8           will not be reduced below desired population  
9           objectives through implementation of a  
10          general depredation order and conservation  
11          order.

12           Thank you for your consideration of our  
13          agency's comments.

14           In closing, the Division wishes to  
15          thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for  
16          preparing the draft EIS. If the Division can  
17          assist in any way in preparing the final EIS,  
18          please do not hesitate to contact us.  
19          Continued cooperation among affected partners  
20          is needed to resolve this difficult problem  
21          of critical importance to New Jersey and  
22          other U.S. citizens.

23           Thank you.

24           MR. CASE: Number four.

25

1                   SCOTT ELLIS: The New Jersey Fish and  
2                   Game Council, hereafter referred to as  
3                   Council, is by legislation, responsible for  
4                   adopting and amending regulations governing  
5                   the taking of wildlife which are legally  
6                   classified as game birds, game mammals,  
7                   furbearers or freshwater fish. The Fish and  
8                   Game Council is one of six councils or  
9                   committees created by legislation to work  
10                  closely with the Department of Environmental  
11                  Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife,  
12                  hereafter referred to as Division.

13                  The Council consists of 11 members who  
14                  are appointed by the Governor. Three members  
15                  represent the agricultural community and are  
16                  nominated through the State Agricultural  
17                  Convention, six sportsmen representatives  
18                  are nominated by the New Jersey State  
19                  Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. In  
20                  addition, the chairperson of the New Jersey  
21                  Endangered and Non-game Species Advisory  
22                  Committee as well as one public member  
23                  knowledgeable in land use management selected  
24                  by the Governor serve on the Council.  
25                  Council members function as unpaid volunteers

1 who act in the best interest of the state's  
2 fish and wildlife resources on behalf of the  
3 public.

4 The Council, in concert with the  
5 Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service regulate the taking of both resident  
7 and migratory Canada geese in New Jersey.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to  
9 comment on the draft environmental impact  
10 statement regarding resident Canada goose  
11 management. Although resident Canada geese  
12 are a valuable natural resource, the Council  
13 agrees that there is a need for action given  
14 the multitude of problems incurred by  
15 overabundant resident Canada geese in New  
16 Jersey.

17 The Council concurs with the position  
18 of the Division regarding the preferred  
19 alternative in the draft EIS. Specifically,  
20 given the nationwide problem of overabundant  
21 resident geese, we believe a nationwide  
22 solution, where the federal government (for  
23 example, the Service) serves in the lead  
24 role, is warranted. As such, we do not  
25 concur with the Service that Alternative F,

1 "state empowerment", should be the preferred  
2 alternative.

3           The Council is concerned  
4 that Alternative F would require the Division  
5 to issue state permits to document all taking  
6 of geese. This alternative does not relieve  
7 the affected landowner of an already  
8 burdensome permit process. Rather this  
9 alternative transfers the cost of  
10 administering the permit program for managing  
11 this federal species, to the states without  
12 compensation. The Council believes the  
13 entire burdensome permit procedure, designed  
14 to protect against excessive take of a  
15 species, is unnecessary for resident Canada  
16 geese at this time. The Council believes  
17 that that administration of Alternative F by  
18 the Division is impossible considering their  
19 budget, their personnel and the need to  
20 concentrate their wildlife control efforts on  
21 non migratory species such as bears, deer and  
22 beaver.

23           We believe that the authority to act on  
24 problems associated with resident geese  
25 should be conveyed directly to the affected

1 landowner though a federal, general  
2 depredation order. Therefore, the Council  
3 supports implementation of Alternative G, the  
4 general depredation order, with the several  
5 amendments and clarifications, as outlined by  
6 the Division's comments. We believe this  
7 alternative provides the most flexibility to  
8 New Jersey agencies and property owners  
9 dealing with goose problems. In New Jersey,  
10 appropriate surveys and monitoring programs  
11 are in place to ensure that the resident  
12 Canada goose population will not be reduced  
13 below desired population objectives through  
14 implementation of a general depredation order  
15 and conservation order.

16 Thank you for your consideration of the  
17 New Jersey Fish and Game Council's comments.

18 In closing, the Council wishes to thank  
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for  
20 preparing the draft EIS. If the Council of  
21 Division can assist in any way in preparing  
22 the final EIS, please do not hesitate to  
23 contact us. Continued cooperation among  
24 affected partners is needed to resolve this  
25 difficult problem of critical importance to

1 New Jersey's citizens.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CASE: Number five. Six.

4

5

6

7 BARI FEINSTEIN: I'm a voter and  
8 taxpayer from Bergen County, New Jersey and  
9 I'm speaking on behalf of many other  
10 citizens, who could not be here today, but  
11 have signed my petition opposing Alternative  
12 F. I am also speaking as a representative of  
13 the New Jersey Chapter of the Coalition to  
14 Prevent the Destruction of Canada Geese.

15 This is our position:

16 The draft EIS shows that our views, and  
17 those of a majority of scoping session comment  
18 writers, were acknowledged but dismissed  
19 because they disagreed with the U.S. Fish and  
20 Wildlife Service's premeditated goal of turning  
21 over it's congressionally-appointed  
22 responsibility for Canada geese to state  
23 wildlife agencies.

24 In the DEIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
25 Service admits to having priority to the



1 opinions of state wildlife agencies, flyway  
2 councils and wildlife services. These  
3 agencies do not represent the public. They  
4 represent themselves. Their opinions reflect  
5 a vested economic interest in any policy that  
6 liberalizes killing wildlife. Catering to  
7 agency greed is an intolerable approach to  
8 policy making.

9           The DEIS blindly asserts that  
10 population reduction should be the basis for  
11 the preferred management program. It is  
12 remarkable that the closest thing to an  
13 explanation given for choosing this  
14 "approach" is the statement that the Service  
15 "believes" it might mitigate goose problems.  
16 This is an inadequate justification for such  
17 drastic policy making. Indeed, Alternative  
18 F is so poorly defined in the DEIS that the  
19 statements made about its allegedly intended  
20 impact, whether in absolute terms or  
21 relative to other options, are meaningless.  
22 Only one thing is certain: many geese will  
23 be killed. I must ask, if the geese are  
24 slaughtered what animal could be the next  
25 victim? What are we teaching our children -

1 that problems can only be solved by  
2 bloodshed instead of teaching them  
3 compassion and respect for all living  
4 things?

5 Population reduction  
6 means killing. Killing not only affords  
7 gratuitous economic opportunities for state  
8 wildlife agencies (revenues from expanded  
9 hunting) and wildlife services  
10 (extermination programs), but it also gives  
11 the Service an excuse to completely  
12 disregard non-lethal management options in  
13 its policy making. Non-lethal goose  
14 management was inaccurately portrayed in the  
15 DEIS as being of questionable utility while  
16 population reduction was portrayed as being  
17 of obvious utility. In reality, the reverse  
18 is true. There is concrete precedent for  
19 the effectiveness of non-lethal Canada goose  
20 management in eliminating the impact of  
21 geese. The same cannot be said about  
22 killing programs -- but not for a lack of  
23 trying.

24 Population data are presented in an  
25 attempt to support the population reduction

1 plan concept. However, these data are  
2 incomplete, contradictory, and of  
3 inconsistent quality. Goose population  
4 trend assertions are highly speculative, and  
5 in some cases plain wrong.  
6 According to the Service's own reports, the  
7 Atlantic Flyway population of "resident"  
8 Canada geese has hardly changed in four  
9 years. Is that what the Service considers an  
10 exploding population? Similarly, public  
11 health concerns are still cited, even though  
12 study after study confirms that geese are an  
13 insignificant public health issue. Some of  
14 these studies were even funded by the  
15 Service for the purpose of finding something  
16 from which an imaginary goose emergency  
17 could be fabricated. The Service continues  
18 its attempt to justify new regulations by  
19 relying on second-hand information and  
20 damage claims that have neither been  
21 confirmed nor evaluated based on any set of  
22 established standards. Most of the  
23 supporting data in the DEIS come from the  
24 special interest groups who will gain the  
25 most economically from the proposed

1 alternative.

2                                   If the extermination  
3 plan, which is violent and cynical, is  
4 implemented it will have a negative impact  
5 on society. It will be wildlife management  
6 at its worst. Hunting will be allowed in  
7 parks and neighborhoods in the summer when  
8 people are hiking, picnicking, camping, etc.  
9 Adult geese and goslings will be killed on a  
10 large scale. More geese will be forced into  
11 areas where they are unwanted (private  
12 property, etc.) and people will be given  
13 false hope that killing will resolve goose  
14 conflicts. Bottom line is - there will be a  
15 blood bath, a completely unjustified and  
16 needless slaughter on a scale that's  
17 completely unethical. But even if you don't  
18 care about the inhumane aspect, round-ups  
19 don't solve the human-geese conflicts.

20                               If the geese are in an area where they  
21 are unwanted, the available humane methods  
22 should be used to move them. Killing geese  
23 to rid the property of them is not only  
24 cruel, but counterproductive, because a new  
25 flock will move right in to fill the void.

1           There are clear and simple means of  
2           redistricting the population of geese, as  
3           simple as ReJex-It and other turf grass  
4           repellents that will deter the geese from an  
5           area. In addition, there are other humane  
6           methods that can be used as alternatives  
7           such as: barriers; habitat modification,  
8           clean-up projects and use of border collies.  
9           By implementing programs to discourage  
10          wildlife from areas where they are not  
11          wanted, we can effectively solve wildlife  
12          problems without resorting to lethal control  
13          measures.

14                 Finally, we resent the fact that state  
15          wildlife agencies played a significant role  
16          in boosting the population of resident  
17          Canada geese from the 1960s onward, and in  
18          some cases, still do (DEIS, II-18).

19          References provided in the DEIS show that  
20          these agencies predicted in the 1980s that  
21          goose conflicts would increase due to their  
22          propagation efforts. Yet the Service allows  
23          these practices to continue.

24                 The state empowerment alternative  
25          would reward those (state wildlife agencies)

1 who caused whatever problems that exist with  
2 increased hunting revenues and  
3 Pittman-Robertson money. The resident goose  
4 controversy is clearly the willfully  
5 manufactured product of state wildlife  
6 agencies whose goal was to eventually demand  
7 complete life of death control of a  
8 migratory bird species. To adopt  
9 Alternative F would be to surrender to the  
10 demands of special interest groups.

11 In conclusion, it seems inherently  
12 unfair and cruel to kill animals when there  
13 are humane alternatives. Add the risks of  
14 hunting and extermination in public parks  
15 and neighborhoods and the threat it poses to  
16 the people who use and enjoy those areas and  
17 the ridiculous nature of the extermination  
18 becomes even more clearly ludicrous. There  
19 is also a Migratory Bird Treaty (1916),  
20 which would clearly be violated. Therefore  
21 we are asking that you adopt Alternative  
22 A, no action or a non-lethal management  
23 alternative. This would allow Canada goose  
24 conflicts to be evaluated on a case-by-case  
25 basis, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

1 Service's important role in overseeing  
2 control of these birds would be retained.

3 On a personal note - I am sympathetic  
4 to some people's complaints about Canada  
5 geese; however, we need to work together to  
6 come up with a solution that is morally and  
7 ethically sound. As Americans, we must  
8 continue to live up to our country's  
9 standard of ethics by implementing  
10 strategies that are humane. We can coexist  
11 with the geese.

12 Thank you for your time!

13 MR. CASE: Number seven.

14 MR. BAILEY: Ron Bailey from Ocean  
15 County and live right in the center of the  
16 Atlantic Flyway. I have a few brain  
17 storming ideas I would like to pass on.

18 I looked at all the proposals of the  
19 Division of Fish and Wildlife, the  
20 Department of the Interior had proposed.  
21 None are acceptable to me. Maybe the right  
22 one hasn't been shown, but I know from the  
23 past that brain storming in any type of  
24 operation, whether it be business or  
25 environment, it has to be done.

1           There are ways. I have several of my  
2           own ways that I have discussed with people  
3           from the Department of Interior before I  
4           started. I thought I could get one of these  
5           proposals as me, Ron Bailey, who is a duck  
6           and goose hunter. I'll be 70 years old in a  
7           couple of months.

8           What can we do? I say let's continue  
9           business as usual. Let's try to use brain  
10          storming.

11          I want to tell you a little bit of my  
12          qualifications. It's not egotism. I'm from  
13          the Dupont, I guess it's scientific  
14          community. I'm retired right now. I work  
15          for National Cancer Institute and what we  
16          do, we're trying to prevent the cancers  
17          before they start. My chore was chlorine.  
18          Why can't we do that with these Canadian  
19          geese?

20          I've been working since 1996 with  
21          Steve Aifr and different people from the  
22          refuge and didn't get any place. There are  
23          too many complications. John Does never  
24          come in, the regular hunter, there are no  
25          bridges they have established.



1           None of these proposals -- I'm not  
2           speaking for anyone, I'm speaking for  
3           myself -- again I think we have a long way  
4           to go before we propose another EIS. That's  
5           all I have. Thank you.

6           MR. CASE: Eight, nine, 10.

7           MR. CORNEY: John Corney. I'm  
8           representing myself, but I am also a trustee of  
9           New Jersey Waterfowlers Association.

10           Bottom line, I'm in favor of Alternate  
11           F with major modifications. Number one, it  
12           identifies the starting date to be  
13           September. That very easily could be pushed  
14           earlier to August.

15           I'm also in favor of the  
16           implementation of the U.S. Federal Wildlife  
17           Services immediately issuing a conservation  
18           order for RB geese nationwide. For the  
19           specific flyways, the Central Flyway, even  
20           though the statistical data doesn't show,  
21           there is really a major issue in the Central  
22           Flyway, for the Mississippi Flyway and  
23           also for the Atlantic Flyway.

24           As modification to Alternate F, I would  
25           like to recommend that within each one of

1 the respective Flyways, there are existing  
2 technical committees on which there are  
3 resident biologists  
4 where their background and  
5 knowledge is Canada geese. That the  
6 Atlantic Flyway, Mississippi Flyway in  
7 conjunction with the International  
8 Federation and a representative of the U.S.  
9 Federal Wildlife Service immediately  
10 initiate a combined study group.

11 Bottom line is, just like we study the hell  
12 out of the white geese, we're going to do  
13 the same thing with the RB geese and we all  
14 know this has been a long-term management  
15 and sociological issue. Some people say  
16 even going back over 20 years.

17 So if we are going to do something we  
18 might as well start immediately and get  
19 immediate results. The charge to the  
20 technical combined study group would be to  
21 come up with a combined recommendation in  
22 one year's time. In addition to the hunting  
23 aspects of Alternate F, include baiting.  
24 Period. We all know the difference between  
25 a teal, a green head, Drake or mallard and

1 Canada goose. Therefore the mortality  
2 would be very incidental if baiting was  
3 initiated. Bait worked for market hunter,  
4 it works for this particular issue also.

5 We need an extensive public relations  
6 campaign. All of the combined agencies of  
7 the departments of the United States should  
8 get together because right now they are  
9 totally disjointed. U.S. Federal Wildlife,  
10 USGS, U.S.D.A. seems to be split-end study  
11 groups going around splintered information  
12 available.

13 I'd like to give you a copy of Regent  
14 Seven off the Internet that's been in  
15 existence since 1998 and there is probably  
16 been less than 1,000 hits on this particular  
17 document which specifically addresses urban  
18 geese. With an associated link that takes one  
19 to the animal alliance of Canada, that also  
20 back in 1998 did a 90-page report, et  
21 cetera, et cetera.

22 We need combined immediate PR because  
23 the RP goose situation in the Continental  
24 United States is multi-faceted and we got  
25 to get the word out.

1           One additional item that hasn't been  
2 mentioned is this: How about reintroduction  
3 into the migration? We all know that  
4 primarily the South St. James Bay, at the  
5 same time the Ungover Group, the Alternate  
6 Impetegrums, so on, so forth, the numbers  
7 are fluctuating back and forth. At the same  
8 time we have an overabundance of RG geese in  
9 the continental United States.

10           Let's get creative. Geese motel. We  
11 have nets, we have bait. Let's take it from  
12 there. I would leave that to the tech  
13 committee. I think we would all like to see  
14 a very beautiful resource reintegrated back  
15 into migratory flyway patterns within the  
16 standard time frames that they used to  
17 breed, come down winter and at the same time  
18 return and really, that should be our  
19 ultimate objective.

20           Very quickly I would like to ask for  
21 some numbers because I cannot find the  
22 information. In the Alternative Flyway for  
23 2001, how many RP geese are there? Also for  
24 Mississippi Flyway and also for New Jersey.  
25 Per the mid winter January 2002 mid winter

1 surveys, how many Canada geese are in the  
2 Alternate Flyway, Mississippi flyway and New  
3 Jersey? What is the percent of reduction  
4 that is desired being an objective for the  
5 Atlantic Flyway, for the Mississippi Flyway?  
6 It was identified that 10 years we would  
7 have X, we have Y, so on so forth. What's  
8 the drop dead date? There was a 50 percent  
9 recommendation back in, it was either 2000 or  
10 2001, for the white goose issue. Well, we're  
11 still studying it with working groups, joint  
12 ventures, so on and so forth at the same  
13 time the white geese are still tearing up  
14 the meadows.

15 That's all I have to say. Thank you  
16 very much for your time and consideration  
17 and welcome to New Jersey.

18 MR. CASE: Eleven, 12, 13.

19 MR. TITTEL: Jeff Tittel, director of  
20 New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club.

21 I'm here because there is sort of an  
22 alternative that's not there. Whether you  
23 pick A through G, one of the things that's  
24 missing seems to be habitat.

25 One of the biggest problems we have in

1 a state like New Jersey, we are creating a  
2 habitat conducive for the over population of  
3 geese. We over populate our woodland and  
4 farm fields by cutting down trees and  
5 destroying, repairing buffers, filling in  
6 wetlands. We are creating more habitat for  
7 over population. Detention basins and lawns  
8 are really places for the geese population  
9 to keep growing and growing.

10 Unless we start dealing with those  
11 issues as part of any of the different  
12 alternatives there, we are never going to  
13 solve the problem. In order to really  
14 manage the goose population we have to  
15 manage our landscape and we're not doing  
16 that. When you fill in wetlands and turn  
17 them into detention basins, you  
18 create nice ponds for the Canadian geese to  
19 move to. As long as we put lawns around our  
20 lakes and concrete, nice office parks with  
21 ponds in front, we keep saying the over  
22 population, geese create a water quality  
23 issue.

24 As long as some lived on a lake, I  
25 wondered which creates a water population

1 issue: Four hundred fifty houses with  
2 septic tanks leaking into that lake or two  
3 dozen geese on the lake. Holistically, to do  
4 a better job, otherwise we come up with more  
5 short-term solutions rather than long-term  
6 solutions and need better management of the  
7 lands.

8 MR. CASE: Fourteen.

9 MR. SWIFT: Brian Swift, representing  
10 the New York State Department of  
11 Environmental Conservation. We concur with  
12 the comments made by Mr. Ted Nichols of the  
13 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

14 MR. CASE: Fourteen, 15, 16, 17.

15 MR. BIRMAN: Phil Birman, resident of  
16 Elizabeth, New Jersey. I was moved by the  
17 article that was in the Star Larger. The  
18 reason I was moved, I love these animals. One  
19 loss, one removal from the environment, one  
20 Canadian goose is one too many as far as I'm  
21 concerned.

22 As far as how it affects our society,  
23 the way I see it it's detrimental,  
24 absolutely. What are we doing?

25 We're creating ethical issues,

1 practicing mathematical issues, religious  
2 issues. Ethical issues - certainly life is  
3 precious. We are setting a precedent,  
4 unheard of consequences.

5 We see what's going on around us, 9/11  
6 issues. Here we are doing something,  
7 breeding a really terrible thing. Setting a  
8 stage for sharp actions. Unwitting actions,  
9 things that don't make sense.

10 If you do anything, do something in a  
11 humane, sensible, loving way. There are  
12 ways to do it like the last person said, the  
13 one prior to the last one. Give it a little  
14 time. Think about what you are going to do,  
15 how you will do it and you'll get the right  
16 results. Don't go ahead, what you are  
17 doing, to cull and kill.

18 That is not the way. I have my personal  
19 reasons over here. I'll read it off.

20 1. There is unreliable goose population  
21 data, therefore one should not develop  
22 policy based on statistically questionable  
23 data. The exploding population is clearly  
24 subjective.

25 2. Most of the negative claims about



1 geese are exaggerated claims that are never  
2 validated and nor seem to matter from those  
3 demanding such horrible killings.

4 3. Exponential population growth rate is  
5 another myth. It assumes that there are no  
6 other biological limiting factors.

7 4. Graphs and trends intent is to scare  
8 the public into accepting mass killing. It  
9 has little to do with statistics, banding,  
10 aerial survey than an inconvenience.

11 5. There are obviously ethical, pragmatic  
12 and religious issues that are against  
13 killing and culling of geese, animals, and  
14 any life. Ethically it is wrong to take any  
15 life in a humane and understanding society.  
16 Pragmatically it is wrong because it  
17 instills bad values and sets a precedent in  
18 society that killing is okay and can be used  
19 as a means to an end without seeking life  
20 saving sensible solutions, and regards that  
21 some forms of life is worth less using  
22 poorly founded excuses. Religiously it is  
23 wrong because many religious beliefs regard  
24 God's creation and life as sacred, precious  
25 that is to cherished and cared for.

- 1           6.       Goose mess is not a health hazard  
2           because all it is recycled grass.
- 3           7.       Game agencies are in the business of  
4           hunting opportunities which means they are  
5           not interested in stabilizing but increasing  
6           population to make hunting a big business to  
7           exploit the resident geese.
- 8           8.       Killing of Canada geese is based  
9           largely on an illusory health argument per  
10          National Wildlife Health Center.
- 11          9.       Killing of geese as justification is  
12          fraudulent.
- 13          10.      There is a misconception that feeding  
14          causes problems.  Instead geese use  
15          biological relevant criteria.  This would  
16          help explain why the geese feed mostly in  
17          unpopulated areas such as golf course.
- 18          11.      Migration of birds to northern and  
19          southern regions is discouraged because  
20          those areas are no-longer habitable due to  
21          waste, pollution and unsound ecological  
22          conditions such as fouled water.
- 23          12.      Killing of Canada geese is a violation  
24          of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
25          Service "Migration Bird Treaty Act" and

1 Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Those that  
2 plan and kill the birds must be stopped,  
3 fined, and imprisoned.

4 13. Let us stop this killing and consider  
5 realistic humane solutions. My feeling is  
6 that we should be thankful that these birds  
7 are in our midst. Watching them makes me  
8 experience profound feelings that life is so  
9 beautiful evident by the birds' beauty,  
10 grace, love and care for its young, social  
11 concerns and pairing off of male and female.  
12 Note geese often mate for life, pine due to  
13 death, aggressive only when protecting their  
14 young, devoted parents, share food, help its  
15 kind in stress other species. They show a  
16 willingness to interact without causing harm  
17 and threat with us. Each bird may look the  
18 same but is unique just as human beings.  
19 They have the right to be here, should not  
20 be denied. Sprawl, environmentally  
21 unmindful industrialization and the twisted  
22 unfounded reasons imposed by human kind have  
23 caused the problems and threats.

24 Consider other options that do not  
25 kill or harm these beautiful birds.

- 1       A.       Reduce clear cutting and intensively  
2       landscaped areas.
- 3       B.       Use non-lethal goose control such as  
4       methyl anthranilate (Kool Aid).
- 5       C.       Use habitat modification to control  
6       geese such as fencing near water areas that  
7       are restricted, and establish areas that are  
8       favorable for the geese where they can be  
9       safe and fed.
- 10      D.       Use border collies to a limited  
11      degree.
- 12      E.       Use turf grass goose repellents,  
13      flight control, It-It.
- 14      F.       Goose D-fence.
- 15      G.       Goose poop buster.
- 16      H.       High Tech distress calls.
- 17      I.       Robo goose.
- 18      J.       Dissuader Hand-held Laser, Gater  
19      Guard.
- 20      K.       Bird-X, Med Pest Supply.
- 21      L.       Egg control, humanely, shake eggs that  
22      are two weeks or younger but not ones that  
23      float. Leave one egg in clutch to avoid  
24      another clutch.
- 25                Consider the realistic humane

1 solution. My feeling is we should be  
2 thankful these birds are in our midst,  
3 whether there is a smaller number or larger  
4 number. Watching them makes my experience,  
5 profound feeling, life is beautiful by  
6 the birds.

7 Social concerns, paring off of male  
8 and female. Geese often mate for life.  
9 This is something we can learn from. They  
10 are examples for us. We should not destroy  
11 something that is a good example to our  
12 social being.

13 As far as other things, they lose a  
14 mate, they grieve. They may be aggressive  
15 only when their young is threatened. It's  
16 understandable. Why would anyone be  
17 concerned, even about the droppings. This  
18 is recyclable. It's not a hazard, it's just  
19 overdone. People give you the impression  
20 it's a hazard. Everything I read up to now,  
21 there is no indications it's a hazard or a  
22 problem. It's the personal ego acts by  
23 individuals. People who want their total  
24 rights over their land.

25 Who was first here? Were we here

1 first or birds here first? Who. Let's show  
2 a little grace, little kindness, little  
3 love. That's all I want to say.

4 MR. CASE: Eighteen.

5 MS. HEINRICH: Helen Heinrich, and I'm  
6 here to represent the farmers of North New  
7 Jersey Farm Bureau. We have some 18,000  
8 farm families. Their numbers and many of  
9 them would be here except this is the time  
10 of year when they are out in good weather  
11 bringing in the hay and taking care of other  
12 crops that have been delayed because of bad  
13 weather, but wanted me to deliver some  
14 information about our policies and problems  
15 with the geese.

16 We will be sending you a written set  
17 of statements, of comments from our  
18 president later.

19 I wanted to make a few points here  
20 because the farmers are people who  
21 experience on a daily basis the problems  
22 with the geese unlike the speaker just  
23 before. Farmers are in a situation now  
24 where their income is threatened for many  
25 reasons, especially the field crop farmers,

1 with low prices and of course the weather.  
2 The drought or too much rain or whatever.  
3 And having the geese do damage to their  
4 crops is just one more blow that is very  
5 difficult financially and emotionally for a  
6 farmer to withstand.

7 Farmers are working very hard to work  
8 with watershed groups on non-point source  
9 solution, improvement and the geese are  
10 implicated in that. One of the crops that  
11 they like to destroy the best would be  
12 cover crop like winter wheat where they pull  
13 the struts out so there isn't any wheat to  
14 harvest there a little bit later this year  
15 and in the meantime the soil is washed away.  
16 We are working hard to keep that from  
17 happening and the geese are setting those  
18 efforts back.

19 They also destroy the edges of  
20 streams. This causes soil erosion.

21 Last of all, many of our streams are  
22 supposedly impaired with fecal chloroform.  
23 That could come from many different sources,  
24 but we see an awful lot of geese and we  
25 think it's got to be ascertained, their

1 role, in terms of water quality problems  
2 too.

3 We tried to use non-lethal weapons,  
4 non-lethal methods, tried permits. We've  
5 put up with long tedious months of waiting  
6 for the permit from Fish & Wildlife Service  
7 and also participated in the 2000  
8 scoping session and we are urging you to  
9 act. Let's have no more studies, no more  
10 delays.

11 Let's start working on this problem  
12 and we would favor action that accomplishes  
13 the most in the quickest period of time.

14 We favor Alternative G because we feel  
15 that this is the one that would provide the  
16 most flexibility. It would be something  
17 coming from the federal level that would  
18 apply to everybody and hopefully all of the  
19 problems. Whether it's to be done or not  
20 can be solved once for the whole country.

21 We refer you to Alternate F. You will  
22 have questions and challenges on 50 of them  
23 instead of just one.

24 We would like to see Alternative G  
25 with a tool box and as many tools as will do



1 the job, with the states able to choose and  
2 help the individual agencies or land owners  
3 deal with the most appropriate tools. This  
4 will be less burdensome and we think will  
5 get the job done more efficiently.

6 We are well-aware of the problem of  
7 money to manage these programs and to ask  
8 the local, the State Fish & Game agency to  
9 take on the burden without any additional  
10 funds. It's going to, as they said,  
11 increase the spread of their staff across  
12 the bear problems, beaver problems, white  
13 tail deer as well as the geese. Farmers are  
14 suffering from all those animals. We don't  
15 want to see any reduction on their ability  
16 to take on these problems.

17 We would like to see you follow  
18 through with Alternate G as soon as  
19 possible. We do feel very impressed with  
20 the way New Jersey monitors and surveys its  
21 geese and we think certainly you and the  
22 State agency working together within the  
23 flyway can keep monitoring the progress of  
24 the reduction and this will be beneficial  
25 not only to farm landowners, but also to the

1 resource itself.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CASE: Nineteen.

4 MR. DRAKE: David Dranke. Extension  
5 wildlife specialist for Rutgers cooperative  
6 extension.

7 Like to applaud you for the  
8 comprehensive way you've looked at this  
9 issue. The relative quickness for which you  
10 administered and issued the Draft EIS. I  
11 fully concur with the comments and from the  
12 comments of New Jersey Fish and Wildlife.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. CASE: Twenty.

15 MR. BAKER: I don't represent anybody  
16 except myself.

17 I come from a little town just north  
18 of here by the name of Livingston and the  
19 reason I decided to come was because I'm  
20 getting so sick and tired what these beasts  
21 have done to a typical suburban town. I'm  
22 sure it can be multiplied all over the state,  
23 all over the nation, that I thought I would  
24 at least come and say a few words from just  
25 an ordinary citizen, plain old taxpaying guy

1 that doesn't represent any of the  
2 bureaucratic groups.

3 I just think it's disgusting. There  
4 is a ballpark near where I live which can't  
5 be used half the time because it's  
6 constantly full of goose droppings. There  
7 was a beautiful park where the children used  
8 to play. They can't play now because now  
9 it's either full of filth or because the  
10 geese come in there and if the children go  
11 anywhere near the geese they attack the  
12 children.

13 Someone made the comment before that  
14 they only attack children when they are  
15 protecting their young. That's baloney.  
16 I've seen over and over again geese  
17 attacking children particularly when there  
18 is no baby around. I'm just making the  
19 point that who's more important?

20 We're in a state that's very, very  
21 crowded. I agree. We have a huge  
22 population in New Jersey and it continues to  
23 grow. Well, mankind comes before the beast,  
24 it's just that simple.

25 This guy doesn't agree with that,

1 that's his privilege. Mankind comes before  
2 the beast and I don't want to see my  
3 grandchildren try to go out in the park and  
4 have some disgusting goose jump on my  
5 grandchildren and bite it. You know, that's  
6 why I'm here. That's only a personal thing.

7 Adding all the other concerns, the  
8 problems at the airport that have been  
9 mentioned, the little old ladies that want  
10 to feed the birds, that's the ones that you  
11 guys are so concerned about. The farms as  
12 the lady mentioned, overwhelmed with geese.  
13 They are polluting the lakes as we know.  
14 I'm just repeating something that you all  
15 know, but I think it's worth repeating.

16 We have a small lake in my town, can't  
17 even be used anymore. Used to be used again  
18 by the children, can't be used anymore  
19 because it's full of goose turds. Nobody  
20 can use them anymore. If we do, knowing  
21 these blasted geese will grow and grow and  
22 grow and what are we going to do? We'll be  
23 talking 10 years from now before what we are  
24 going to do about it. We got to do  
25 something now.

1 Thank you very much for listening to  
2 me.

3 MR. CASE: Thank you. Twenty-one.

4 MS. FRITZGES: Teresa Fritzgtes. I'm  
5 speaking on behalf of the New Jersey animal  
6 rights and its 2000 members who oppose the  
7 killing of Canada geese by any method. We  
8 strongly object to Alternate F, which will  
9 turn over responsibility of Canada geese to  
10 state wildlife agencies. To do so in New  
11 Jersey will result in the same massive  
12 slaughtering as has occurred with white  
13 tailed deer.

14 While the New Jersey Division of Fish  
15 and Wildlife is not responsive to the wishes  
16 of the vast majority of the states  
17 residents, we hope the Federal Government  
18 will be. It is well-documented that the  
19 population of Canada geese has been  
20 manipulated for hunters.

21 According to a recent article in the  
22 Trenton Times, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
23 official indicated Canada geese were brought  
24 into New Jersey by hunters to attract  
25 migrating Canada geese. Now that some

1 people are complaining about their  
2 existence, there are plans to have the geese  
3 pay with their lives.

4 Canada geese have also been drawn to  
5 areas which people now want them removed.  
6 Wild geese visited waterways less visual to  
7 humans. Now they are drawn to corporate  
8 parks and golf courses with topography and  
9 vegetation that entice them. For those who  
10 do not choose to modify their grounds,  
11 droppings can be raked or swept up by  
12 equipment similar to street sweepers.  
13 Non-lethal approaches work.

14 Each site should be evaluated and  
15 specific methods can be devised to deter  
16 geese. Some methods include prohibited  
17 sustained feeding, habitat modification,  
18 exclusion by natural barriers or fences and  
19 non-lethal repellents.

20 The statement that Canada geese  
21 droppings is a health threat is  
22 unsubstantiated. In fact, there are no  
23 documented cases that Canada geese are  
24 common for human illnesses, the opposite is  
25 the case. Dr. Milton Friend, director of

1 wildlife health research center with all  
2 fowl diseases of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
3 Service in Madison, Wisconsin, has conducted  
4 numerous studies on the issue and come into  
5 contact with vast numbers of geese.

6           Despite such exposure, I pointed out,  
7 "There is not a single documented case of  
8 any of us coming down with any kind of  
9 disease problem as a result of Canada  
10 geese." Yet this myth is perpetrated much  
11 like deer are responsible for lyme  
12 diseases.

13           It is unconscionable that public  
14 officials cry these scare tactics to justify  
15 self-interest, increased revenues for  
16 hunting and private and businesses. We ask  
17 you adopt non-lethal methods. With  
18 continued public education and non-lethal  
19 approaches we are confident that those that  
20 see Canada geese as unwelcome will co-exist  
21 with them.

22           MR. CASE: Twenty-two.

23           MR. WHITTENDALE: Tom Whittendale.

24           Official comments are presented by  
25 mail last week to the Service. We endorse

1           Alternative G with conservation order, the  
2           same as New Jersey and same as New York.  
3           That's also been endorsed by the Governors  
4           and Council on the Division of Wildlife.

5                   MR. CASE:   Twenty-three, 24.

6                   MR. BRIDGES:  After listening here I  
7           believe the real reason some people want  
8           geese killed is one, geese can fly; two,  
9           geese don't kill anyone; three, geese are  
10          beautiful; four geese are for life and  
11          faithful.  These people want to kill geese  
12          in the hope it will ease their pain.  Now  
13          the U.S.-let's-kill-more-fish-and-wildlife  
14          service wants to do how it knows how to do  
15          with animals, which is kill more.

16                   I believe Bevis Singer was speaking to  
17          the geese and to us when he asks what could  
18          they know, all these scholars, all these  
19          philosophers, all the leaders of the world.  
20          They convinced themselves as man, the worse  
21          transgressor of all the species is the crown  
22          of creation.  Thank you.

23                   MR. CASE:  Twenty-five, 26, 27, 28,  
24           29.

25                   MR. WEIDNER:  Dave Weidner.



1 I thank the Fish & Wildlife Service for  
2 the opportunity to speak tonight. The owner  
3 of Storm Outfitters, we are a professional  
4 goose and hunting guide service. I want to  
5 make certain the voice of the sportsman is  
6 heard tonight.

7 All decisions made are based on sound  
8 biology and would like to encourage the  
9 members of the audience to please trust the  
10 fish and wildlife individuals as well as to  
11 support wetlands conservation, organizations  
12 such as Ducks Unlimited.

13 Please also remember that man has  
14 created this problem, much as the individual  
15 from the Sierra Club stated, due to habitat  
16 destruction, wetlands destruction. We  
17 really need to keep working on that.

18 I've looked over a lot, actually all  
19 of them and I have a lot of problems with  
20 all of them. I think some will work and  
21 some will not work. I think we need to  
22 increase the harvest limits based on sound  
23 biology. If possible we need to extend the  
24 season, the September season, if it's not  
25 going to impact on the migratory population.

1 To push it as far as possible without having  
2 significant impact on the megareters into  
3 October.

4 To open it in August I don't think is  
5 going to do any good whatsoever. I think  
6 you're going to run into a lot of problems  
7 with recreational people who are sharing the  
8 same environment as a lot of the fowlers.

9 The other thing we might want to  
10 consider is to allow a spring hunt after the  
11 migratories have passed through. This is  
12 something I haven't seen too much about, but  
13 it seems if we can get a springtime to occur  
14 after the migratories have passed through  
15 and before any of the crops are placed into  
16 the ground, that might be something that  
17 would work as well. Again based on sound  
18 biology. Extend some of the zones in the  
19 State of New Jersey to include some of  
20 essential areas, if possible, that would, I  
21 think, significantly help.

22 I do not support the use of electronic  
23 calls, not support the use of unplugged shot  
24 guns, that's a safety issue.

25 Last, I would like to encourage some

1 type of program whereby there is a better  
2 mechanism or communication between farmers  
3 and sportsmen. Thank you for your time.

4 MR. CASE: Thirty.

5 MR. CASTELLANA: Doug Castellana, life  
6 long resident of New Jersey. Lived in  
7 Sussix County for the last 28 years. I live  
8 and represent the Lake Pokhung Outing  
9 Association, a small community around a 50  
10 acre lake and 500 acres.

11 If what would facilitate our  
12 particular problem would be Alternate G,  
13 then I fully support our New Jersey Division  
14 of Fish & Game, Mr. Nichols with his  
15 suggestion that Alternate G be adopted and  
16 with a slight change to the authorized  
17 person being anyone, which, as he said, I  
18 would like to add or his agent.

19 I know a lot of elderly people who are  
20 having problems with geese on their property  
21 that would not do the undertaking. Thank  
22 you.

23 MR. CASE: Thirty-one, 32, 33.

24 MR. SANDS: Petersburg, New Jersey,  
25 Cape May County.

1           I thank the service for hearing all  
2 sides of this argument. I just want to  
3 point out to the service, they are walking a  
4 fine line and tarnishing their good name.

5           For 28 years I've been an outdoors man  
6 and the number one thing is conservation.  
7 Sponsor for Delta and Ducks Unlimited by  
8 going the route which is basically the  
9 slaughter of Canada geese. The notion of  
10 conservation, that's always been out by the  
11 service, starts to get muted.

12           To bring this as a way of "a hunting  
13 opportunity" creates a situation where  
14 people think this now is hunting. When I  
15 was growing up that was considered to be a  
16 slob hunter, an unwarranted slaughter.  
17 Whatever you got on the ground, start to  
18 inject that into hunting itself. Down the  
19 road, things like mallards became a problem.  
20 The excuse comes up again, wanton slaughter.  
21 People bring that onto themselves to think  
22 they have a reason to control something and  
23 it's okay to control geese so it's okay to  
24 control whatever else it is.

25           When you make your decision, my

1 personal opinion, stay with Alternate A,  
2 watch that fine line for the service, don't  
3 tarnish the good name U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
4 Service has now.

5 MR. CASE: Thirty-four, 35, 36.

6 MR. BRODY: Joe Brody from Gloucester  
7 County, New Jersey.

8 I just like to refute what the lady  
9 said, Canada geese were brought here by  
10 hunters to expand our hunting opportunities.  
11 They haven't been. They have been a natural  
12 renewable resource as long as New Jersey has  
13 been here.

14 Robert A. Mitchner's novel Chesapeake,  
15 read it and find out the Delaware Indians  
16 hunted the Canadians when they were here  
17 when the country was in the beginning years.  
18 Canada geese have always been here and I  
19 don't think we should kill them, we should  
20 harvest them. We shouldn't slaughter them,  
21 they are going to be here.

22 New Jersey, I've watched it from my  
23 childhood. We are losing more and more  
24 land, more and more habitat every year. It  
25 disheartens me. I grew up in south Jersey,

1 my grandfather was a farmer. His farms are  
2 long gone, there are apartments there. I'm  
3 losing more and more ground. I watch the  
4 turkeys, deer, ducks, geese. We lose it  
5 every year. It's our heritage.

6 New Jersey has always been known as  
7 the Garden State. Pretty soon it will be  
8 known as asphalt state. Nothing but  
9 apartments and housing developments from the  
10 Delaware River to the Atlantic Ocean. It's  
11 breaking my heart to see that.

12 I realize we have a problem with the  
13 Canada geese. I don't think they should be  
14 rounded up and slaughtered like people are  
15 talking. Expand the hunting opportunities,  
16 try to control it like that. Very much in  
17 favor of the things Fish & Wildlife has done  
18 for us and the division. I think they have  
19 done a great job and hope they continue to  
20 do a great job to represent everybody,  
21 hunter and non-hunter and citizens of New  
22 Jersey.

23 That's all I wanted to say and I thank  
24 you.

25 MR. CASE: Thirty-seven, 38, 39, 40,

1 41, 42, 43, 44.

2 MR. TRONCO: Ray Tronco, Borough  
3 Councilman, Borough of South Plainfield in  
4 charge of Parks and Recreation.

5 One of the problems I have,  
6 representing a community of 22,000 people, is  
7 to try to get something done as one person  
8 trying to represent 22,000 people.

9 I can't tell you 22,000 people would  
10 support the New Jersey petition on this.  
11 I'm sure 99 percent of them would.

12 Constantly hear of the problem of the  
13 Canadian geese or Canada geese. Did a lot  
14 of research on it and realized unfortunately  
15 to get anything done you need to lobby hard.  
16 Unfortunately most of the lobbying is done  
17 on the Canadian geese side. It's such an  
18 epidemic, I'm not sure what the solution is.  
19 I strongly think too much time has been  
20 spent on it. It's a problem created by man  
21 in 1917 by adopting the treaty.

22 I looked at it. We have a couple of  
23 acts and changed it and modified it.  
24 Clearly something has been done. You can't  
25 take your kids to parks. We have a fishing

1 darby in our lake. Kids fall and hurt kids,  
2 breaking an arm and slipping on the  
3 droppings. Get it in the vehicles, bring it  
4 into the house. Actually starting two years  
5 ago they're in my pool. They are defecating  
6 all over the pool, the sidewalk and pool,  
7 the lawn.

8 I honestly believe that New Jersey is  
9 overcrowded like probably every state is.  
10 Obviously we are growing everywhere. If I  
11 was the only home in South Plainfield, the  
12 Canadian geese would find my people. The  
13 problem is not overcrowding, although a  
14 problem in itself, but they are looking for  
15 where people live. They are not good  
16 neighbors, don't behave themselves.

17 How would you feel if your animal,  
18 your dog that is house broken went outside  
19 and went onto your neighbor's lawn and  
20 defecated and had to hire somebody to clean  
21 it up? I don't think we are looking at this  
22 quick enough. I think it's taken way too  
23 long. I don't want to see it get to the  
24 three million mark. There is eight million  
25 people in the State of any New Jersey,



1 probably find the lion's share want  
2 something done and done right away.

3 Don't ask me why they are not here or  
4 speaking up, but I can tell you I speak for  
5 South Plainfield of 22,000 people and sure  
6 most of them support the quickest response  
7 possible and F is probably the best act.  
8 Until you teach the Canadian geese to use a  
9 kitty litter box, I'm in support of that.

10 MR. CASE: Forty-five, 46.

11 MR. SWIGHERT: I live in Warren  
12 County. I'm in favor of Alternative G.

13 I believe that one of the items that  
14 was removed or not added to the hunting  
15 methods another gentleman mentioned was  
16 baiting. If there is an early season, we  
17 had one in September. It's the same at  
18 least in Northern New Jersey, I'm sure  
19 Southern New Jersey, that the crops really  
20 are not harvesting, which limits the area in  
21 which one can hunt geese. Without baiting,  
22 especially if we start in August, there will  
23 be a limited number of places to hunt that  
24 don't conflict with other people. I believe  
25 that baiting should be added. There would

1 be no conflict.

2 There was a mention one reason it  
3 wasn't included, there would be a conflict  
4 with the hunting season, there is no other  
5 waterfowl season at the time of year in New  
6 Jersey nor a dove season as mentioned. We  
7 have no dove season.

8 I would add baiting to the allowed  
9 hunting methods.

10 MR. CASE: Forty-seven, 48.

11 MR. POVALSKI: Ray Povalski.  
12 Life-long resident of New Jersey. Just a  
13 quick comment. I read through the different  
14 proposals and I would like to say, whether  
15 it's A, B or C, I believe one of those  
16 alternatives should be continued, but under  
17 no circumstance, I repeat under no  
18 circumstance should there be state  
19 empowerment over any other alternative.

20 And I say that on behalf of the other  
21 seven million residents of New Jersey that  
22 could or could not make it here tonight. I  
23 was not only dismayed, but quite  
24 disappointed to hear our own New Jersey Fish  
25 & Wildlife to go for either F or G, but to

1 add a laundry list of additional exceptions,  
2 everything from the kitchen sink to every  
3 other possible alternative to make it easier  
4 for them and anybody else in the state to  
5 take it upon themselves to solve this  
6 problem. Of course they had the footnote  
7 they didn't want the added financial burden.

8 Add that all up and add up the other  
9 important factor the wildlife in New Jersey,  
10 specifically the deer problem, can perhaps  
11 be traced back to the wildlife management  
12 techniques of the New Jersey Fish &  
13 Wildlife. I believe no matter what remedy  
14 we choose in your proposal, please, please,  
15 please do not allow state empowerment of the  
16 alternatives. Thank you.

17 MR. CASE: Forty-nine, 50, 51, 52, 53,  
18 54, 55, 56, 57.

19 MS. RUSZALA: Cindy Ruzala. I really  
20 came here to observe tonight, but I decided  
21 to say a few things.

22 I work for Englehart in Woodbridge.  
23 We have a lot of these geese around, but  
24 after sitting in an office all day and  
25 working, to me that's part of nature. When

1 I come out at lunchtime or at night or in  
2 the morning, it brings another side to  
3 everything that's going on in the world and  
4 everything that's going on in my life and  
5 that's part of nature. They do mate for  
6 life. I walk by them everyday. There is  
7 over 500 people in my company. They walk in  
8 and out at lunchtime. I never seen anyone  
9 be attacked. If they have a nest, yes.  
10 Walking I've never observed that. I'm  
11 working 12 years at this place.

12 I just don't think they should be  
13 slaughtered. I think there is a solution to  
14 every problem. I taught my children that.  
15 My children are grown now and they have  
16 always gone by that. Slaughtering or having  
17 the state takeover and do something is not  
18 the right approach. There should be more  
19 studies.

20 Maybe we can do something to stop the  
21 population from here. The birds that are  
22 here, they shouldn't do them. I seen the  
23 eggs are taken. That must be traumatic.  
24 They mate for life, that's better than  
25 humans in that respect. We need to learn to

1 exist with them and find a solution to that.

2 MR. CASE: Fifty-eight.

3 MR. LEE: Dave Lee. I'm a resident of  
4 rural Salem County and support Ted Nichols  
5 and Fishing & Wildlife's proposal, also  
6 support continued study of the misuse of  
7 sportsmen money by the Fish & Wildlife  
8 Service.

9 MR. CASE: Fifty-nine, 60, 61.

10 MS. BARRANTES: Claudia Barrantes. I  
11 came here with my friends. I'm representing  
12 myself tonight, but I work at Roy Weston  
13 Incorporated. Also to observe.

14 I'm a firm believer that conservation  
15 is the way to go. I try to follow the  
16 updates and what the division has offered in  
17 the past. I really love these animals and  
18 also understand what kind of impact they  
19 have posed on everyone, whether it be from  
20 businesses to regular people's lives.

21 But my opinion is that we should not  
22 slaughter these animals just to get rid of  
23 the problem. Life is too precious to go  
24 ahead and do that. I know we've spent a lot  
25 of time to try to resolve this matter.

1 You're going to create more problems by  
2 putting these ideas into our children and  
3 there's got to be other solutions.

4 I've yet to learn and see what kind of  
5 alternatives we might have, but I don't  
6 think we should go ahead and kill these  
7 animals. They are too precious. We should  
8 change the redevelopment of how we build our  
9 environment better so we don't invade the  
10 territories.

11 I've heard all night how different  
12 opinions that people have brought up. We  
13 can't all come to one conclusion. We have  
14 the disagreeing sides and the side that  
15 believes we should kill them. Something  
16 should be done. I don't have the answer,  
17 but hear to listen to everyone. Perhaps in  
18 a day, week or month we could come up with a  
19 recommendation. I thank everyone's time to  
20 listen to me and hopefully we can learn  
21 something from this. Thanks.

22 MR. CASE: Sixty-two, 63, 64.

23 MR. JANY: Steve Jany. I wear three  
24 hats tonight. One as a farmer, one as  
25 president of Mercer County Board of

1       Agriculture, and member of the New Jersey  
2       State Board of Agriculture.

3               State Board of Agriculture oversees  
4       the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and  
5       the department sent a letter on April 29  
6       supporting Alternate G.

7               After listening to Ted Nichols  
8       tonight, we also support his view and Fish &  
9       Wildlife's view.

10              As a farmer, geese have become a major  
11       problem. Used to be just in the small  
12       grains, wheat barrel rye and like that. Now  
13       they have become a problem in the corn and  
14       soybeans. They go down the row and nip off  
15       the crops.

16              If we can't make a living farming,  
17       then landowners that own land that rent to  
18       other farmers, they can't be farmed. It  
19       will be more than likely turned into more  
20       development. We don't need that. Alternative  
21       G would be good.

22              MR. CASE: Sixty-five, 66, 67, 68.

23              MR. EMBER: Steve Ember. I represent  
24       myself tonight.

25              This is not a management proposal,

1 this is a hunting proposal. The real  
2 problem is not the Canada geese. It's  
3 sprawl. It's the fact we take away the  
4 natural habitat and replace it with  
5 basically non-cultural habitat that the  
6 geese adopted to. I give them credit for  
7 that. It's unfortunate this occurred, but  
8 we've caused the problem. We are the ones  
9 with the grass lawns; we are the ones that  
10 refuse to landscape the grass lawns by  
11 putting bushes there and other vegetation  
12 that discourage the geese. We provide the  
13 habitat, we provide the food. If we feed,  
14 they will breed.

15 What's really behind this, it's really  
16 about money. Everything that you see is  
17 always about somebody making profit. Who  
18 profits here? Well, the gun industry, the  
19 hunting industry does. That's what's behind  
20 this. What they want to do is add to their  
21 list or at least extend the list of  
22 recreational hunting opportunities. They  
23 want to bring it into the suburbs. That's  
24 right, these geese are in the suburbs.  
25 They'll do it at night, find all kinds of



1 ways. Like they did in Princeton, they'll  
2 allow silencers. They've shown this before,  
3 they'll do it again.

4 Most wild animals would rather die  
5 than live with us. The few species that are  
6 willing to co-exist with us are viewed as  
7 pests and killed. First we take away their  
8 natural habitat and replace it with macadam.  
9 We don't like them, they are nuisances and  
10 kill all the wild animals. The result, we  
11 have a sterile environment, no more nature.

12 There's a dirty little tale about many  
13 people around here. You know who the best  
14 friends of the developer in New Jersey: Fish  
15 & Wildlife people in New Jersey. They are  
16 the ones that refuse to enforce the laws on  
17 stream encroachment, riparian lands, for  
18 threatened and endangered species. They are  
19 quick to give out permits, never educate the  
20 public about the danger associated with  
21 developing in these sensitive areas. They  
22 are the developer's best friend. They have  
23 great people in the division, all kinds of  
24 great biologists, great landscape projects  
25 that can be used for the public good. Why

1 don't they use it? I'm sure there is money  
2 involved. If there was enough investigation  
3 there might be some very interesting  
4 results. It's not just about the violation  
5 of the support hunting, it's about the  
6 profits.

7 I would urge you to stop seeing wild  
8 animals as the problem and start learning to  
9 co-exist with them. Solve the real problem  
10 which is sprawl, the loss of natural  
11 habitat. There are plenty of non-lethal  
12 solutions, other speakers mentioned it. I  
13 would not waste everyone's time to mention  
14 them again.

15 I would point out we need to protect  
16 the farmers. I'm very much for that. We  
17 should have feeding bans. People should not  
18 be feeding wild animals. That should be  
19 against the law. I would urge you to  
20 remember, if we feed they will breed.

21 MR. SPACE: Eric Space, life long  
22 resident of Sussex County. Wildlife damage  
23 control. To me, whatever alternative,  
24 doesn't matter to me. If you have  
25 depredation permits, let's speed up the

1 process. I see other goose companies. At  
2 times you take six months to get permits.  
3 Let's get them in a day or two. If I have a  
4 problem with geese, it takes months to get a  
5 permit. Months later doesn't matter, months  
6 later the geese are done and the problem  
7 isn't solved.

8 MR. CASE: Seventy, 71, 72, 73.

9 MR. MESSEROLL: John Messeroll,  
10 president of Middlesex County Federation of  
11 Sportsmens Clubs. I represent 30 clubs and  
12 approximately 3500 men and woman that are  
13 sportsmen of the Council.

14 We agree with the position of the Fish  
15 & Game.

16 Monetary burden shouldn't be put on  
17 individual states. As you stated, it's a  
18 national problem that would not be solved  
19 easily, but should be acted on with  
20 expedience. Baiting and shotguns should not  
21 be included in the issue.

22 You need to work on a good cook book  
23 because there is going to be a lot of them  
24 to eat.

25 MR. CASE: Seventy-three, 74, 75, 76,

1 77.

2 MR. EVENGER: Richard Evenger from  
3 Salem County.

4 I would like to thank the Fish &  
5 Wildlife for addressing the issue. I have  
6 been involved and trying to get something  
7 done with geese close to about 15 or 20  
8 years.

9 Started out as a member of the board  
10 of health. I saw the first signs of how  
11 they started to deteriorate our water sheds  
12 and water quality. Watching it, it's  
13 getting worse now as more and more ponds are  
14 incapable of supporting fishing life because  
15 of this problem.

16 I would like to go along with  
17 Alternate G. I support the Fish & Game. I  
18 also listened very carefully to one wild  
19 fowler from Cape May County that indicated  
20 trying to associate the curing of a problem  
21 with hunting makes it kind of difficult.

22 If there is some way it could be done  
23 not to include it as a hunting, but as a  
24 method of stopping it, it will be greatly  
25 appreciated.

1           The only thing I like to say to some  
2           of my friends, while I appreciate the  
3           freedom of speech, I would like to have  
4           facts instead.

5           MR. CASE:   Seventy-eight, 79, 80.

6           MS. PASZAMANT:   Carol Paszamant.  
7           Life long resident of New Jersey,  
8           specifically Middlesex County, which is  
9           where we are right now.

10           We've heard representatives of a lot  
11           of groups.  One voice we haven't heard and  
12           would not is that of the geese.  We haven't  
13           heard and would not is that of the geese  
14           themselves.  This is not due to any lack on  
15           their part, but our inability to understand  
16           them.  They speak their own language and  
17           have their own social norms.

18           U.S. Fish & Wildlife is supposed to be  
19           constructive.  It can back fire.  It hasn't  
20           worked for deer, it would not for geese.  
21           Geese are highly un-intelligent.

22           All living things poop, even gentleman  
23           from Livingston.  There is no evidence this  
24           posts a health hazard.  They are  
25           vegetarians.  Little more than wet grass.

1 We invited them to stay with our land  
2 management and geese should not suffer. To  
3 round them up as they molt, to gather up  
4 whole families, mothers, children's fathers,  
5 to send them off to chambers to be gassed,  
6 these are nightmares no living creatures  
7 should have to endure and certainly not  
8 whole societies. It is immoral, horrible  
9 and unconscionable.

10 The anti-geese hysteria fanned by the  
11 media and those permit hunting or other  
12 methods of killing has exercised the  
13 zoophobia humans are prone to.

14 Humans exhibit extreme behaviors from  
15 feeding to killing. How about the median,  
16 no feeding, no kidding?

17 Find a use for the poop; examples,  
18 fertilizer.

19 All the geese would ask is to be left  
20 alone. They don't ask our friendship, but  
21 merit our respect. All good relationships  
22 are based on mutual respect. Let's show  
23 some other species which we share the planet  
24 with and maybe it will rub off and we'll  
25 have more respect for each other.

1 MR. CASE: Eighty-one, 82, 83.

2 MS. ROSENBAUM: Rose Rosenbaum.

3 Hillsborough. And I have lived in New  
4 Jersey most of my life in several different  
5 counties.

6 To massacre the Canada geese should  
7 not be an option. Most Americans consider  
8 hunting to be unacceptable use of wildlife.  
9 Hunting is not a necessary management tool  
10 that controls animals and prevents over-  
11 population. The CDC states there is no  
12 evidence that supports any health issues  
13 with the geese. Why don't the people of New  
14 Jersey consider looking at what others are  
15 doing.

16 Rider University and the Wall Street  
17 Journal says no way to shooting. They use  
18 Goose Busters to control the population.  
19 The Dow Jones Company maintain clean  
20 stretches of land the old fashion way. The  
21 town of Hamilton Chief of Staff say they got  
22 a Federal ranch to change the habitat so it  
23 doesn't attract the geese as well as sheep  
24 dogs to move the geese out. They don't  
25 think it is necessary to go in and shoot.

1 They say they are far more human than that.  
2 There are many sacred devices available and  
3 that can be used in conjunction with other  
4 alternatives.

5 MR. CASE: Eighty-four, 85, 86, 87,  
6 88, 89, 90.

7 Is there anybody here tonight that has  
8 not had a chance to speak yet that would  
9 like the opportunity?

10 If not, on behalf of the Fish &  
11 Wildlife Services, I thank you for taking  
12 the time out of your schedules to be here  
13 tonight and your concern for wildlife.

14 There are a number of people that are  
15 here to answer questions. I urge you to  
16 stop by. Thank you again for joining the  
17 meeting.

18

19

20 CHARLES M. KUPERUS: Dear Mr. Andrew:

21 Thank you for the opportunity to  
22 review and comment on the Draft  
23 Environmental Impact Statement for the  
24 Management of Resident Canada Geese.

25 Damage from Canada geese has had a



1 significant adverse effect on New Jersey's  
2 agricultural industry. Such damage has  
3 reduced crop yields and income, and may also  
4 contribute to the loss of New Jersey farms.  
5 Our farmers for many years have tried  
6 non-lethal methods, including harassment  
7 with dogs and pyrotechnics, fencing,  
8 balloons and repellents, as well as control  
9 of goose nesting - all at great expense.  
10 Despite this, the resident goose population  
11 continues to increase. It is evident that  
12 non-lethal methods alone are not effective  
13 enough to reduce the goose population.

14 The problems associated with Canada  
15 geese extend beyond the agricultural  
16 industry. Many of our communities are  
17 experiencing traffic hazards, degraded water  
18 quality, shoreline destabilization and  
19 increased erosion as a result of Canada  
20 geese. Clearly, a more pro-active  
21 management strategy is necessary to reduce  
22 the resident goose population and protect  
23 New Jersey's general public, agricultural  
24 industry and natural resources.

25 We have thoroughly reviewed the

1 alternative strategies in the draft and  
2 highly recommend that the U.S. Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service support and implement the  
4 general depredation order in Alternative G.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to  
6 comment.

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8 (TIME NOTED: 8:45 p.m.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

I, ALBERT M. CITTONE, a Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New York, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the statements hereinbefore set forth is a true record of the proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not related to any of the parties in this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of June 2002.

ALBERT M. CITTONE

Notary Public of the State of New York