

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PUBLIC MEETING
ON RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE POPULATIONS

7:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 30, 2002
Bellevue, Washington

LISA R. MICHAUD, CSR
TERESA BURT & ASSOCIATES
12819 S E 38th Street, #13
Bellevue, Washington 98006
(425) 644-5991

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES

PHIL T. SENG
Meeting Facilitator
DJ Case & Associates
607 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

ROBERT E. TROST, Ph.D
Pacific Flyway Representative
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Managem
911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

1 I'd like to
2 recognize a couple of people in the audience, Brad
3 Bortner there in the back,
4 Region 1 Migratory Bird Coordinator. Don Kraege,
5 who is the state waterfowl biologist with the
6 State of Washington. And Brad Bales next to him,
7 who is the waterfowl biologist for the State
8 of Oregon.

9 The procedure tonight is very straightforward.
10 We'll have a brief slide
11 presentation by Dr. Robert Trost, who is the Pacific
12 Flyway Representative for the U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife Service on the draft EIS. And then we'll
14 open up the presentation to your comments, which
15 is obviously the main reason we're here.

16 When you came in, you should have received a
17 numbered card like this. If you intend to make
18 public comment, you'll need one of these cards.
19 We'll take them in order, so
20 card No. 1 gets to make the first comment, and
21 we'll go through as many cards as we handed out.

22 If you choose not to make public comment,
23 when I call your number, if you would please just
24 say pass so we can move on. If you do wish to
25 make comments, please come to the microphone here

1 in the front for two reasons. First, so that
2 everyone can hear what you have to say,
3 and also so that Lisa, our court reporter,
4 can capture everything you have to say and make
5 sure that we don't get it wrong.

6

7

8

9

When you come to the mic, if you would
10 please state your name and spell your name unless
11 it's immediately obvious how to spell it. If
12 you're representing an organization, please state
13 what that is, and also if, would you tell us where
14 you're from.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

I'd like to mention that the
format of this meeting is designed for the service
to take your comments. It's not set up as a
debate format. So please keep that in mind. If
you have questions of clarification about what was
covered in the presentation, Bob can choose to take
those, but it's not designed to be a discussion
format.

I'm going to be passing around a sign-up
sheet. If you would, please, sign it so we know
who was here tonight. Also there are

1 two check boxes below where you sign your name.
2 If you received a copy of the draft Environmental
3 Impact Statement, then you're on the Service's
4 mailing list and you will get a copy of
5 the final EIS when it becomes available. So
6 check that box if you have received a
7 copy so we don't get you on there twice, so you
8 don't receive two copies.

9 If you did not receive a copy of the draft
10 and you would like a copy of the final, there's
11 another check box that indicates that to make sure
12 you'll get a copy when the final is available.

13 And my job as meeting facilitator is to make
14 sure that everyone has a chance to speak, so I
15 apologize in advance if I need to cut someone off
16 or ask you to hurry along your comments.

17
18 Again, the main reason is to make sure you
19 all have a chance to speak. With this amount of
20 people, it shouldn't be a problem, but I reserve
21 the right to do that in advance in case I need to.

22 So with that, I'd like to introduce
23 Dr. Robert Trost, and he'll give us a brief
24 presentation on the Draft Environmental Impact
25 Statement.

1 MR. TROST: Thank you, Phil, and good
2 evening ladies and gentlemen. Again, my name is
3 Bob Trost and I'm the Pacific Flyway
4 Representative for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management.
6 I'm stationed in Portland, Oregon. And on behalf
7 of our director, Steve Williams, I'd like to
8 welcome all of you to this public meeting, and we
9 certainly are pleased and appreciate the time and
10 effort you have put in to coming here tonight to
11 make comments on this draft EIS.

12 As Phil has already indicated, this is the
13 11th of 11 public meetings. It's true Washington
14 definitely does think from east to west and we're
15 last on the totem pole as is often the case, but
16 nevertheless, an important part of this whole
17 issue, and we hope that you do become involved in
18 all sorts of these types of things.

19 We're here tonight for the purpose of
20 inviting public participation and input into our
21 process and in developing the final environmental
22 impact statement for how we're going to manage
23 residence Canada geese.

24 This Draft Environment Impact Statement was
25 developed with the full cooperation of the U.S.

1 Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services.

2 Why are we here? Well, that's a broad
3 question obviously, but my small part of the
4 answer tonight is we're here to explain the Draft
5 Environmental Impact Statement, its proposed
6 action, and to listen to your comments. The Draft
7 Environmental Impact Statement considers a range
8 of management alternatives for addressing
9 expanding populations of locally breeding Canada
10 geese. As such we are here to listen to you and
11 to invite your comments on the Service's
12 recommended management of these birds.

13 First, a brief explanation of NEPA, the
14 National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA
15 requires completion of an environmental impact
16 statement to analyze environmental and
17 socioeconomic impacts associated with significant
18 actions.

19 NEPA requires public involvement including a
20 scoping period before the Draft Environmental
21 Impact Statement and a comment period after the
22 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

23 We began this process on August 19th, 1999,
24 and we published a federal register notice that
25 announced our intent to prepare this environmental

1 impact statement. Then in February of 2000 we
2 held nine public scoping meetings designed to seek
3 public input into this process. The scoping
4 period ended in March of 2000, and some of you may
5 have been here at the previously held scoping
6 meeting. In response to the scoping, we received
7 over 3000 comments and over 1,250 people attended
8 the nine public hearings.

9 Top concerns that people identified
10 at the scoping sessions
11 were: Property damage and conflicts, methods of
12 conflict abatement, sport hunting opportunities,
13 economic impacts, human health and safety
14 concerns, and the impacts of proposed actions to
15 Canada geese.

16 Basically the NEPA outline mandates a
17 specific format for an environmental impact
18 statement. This is to include a purpose and need,
19 a section on possible alternative actions, a
20 description of the affected environment, and an
21 assessment of what the proposed environmental
22 consequences might be of the various alternatives
23 considered.

24 Probably one of the first questions that
25 comes to mind are what exactly are resident Canada

1 geese? We have chosen to define them for purposes
2 of this environmental impact statement as those
3 geese nesting within the lower 48 states in the
4 months of March, April, May, or June, or residing
5 within the lower 48 states in the months of April,
6 May, June, July, or August.

7 Now to the purpose and needs section of the
8 draft: the purpose of the EIS is to evaluate
9 alternative strategies to reduce, manage, and
10 control resident Canada goose populations in the
11 United States. And, two, provide a regulatory
12 mechanism that allows state and local agencies and
13 other federal agencies and groups and individuals
14 to respond to damage complaints or damages
15 themselves. And, three, to guide and direct
16 resident Canada goose population management
17 activities within the United States.

18 The need we think is fairly straightforward.
19 Basically what we're faced with is a situation
20 where we have increasing numbers of resident
21 Canada geese throughout the United States. In
22 conjunction with these increasing numbers, we have
23 growing conflicts, damages, and socioeconomic
24 impacts of these growing populations. And this
25 has led to a reexamination of the Service's

1 resident Canada goose management program.

2 And these are the alternatives that we took
3 from the public scoping meetings as possible ways
4 in which to approach addressing these questions
5 and problems:

6 Basically what we're going to talk about is
7 seven alternatives. The Draft Environment Impact
8 Statement examines seven management alternatives.
9 Alternative A is a no action alternative. Not
10 change anything that we're currently doing at
11 present. Alternative B is non-lethal control and
12 management. Basically we would limit our
13 activities to non-lethal control and management
14 activities, things that currently do not require a
15 permit to be undertaken.

16 Alternative C would be non-lethal control
17 and management and would include those activities
18 which presently are permitted with a permit.
19 Alternative D would be to expand hunting methods
20 and opportunities.

21 Alternative E would be a series of
22 integrated depredation control orders.
23 Alternative F is the state empowerment option and
24 it is at present our preferred alternative in this
25 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And

1 Alternative G is the general depredation order.

2 I'm now going to talk about these in a
3 little more detail, and I hope that -- several of
4 you are already familiar with these
5 alternatives -- but hopefully if not, this will
6 give you a basis for some of your thinking on
7 this.

8 The Alternative A is the no action. And
9 basically under the no action alternative, no
10 additional regulatory methods or strategies will
11 be authorized. We would continue to use special
12 hunting seasons. We would issue depredation
13 permits, and we would issue special Canada goose
14 permits.

15 Alternative B, non-lethal management and
16 non-permitted activities. Under the second
17 alternative, the non-lethal management in the
18 above, we would again cease all lethal control of
19 resident Canada geese and their eggs. We would
20 use only non-lethal harassment techniques. We
21 would not require any permits for these
22 activities, and we would discontinue the use of
23 special hunting seasons.

24 Under Alternative C, the non-lethal
25 management including permit activities, we would

1 cease all permitted lethal control of resident
2 Canada geese. We would promote non-lethal
3 harassment techniques. We would not issue a
4 depredation or special Canada goose permits. We
5 would allow egg addling with a permit, and we
6 would continue the use of special hunting seasons.

7 Under Alternative D, we would provide new
8 regulatory options to increase the harvest of
9 Resident Canada Geese. We would authorize
10 additional hunting methods such as electronic
11 calls, unplugged shotguns, and expanded shooting
12 hours.

13 We would make such methods available or
14 operational during the September 1st to 15th
15 seasons. We would make use of such alternatives
16 experimental between the periods September 16th to
17 the 30th, and we would have a provision that said
18 that these particular techniques would only be
19 employed outside of other open seasons or other
20 migratory game birds.

21 Under Alternative E, we would have a series
22 of depredation orders, first of which would be one
23 for airport depredations. We would also have a
24 nest and egg depredation order. We would also
25 have an agriculture depredation order. We would

1 have a public health depredation order.

2 We would leave, for the most part, the
3 implementation of these depredation orders up to
4 the state wildlife agencies. We would consider --
5 or we would continue the use of special hunting
6 seasons, and we would issue depredation permits
7 and special Canada goose permits. We would
8 continue to issue these as we currently do.

9 Under Alternative E, the airport depredation
10 order, we would authorize airports to establish
11 and implement a program including indirect and or
12 direct population control strategies.
13 The intent of this program is to significantly
14 reduce goose populations at airports. We would
15 mandate that such management
16 actions must occur on the premises.

17 Under Alternative E, a nest
18 and egg depredation order, we would allow the
19 destruction of resident Canada goose nests and
20 eggs without a permit. And the intent of this
21 program would be to attempt to stabilize breeding
22 populations of Canada geese, particularly within
23 urban or suburban areas.

24 By an agricultural depredation order, we
25 would authorize land owners, operators, and

1 tenants actively engaged in commercial agriculture
2 to conduct indirect and/or direct control
3 strategies on geese depredating agricultural
4 crops. Again, we would mandate that such actions
5 would have to occur on the premises.

6 On the public
7 health depredation order, we would authorize
8 states, counties, municipalities, or local public
9 health officials to conduct indirect and/or direct
10 control strategies on geese when recommended by
11 health officials, and where there is a clear and
12 public health threat. Again, we would mandate
13 that such actions would occur on the premises where
14 the problem was.

15 Under Alternative F, the state empowerment,
16 this is our preferred Alternative. We would
17 establish a new regulation authorizing state
18 wildlife agencies or their agents to
19 conduct or allow the management activities of
20 resident Canada goose populations.

21 Our intent would be to allow state wildlife
22 agencies sufficient flexibility to deal with
23 problems caused by resident geese within their
24 respective states.

25 In this regard we would authorize indirect

1 or direct population control strategies such as
2 aggressive harassment, nest and egg destruction,
3 gosling and adult trapping, and culling programs.
4 We would allow implementation of any of the
5 specific depredation orders included under
6 Alternative E.

7 In addition, during existing special hunting
8 seasons, we would expand methods of take to
9 increase hunter harvest. We would authorize
10 additional hunting methods such as electronic
11 calls, unplugged guns, and we would expand
12 shooting hours. We would make such changes
13 operational during the September 1st to 15th
14 period. And we would make such changes
15 experimental during the periods of September 16th,
16 to 30th. Again, such special Canada
17 goose seasons
18 must be conducted outside of the regular waterfowl
19 hunting seasons.

20 Under the conservation order, we would
21 provide special expanded harvest opportunities
22 during a portion of the treaty that is presently
23 closed between August 1st and 31st and the open
24 period September 1st to 15th.

25 During this time we would authorize

1 additional hunting methods such as electronic
2 calls, unplugged guns, and expanded shooting
3 hours, and we would also allow liberalized bag
4 limits. Again, these must be conducted outside of
5 regular seasons.

6 The Service would annually assess the impact
7 and effectiveness of this program. The provision
8 for possible suspension of these special
9 regulations, the conservation order, or changes to
10 the regular season structure is there and would be
11 probably altered if there was no longer a need
12 present for their use.

13 Under this alternative as well we would
14 continue, of course, all special and regular
15 hunting seasons. We would continue to issue
16 depredation and special Canada goose permits, and
17 the state would be required to annually monitor
18 the spring breeding population of the Canada geese
19 within its state. And it would also be required
20 to report the take that occurred under these
21 authorized activities.

22 Under the last alternative considered was
23 one of a general depredation order. And here we
24 would allow any authorized person to conduct
25 management activities on resident geese either

1 posing a threat to health and human safety or
2 causing damage. Such a depredation order would be
3 available to all between April 1st and August
4 31st.

5 This would as well provide for expanded
6 hunting opportunities. It would allow for the
7 continued used of special and regular hunting
8 seasons, and the issuance of depredation and
9 special Canada goose permits. And it would allow
10 for the authorization of all management activities
11 to come directly from the state rather than the
12 federal government.

13 A little bit about the affected environment:
14 For impacts under the biological environment,
15 these are the things we looked at: We looked at
16 potential impacts on resident Canada goose
17 populations, water quality and wetlands,
18 vegetation and soils, wildlife habitat, and
19 federally listed threatened and endangered
20 species.

21 Under the socioeconomic environment, we
22 looked at migratory bird program management
23 aspects, the sport hunting program, and the
24 migratory bird permit program. We took a look at
25 social values and considerations. And under

1 economic considerations, we considered property
2 damage and damage to agricultural crops.
3 Obviously too, we considered human health and
4 safety, and the cost of the program itself or
5 program administration.

6 The environmental consequences section then,
7 attempts to pull these things together, and
8 basically it forms the scientific and analytic
9 basis for comparing the alternatives. It analyzes
10 the environmental impacts of each alternative in
11 relation to the resource categories. The no
12 action alternative provides the baseline for all
13 of our analysis.

14 Under the no action alternative, we would
15 expect that the populations of resident Canada
16 geese would continue to grow. We predict that in
17 the Atlantic Flyway, approximately 1.6 million
18 resident Canada geese would exist within the
19 ten-year time frame. Within the Mississippi
20 Flyway, approximately 2 million additional Canada
21 geese will exist within a ten-year time frame.
22 Within the Central Flyway, 1.3 million, and within
23 the Pacific Flyway, 450,000 resident Canada geese
24 should exist in the next ten years without action.

25 We expect this type of population growth

1 will lead to continued and expanded goose
2 distribution problems and increasing numbers of
3 conflicts with other human uses.

4 We also anticipate that this growth will
5 lead to increased workloads for a variety of
6 different folks, both public and private. And we
7 expect that this growth would lead to continued
8 impacts of the type we've witnessed on property,
9 safety, and human health.

10 Under the preferred alternative, the state
11 empowerment, environmental consequences, we expect
12 to achieve a reduction in populations especially
13 in problem areas. We would expect to have, as a
14 result of the preferred alternative, increased
15 hunting opportunities. We would also expect a
16 significant reduction in the number of conflicts.
17 We expect decreased impacts to property, safety,
18 and human health.

19 We expect workloads to increase
20 somewhat initially, but over the long term, we expect
21 workload problems to decline. And we expect that
22 under this alternative we will maintain viable
23 resident Canada goose populations.

24 The results of some recent population
25 modeling that we have done suggest that to reduce

1 the four Flyways' population from its currently
2 estimated 3.5 million down to
3 approximately 2.1 million, under the preferred
4 alternative, will take about ten years.

5 We hope to achieve this or we believe this
6 would be achieved by increasing the harvest by
7 480,000 geese annually. We also expect that we
8 would be taking an additional 852,000 goslings
9 annually, and would be removing over a half a
10 million nests annually to make this reduction
11 work, the combination of additional harvest of
12 240,000 geese annually and 320,000 goslings
13 annually.

14 Our conclusions then: we believe there is
15 only one way to attain these numbers, and that is
16 to give states the flexibility to address these
17 problems within their respective states. To allow
18 us or those states to address population
19 reductions on a wide number of available fronts.

20 And since states are the most informed and
21 knowledgeable local authorities on wildlife
22 conflicts, the primary responsibilities and the
23 decisions for the programs should be placed with
24 states and local governments.

25 What comes next? First would be the

1 development of a new regulation to carry out the
2 proposed action. This should be forthcoming in
3 May. Today is the last day for public comments on
4 this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And,
5 third, we expect the publication of the final
6 Environmental Impact Statement, a record of
7 decision on what the final determination is, and
8 the final rule sometime during the fall of 2002.

9 As I stated, today is the last day
10 for public comments. I'm sure that if you feel
11 smitten with insight here that you would care to
12 share with us and get it in the mail to us
13 shortly, those comments would be considered,
14 recognizing that this public hearing is not
15 conducted until the date of the closing period,
16 but I encourage any of you so inclined to send
17 your comments in.

18 I think that Phil will review some of the
19 ways in which you can comment besides commenting
20 here at this meeting. And of course should you
21 chose to, oral or written comments may be
22 submitted tonight as well.

23 The address should be printed on the back of
24 the card you received when you arrived here
25 tonight. And additionally, we have set up an

1 electronic site where you can email comments and
2 access other information pertinent to this EIS
3 process, and I think Phil will be filling you in
4 on what that is as well.

5 And so, on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service, I would like to thank all of you for
7 attending the meeting, and particularly thanks to
8 those of you who are going to comment,
9 either orally or in writing later. Thanks again.

10

11

12 MR. SENG: Thanks, Bob. Now, for the
13 important part of the meeting, to hear what you
14 have to say. I would just like to again mention,
15 we'll go in order. When I call your number, if
16 you don't want to comment, please just say
17 pass so we can go on.

18

19 And Bob mentioned about the address on the
20 back. The email. I would encourage you to use
21 the email address if you're going to make comments

21

22

23 As most of you know, because of the 9/11
24 situation and the Anthrax issue in Washington,
25 mail going into Washington D.C. has not been as

1 timely as it might otherwise be, so the email is
2 the way to go if you choose to do that.

3 Again, when you come to the mic, you have to
4 stand pretty close to the mic for it to pick up,
5 so I ask you to do that. State your full name,
6 spell your name unless it's immediately obvious,
7 and any organization you represent, if you're
8 formally representing them tonight, and where
9 you're from. So without further ado, card No.
10 1.

11 MS. WATHNE: My name is Lisa Wathne,
12 spelled W-A-T-H-N-E. I'm the director of the
13 Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the Humane
14 Society of the United States. And if I could just
15 ask my question first before I give my
16 comments.

17 On the slide where you showed the numbers of
18 geese, goslings, and nests that were going to need
19 to be removed and harvested over the next ten
20 years to meet the goal, is that an increase in
21 harvest, or is that the total desired harvest?

22 MR. TROST: It's an increase, and I
23 apologize because I don't believe that was clear.
24 The total numbers that we anticipate include those
25 that are currently taken plus those under the new

1 regulations.

2 And we do anticipate that there would be
3 about 240,000 geese harvested annually that are
4 not currently harvested, and that the
5 implementation of the preferred alternative would
6 result in the taking of about 320,000 goslings
7 more than are currently taken.

8 MS. WATHNE: Okay, thanks. Again, I'm
9 with the Humane Society of the United States with
10 the Pacific Northwest Regional Office. We cover
11 the states of Washington and Oregon. And our
12 Wildlife and Habitat Protection Division has
13 already provided our organization's official
14 comments regarding the Draft Environmental
15 Impact Statement, but I wanted to come here
16 tonight just to offer some comments I think more
17 specific to our region.

18 And I'd say that in my opinion, one of the
19 most striking points about this document, about
20 the EIS, is that it does not provide information
21 on exactly what is involved or what is going to
22 occur or occurs under the various lethal control
23 plans that are mentioned except for hunting, of
24 course. That's obvious.

25 But except for hunting, the lethal control

1 options are only alluded to, they're not
2 described. And this does not leave an opportunity
3 for an average member of the public who is reading
4 this document and who cares about geese to grasp
5 the nature of the roundups. And the roundups and
6 gassing that is part of these options are a very
7 real and a probably very necessary option for the
8 plan that you've proposed.

9 Last year many of us in the Puget Sound area
10 and a good number of the people sitting in this
11 room watched one of these roundups performed by
12 the United States Department of Agriculture.

13 We watched geese be baited with food into
14 pens, roughly grabbed and shoved into gas chambers
15 where, according to my organization's
16 veterinarians, there is a very good chance that
17 many of them suffocated to death rather than
18 humanely dying through the gassing process as was
19 intended.

20 In many instances geese were rounded up and
21 killed in areas where non-lethal methods had not
22 been employed, and where egg oiling had either not
23 taken place or had been done inadequately. And as
24 a consequence, hundreds of the birds that were
25 rounded up and killed were goslings who never had

1 to be born to begin with. Their lives could have
2 been prevented and their, what we consider cruel
3 and unnecessary deaths could have been prevented.

4 And at one point in your presentation you
5 talked about the social values and considerations
6 that were taken into consideration for your plan.
7 And I would suggest that if most people knew truly
8 what was meant by lethal option and had the chance
9 to watch any of those roundups, the social
10 considerations that you are thinking about would
11 be skewed in a very different way.

12 I think -- I know that people would be
13 outraged by what I saw and what a number of us in
14 this room saw last year.

15 Thousands of birds suffered needlessly in
16 the gas chambers but USDA, you know, declares that
17 once again this year there's going to be more
18 slaughters, the same number of birds as last year.

19 I personally find it a remarkable
20 circumstance of wildlife management that neither
21 the federal nor the state governments seems to be
22 capable or willing to help people resolve
23 conflicts with wildlife without killing. And I
24 say this as somebody that has a degree in biology.
25 From day one when I began my studies, that seemed

1 a remarkable fact to me.

2 Simply put, in our opinion there's no
3 justification for killing when non-lethal and
4 humane alternatives are available and have proven
5 to be successful. More than a dozen communities
6 throughout the country engage in comprehensive,
7 non-lethal goose management programs using
8 community-based resources.

9 These approaches offer the only realistic
10 solutions to the problems people experience with
11 Canada geese and they deserve to be given a chance
12 to work in other locations. Our office stands
13 ready to help in this area with that.

14 We have been effectively shut out of the
15 process here, mostly by the United States
16 Department of Agriculture, but your agency has
17 made the permitting process -- I should say your
18 agency's permitting process is extremely
19 cumbersome and not conducive to helping people who
20 want to help.

21 The Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the
22 Humane Society of the United States challenges
23 you, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to forgo
24 killing and to opt for more effective and
25 responsible approaches to Canada geese. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 2.

3 MS. BRAGDON: My name is Katherine
4 Bragdon, and that's K-A-T-H-R-I-N-E, Bragdon,
5 B-R-A-G-D-O-N. No affiliation today. I urge you
6 to avoid any plan that would increase hunting
7 opportunities and to use roundups as a means to
8 decrease the Canada goose population. As Lisa
9 Wathne had mentioned, there are many methods for
10 reducing the number of geese that are
11 community-based, effective, humane, and
12 economical.

13 For instance, in Seattle the Humane Society
14 of the United States trained 60 volunteers to
15 addle eggs last year. There were more volunteers
16 than there were opportunities to addle. Meanwhile,
17 the opposite was true for the federal agents, who
18 had more nests than they could effectively handle.

19 The result, a taxpayer-funded roundup of
20 geese who should have never been born. It made no
21 sense to not take advantage of the outpouring of
22 support for a humane solution and then to go
23 forward with an undeniably cruel, unnecessary, and
24 ultimately an unsuccessful plan given the killing
25 that they are again going to be doing this year.

1 It's just astounding.

2 Including the community in an opportunity
3 like this is a win-win situation. While it not
4 only addresses the perceived problem, it also
5 saves money and educates people about our natural
6 environment that is currently being decimated by
7 development, overlogging, pollution, et cetera.

8 As a society, we must all become involved in
9 protecting our natural resources which play a
10 central role in the health of human and nonhuman
11 inhabitants.

12 Community activities like these that are
13 based on humane and scientific solutions as well
14 as tolerance can provide a vehicle for this needed
15 participation. Again, I urge you to develop a
16 plan that is humane and effective and does not
17 include any unnecessary gassing of Canada geese.
18 Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

19 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 3?

20 MR. METZ: My name is Dr. Stewart
21 Metz. That's S-T-E-W-A-R-T, M-E-T-Z. I live in
22 Bellevue. I'm speaking for myself, but I've been
23 an internist for the last 30 years, and I'd like
24 to address the health issues involved with the
25 Canada geese. I'd like to read this if I could.

1 "Any of the proposals to killing thousands
2 of Canada geese when based principally upon health
3 concerns is predicated upon two assumptions:

4 "No. 1, that both feces of Canada geese and
5 the nearby bodies of water contain high titers of
6 human pathogens such as coliform bacteria, which
7 can be attributed to the geese. And 2, if the
8 feces in the water are contaminated, they have led
9 and will lead to human disease.

10 "To my knowledge, neither of these
11 postulates has been proven to be true. What are
12 the facts?

13 "Two recent studies of Canada goose feces by
14 Rosco, et al and Converse, et al and carried out
15 by the National Wildlife Health Center and New
16 Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The major
17 findings can be summarized as follows:

18 "No. 1, they looked specifically in Canada
19 goose feces for serotype 0157:H7, the form of
20 e. coli best documented to be a pathogen for
21 humans. It was not found.

22 "No. 2, they looked for salmonella,
23 shigella, campylobacter, and Yersinia. These
24 bacteria were not found in this and other studies
25 as well. They looked for listeria species. While

1 it was found in occasional samples, many of the
2 isolates were not pathogenic, i.e., were not
3 disease causing. And even where listeria was
4 found in geese, it was usually found in domestic,
5 not Canada geese.

6 "Similarly species of parasites and protozoa
7 were found, but their pathogenicity was not
8 established. I am unaware of any outbreaks of
9 protozoal disease shown to be due to Canada geese.
10 Converse concluded in these studies that, quote,
11 'The low frequency of positive cultures indicates
12 that the risk to humans of disease through contact
13 with Canada goose feces appeared to be minimal,'
14 close quote.

15 "Similarly Roscoe concluded that, quote,
16 'Canada geese do not pose a significant source of
17 environmental contamination,' and quote, 'That no
18 human disease outbreaks have been directly linked
19 to exposure to goose feces.'

20 "Surely we haven't forgotten the lesson of
21 the Northwest resort which was shut down recently
22 due to repeatedly high titers of coliforms in the
23 spa water. It was ultimately determined that the
24 cause of the contamination was the bathers
25 themselves, not the wildlife.

1 "Conversely, I would conclude by calling
2 your attention to the recent so-called Henhouse
3 Inspection Bill designed to prevent infection of
4 eggs by salmonella enteritidis, an undeniable
5 cause of epidemics of potentially fatal human
6 gastroenteritis merely by the non-lethal measure
7 of examining the hen houses and the hens therein.

8 "Yet our Legislature in their wisdom did not
9 pass this bill. If we do not take steps to
10 prevent diseases using simple and effective
11 measures requiring no killing of animals, I
12 maintain that is unresponsive, inconsistent,
13 disingenuous, and even hypocritical to consider
14 sacrificing living creatures whose role in disease
15 causation is far less certain.

16 "In the 21st Century, I would hope that we
17 could demand facts before we end innocent lives."
18 Thank you for letting me speak. (Applause.)

19 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card No. 4.

20 Pass.

21 MR. SENG: 5.

22 SPEAKER: I'd like to pass, but I do
23 have a comment or question.

24 MR. SENG: Can you come to the mic.

25 MS. WINESTEIN: My name is Diane

1 Winestein and I'm here as a citizen. My question
2 is, I'd like to know what an unplugged gun is, not
3 knowing much about guns. I would also like to
4 know how the comments are going to be used, if
5 we're just going through the motions and you've
6 already made a decision. I'd like specifically to
7 know how the comments are going to be used.

8 MR. TROST: First, the easy question,
9 more probably the easier of the two. Federal law
10 requires that those folks hunting migratory birds
11 hunt with a gun that's not capable of holding more
12 than three shells. Most shotguns will hold five
13 or more. And, therefore, they're plugged.

14 An unplugged shotgun means that they would
15 not be required in any special seasons to have a
16 plug in their gun. And many hunters feel that
17 they could kill more birds on a given occasion if
18 they had the use of the additional shells, so
19 that's what that refers to.

20 The other part is, no, we're not going
21 through the motions. We're soliciting comments on
22 the alternatives. We will go back, we will
23 consolidate all of those comments, review them,
24 take a look at how they come out as far as -- it's
25 not really a numbers thing, but about the salient

1 arguments that are made about and what seems to be
2 the most prevailing public sentiments across the
3 country.

4 And we will attempt to select the preferred
5 alternative which may not be what we currently
6 would indicate in the final. And when the final
7 comes out, we will make a decision which will be
8 heavily influenced by the comments we've received
9 on the draft. Does that answer your question?

10 MR. SENG: Card 6.

11 MR. VARDEN: My name is Bob Varden,
12 that's V-A-R-D-E-N. I'm a Humane Society United
13 States volunteer. I live in Seattle, and I
14 understand that the Humane Society of the United
15 States has offered on different occasions to have
16 their volunteers oil and addle eggs and to train
17 their volunteers to do this in a professional way,
18 and has not been met with very receptive reception
19 on the part of the USDA and your agency.

20 And I'd just like to have your comments on
21 why this is so. And we have hundreds of
22 volunteers who are ready and who will be
23 professionally trained to do this, so I'd just
24 like to have your comments on that, please.

25 MR. SENG: Is that a Fish and Wildlife

1 Service issue or USDA?

2 MR. TROST: It's primarily USDA.

3 MR. SENG: Do you want to respond?

4 MR. TROST: My response is going to
5 be, it's not something that's within the context
6 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
7 There are representatives here from the different
8 agencies, and if you'd like, we will probably be
9 willing to discuss this with you after the
10 meeting. But it really has no bearing on the
11 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

12 MR. SENG: Card 7.

13 MS. MORRIS: My name is Yolanda,
14 Y-O-L-A-N-D-A, Morris. No affiliation. I just
15 wanted to state for the record that I oppose any
16 use of inhumane and lethal controls. And my
17 second point was going to be what Bob just touched
18 upon, which you guys can't really do anything
19 about, but just accepting the help of the many
20 volunteers that are willing to help with the more
21 humane methods of population control. Thanks.

22 MR. SENG: Card 8.

23 MS. THOMAS: My name is Sheridan,
24 S-H-E-R-D-A-N, Thomas, T-H-O-M-A-S, and I'm here
25 today representing PAWS, Progressive Animal

1 Welfare Society. I'm also representing the 40,000
2 members we represent throughout the State of
3 Washington.

4 PAWS operates the largest wildlife
5 rehabilitation hospital in Washington. Members of
6 the public frequently bring injured and often
7 Canada geese, which we rehabilitate and return to
8 the wild. It is because of community interest in
9 the well-being of Canada geese that we feel
10 strongly about the proposed EIS.

11 On a hot, sunny day last summer, PAWS staff
12 and volunteers spent the entire day in Greenlake
13 Park handing out information on Canada geese.
14 Hundreds of people walked past and took our
15 information. The majority gave us comments as
16 they walked and jogged by.

17 Well over 90 percent of these people
18 expressed their outrage that wildlife are being
19 killed in their park. They acknowledge that goose
20 poop is a nuisance and some questioned the health
21 and safety aspects.

22 However, when informed that there are
23 alternatives to killing the geese, they were
24 outraged that the authorities weren't trying
25 harder to use these methods. They questioned why

1 there weren't more signs in the park asking people
2 not to feed the geese. They wondered why
3 authorities aren't working with local groups to
4 addle more eggs. They wondered why park
5 management isn't landscaping to discourage geese
6 from congregating in well used areas.

7 I've also been meeting with residents who
8 live along Lake Washington and have geese coming
9 into their yards. These people live in million
10 dollar homes and their yards are beautifully
11 manicured. They don't want their lawns messed
12 with goose poop, but they've expressed that they
13 don't want the geese killed.

14 Many residents are trying repellants and
15 utilizing fences and hedges to keep the geese out.
16 They're encouraged to hear that population numbers
17 can be controlled by addling. They also wonder
18 why addling isn't taking place to any large extent
19 and why authorities are not working with community
20 groups and residents to try these humane methods.

21 The community does not want increased
22 gassing or hunting of geese. The community is
23 willing to work with authorities on humane geese
24 management. Thank you.

25 MR. SENG: Card 9.

1 SPEAKER: Pass.

2 MR. SENG: 10.

3 MS. HANAN: Janet Hanan, H-A-N-A-N,
4 Bellingham, Washington. I'm not affiliated. I
5 too am vehemently opposed to any plans that call
6 for a lethal solution to the Canadian geese issue.
7 I'm especially horrified at the numbers that were
8 presented tonight.

9 Surely you know that killing, short of total
10 genocide, is never a successful method of
11 population control. I grew up hearing the adage
12 from hunters and if you know any hunters, you may
13 have heard this as well: The more you kill, the
14 more you get.

15 I want to share with you my experiences. I
16 live in a golf course community on Lake Whatcom in
17 the northwest corner of Washington State. We had
18 80 geese rounded up and gassed last year to the
19 horror of 95 percent of the community.

20 The reason, too much goose feces on the golf
21 course. Now less than a year later there are
22 again an estimated 80 geese around the golf
23 course. I rest my case. Killing doesn't not
24 work.

25 Furthermore, attempts to justify lethal

1 schemes with unsubstantiated allegations that the
2 goose feces is a health threat are bogus and
3 irresponsible. In Whatcom County there have been
4 studies conducted to determine Lake Whatcom's
5 condition. Dr. Mark Le Pay, an internationally
6 known water toxicologist and public health expert
7 has recently found that contaminants to the lake
8 are not related to goose feces.

9 For example, the unacceptable levels of
10 PCPs, and I quote from his report, "Suggest
11 logging residues of treated lumber as a continuing
12 source of water pollution and the abundance of
13 other pollutants were found to exceed permissible
14 levels," but he attributed them to,
15 "Insufficiently processed human waste."

16 I just want to add that this is a new world
17 after September 11th. Life is precious.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. SENG: Card 11.

20 MS. TANNER: Ann Tanner, T-A-N-N-E-R,
21 from Mount Vernon. I just wanted to make a very
22 short comment. I, like many -- most people here
23 are totally opposed to lethal methods of
24 controlling goose population, and I would urge you
25 to only consider methods of non-lethal control and

1 take into account all the volunteers who are
2 willing to help you do that. Thank you.

3 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 12.
4
5
6
7

8 MS. TAYLOR: I'm Debby, D-E-B-B-Y,
9 Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-R, and I'm from Shoreline,
10 Washington and I'm unaffiliated. I agree with
11 everyone so far that I support the geese basically
12 and would like to see non-lethal methods and
13 addling used.

14 I consider the whole goose mess, basically
15 man has made it and man has enhanced it, and I
16 think we're looking at extreme measures of dealing
17 with it and I think we need to be more
18 compassionate, and we can also be practical at the
19 same time in dealing with this and we have the
20 potential for many volunteers helping with this.
21 And that's basically what I have to say.

22 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 15.

23 MS. CHILCOAT: My name is Chelsea,
24 C-H-E-L-S-E-A, Chilcoat, C-H-I-L-C-O-A-T, and I'm
25 going to be pretty brief because most of what I

1 wanted to say has already been said, but I am
2 incredibly opposed to using lethal methods for
3 geese population control. There are plenty of
4 alternatives such as egg addling that the public
5 is willing to participate in that will not only
6 increase the value for life and teach people
7 respect for the environment, but also get the
8 community involved in issues like this. So please
9 go in favor of the non-lethal methods. Thank you.

10 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 16.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MR. MOSS: Bill Moss, M-O-S-S. I'd
like to really object to the presentation and how
slanted it was all the way down to this is the one
we're really pushing. This one is the huge one
here. This one we're really going to itemize and
we're really pushing this one.

There's no form of objectivity in that at
all, which is a huge uphill battle to fight an
agency out of control, and who's going to turn it
over to other individual agencies who are

1 themselves out of control, lining their pockets
2 obviously with federal money and keeping
3 themselves very busy at this control issue.

4 But anyway, if this was Panda Bears, if it
5 was Panda Bears, what, are we going to stuff them
6 in there and gas them? I don't think so. But
7 what's the difference? Is it kind of a speciesist
8 thing? It's animals we don't like.

9 Where did this come from? Whose idea was
10 it? We're going to kill a bunch of stuff. This
11 is a real problem. We got an agency here and
12 we've got to do something with it. We can kill
13 some stuff and we can be all puffed up and we can
14 make presentations all over the place and we can
15 take input. Thank you very much.

16 And we can be heavily influenced by that,
17 I'm sure. I saw a lot of our heavy influence on
18 your presentation. But anyway, I wanted to -- I
19 was going to talk about Oz and the people behind
20 the curtain and the people looking for a heart and
21 some courage, and what was the other?

22 THE AUDIENCE: A brain.

23 MR. MOSS: A brain, and I was going to
24 expose you as the guy that Toto pulled back, pay
25 no attention to the guy behind the curtains who's

1 like manipulating everything. Right, but I
2 thought...

3 What I want to do is talk about the kids.
4 And what kind of influence is that on the kids
5 that are coming up? And I wanted to say one word:
6 Mylar. Mirrored Mylar. What kid can get himself
7 a gas chamber? CO2 is just really hard to come
8 by. Any kid can lay his hands on some Mylar and
9 make a little fence of Mylar that flutters in the
10 breeze and distracts as many geese as can be
11 killed in a day.

12 But maybe they would like to model
13 themselves more directly after you and you could
14 help them along by using means that they could get
15 their hands on more readily than CO2. Want to
16 invest heavily in CO2. Think about the kids.
17 Think about yourself when you were a kid.

18 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 18.

19 MR. WATSON: My name is Larry Watson
20 from Bellevue, Washington. Most of what's been
21 said tonight I agree with. I would like to just
22 say that I don't agree with lethal, using any
23 lethal means, and as people have expressed before
24 me.

25 And what I don't understand is it seems to

1 me you're taking the most economically high cost
2 method of doing what you're trying to do. I think
3 we all realize that there may be a problem, but
4 you've gotten all kinds of offers from people to
5 help you free of charge. And, furthermore, I
6 don't understand why you want to use our tax money
7 to kill something that we created as human beings.
8 Thank you.

9 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

10 MR. SENG: Card 19.

11 MR. KOSTURA: My name is Dan is
12 Kostura, K-O-S-T-U-R-A. And actually I wish to
13 submit my comments in writing, but I feel it's
14 been unclear as to when the deadline is to submit
15 these comments. Is there a definitive date we
16 should do this by?

17 MR. TROST: The official date is
18 today, May 3rd.

19 MR. KOSTURA: I know.

20 MR. TROST: And in recognition of the
21 fact that the public hearing is tonight, they'll
22 generally take them postmarked within a week.

23 MR. KOSTURA: Okay. And will that
24 apply for email as well?

25 MR. TROST: Yes.

1 MR. KOSTURA: Thank you.

2 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 20.

3 MR. STOCKLA: Walter F. Stockla,
4 S-T-O-C-K-L-A, of Covington, Washington.

5 Covington is right next to Kent. I'm basically
6 just going to read the written statement that I
7 submitted earlier, and then I have a few
8 off-the-cuff comments that sort of occurred to me
9 while I was sitting here listening to other folks.

10 I would like to offer my comments regarding
11 your agency's Resident Canada Goose Management
12 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I'm opposed
13 to increased hunting and the encouragement of
14 wholesale roundup and gassing of geese as a
15 wildlife management technique.

16 Non-lethal methods have been demonstrated to
17 be more effective and are obviously more humane.
18 For example, the organization, Geese Peace in
19 Fairfax County, Virginia, in your agency's own
20 backyard, has clearly demonstrated the
21 effectiveness of egg addling and occasional
22 habitat modification.

23 Why does a volunteer organization show more
24 creative thinking than highly paid government
25 bureaucrats? I am sick and tired, damn sick and

1 tired of the attitude that the solution to every
2 perceived animal or human/wildlife conflict is to
3 just start killing wildlife.

4 Humane, non-lethal methods do exist and have
5 been successful. Use them. Remember, the title
6 of your agency is the Division of Migratory Bird
7 Management. Not Division of Migratory Bird
8 Extermination.

9 Now my impromptu comments that sort of
10 occurred to me. I guess the first one is, really
11 how bad is goose poop or bird poop anyway? I mean
12 several times in my life I've been hit by bird
13 poop. About five years ago maybe, it was even
14 less than that, maybe it was a few years ago, I
15 was walking my dogs and some bird pooped on my
16 shirt.

17 Okay. I didn't think I was in any need of
18 immediate medical aid or run to the emergency room
19 at the hospital. And just about a month ago I had
20 a bird poop on my head. I wasn't worried about my
21 imminent demise. I went and wiped the damn thing
22 off.

23 Okay. The next thing, I think the hunting
24 approach is kind of absurd. There are places
25 where you can hunt and there are places where

1 there might be too many geese. They're not the
2 same place. The geese are probably regarded as
3 being in too large numbers maybe in waterfront
4 community geese.

5 You're going to go out there and start
6 shooting away from your shotgun 50 yards from
7 people's houses. That's just plain stupid. The
8 other approach, gassing the geese, okay, you know,
9 you damn well have to know that the public is
10 against this because the times that the gassing of
11 geese has been used, the agencies that have been
12 doing it have tried to do it in secret.

13 They would not announce where it's going to
14 be and they would do everything possible to hide
15 the fact they were doing it. So you know that the
16 public is appalled by this and is going to be
17 opposed to it. And there's going to be
18 demonstrations, at least I hope there are, because
19 if there are, I'm going to be there.

20 The final thing is an analogy. Basically
21 there's too many geese, the question is what do
22 you do about it? That's kind of like let's say
23 you decided your family was too big for the house.
24 Maybe you were thinking you have too many kids.
25 What do you do? Do you use birth control,

1 analogous to egg addling, or you just let the kids
2 be born and decide to machine gun them. That's
3 the analogy. Thank you.

4 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

5 MR. SENG: 21.

6 MR. DEERING: My name is Frank
7 Deering, D-E-E-R-I-N-G, like the animal deer. And
8 I just want to say that I oppose any lethal method
9 to manage the populations of Canada geese.
10 And I was very struck by your
11 presentation that the only one of the benefits of
12 your Alternative F were increased hunting
13 opportunities. I can't say that that speaks
14 anywhere near to me, thank you.

15 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 22.

16 MS. DEERING: Beverly Deering,
17 D-E-E-R-I-N-G. I too am totally opposed to any
18 kind of lethal method of control of Canada geese
19 or, in other words, killing. I am in favor of
20 your Alternative B, non-lethal methods with the
21 addition of egg addling. Any kind of alternatives
22 for killing geese are not humane and not
23 acceptable.

24 I just wanted to mention that I had heard on
25 public radio within the last month that there was

1 some report -- and I'm sorry, I don't have the
2 facts about who it was -- but that the population
3 of Canada geese in this area had actually
4 decreased. So I'm afraid that I do question the
5 accuracy of the population figures.

6 I highly resent the spending of tax dollars
7 for killing of wildlife, which I love. I was
8 heartbroken last year by the implementation of
9 your Alternative A which the plan calls no action,
10 which means the mass killing of geese, so that now
11 a park where I regularly walk has -- the
12 population is so reduced that when I go there I
13 usually don't see any geese.

14 I feel it's not the action of a civilized
15 society to inhumanely kill innocent animals when
16 their presence is an inconvenience to some. It's
17 really time to find more humane ways to deal with
18 these conflicts rather than these quick and dirty
19 solutions. Thanks.

20 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

21 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 23.

22 MR. BALES: My name is Brad Bales,
23 B-A-L-E-S, and I'm the Migratory Game Bird
24 Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and
25 Wildlife in Portland, and I have statement from

1 our agency. I'm also here representing the
2 Pacific Flyway Council, made up of ten western
3 states. I have a brief statement.

4 There were two letters submitted by both the
5 Pacific Flyway Council and the Oregon Department
6 of Fish and Wildlife that should have been
7 received in the Arlington office by now.

8 Just to hit the basic highlights beginning
9 with the Pacific Flyway Council. The Council believes
10 programs to manage resident goose issues including
11 depredation should be coordinated among all flyway
12 member states. Accordingly, they cannot concur
13 with the Service's selection of Alternative F,
14 state empowerment, as the preferred alternative
15 currently outlined in the environmental impact
16 statement.

17 Overabundant resident geese are a nationwide
18 concern and the Service must maintain a leadership
19 role in partnerships with all states to implement
20 effective management solutions.

21 However, the Council does support the
22 options listed under Alternative F pertaining to
23 depredation and conversation orders. These
24 options would give states substantial flexibility
25 to address resident goose problems.

1 The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
2 in a similar vein would support Alternative F
3 under conditions that, one, the Service maintain a
4 leadership role and partnership with all states to
5 implement effective management solutions to deal
6 with resident Canada goose issues.

7 Two, dedicated federal funding to the
8 states' reduced depredation management programs.
9 And lastly, the management flexibility that is
10 outlined in the orders under Alternative F must be
11 streamlined to become an effective and easy to use
12 system. Again, the Department conditionally
13 supports Alternative F under these conditions.
14 With that, thank you.

15 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 24.

16

17

18

19

20 MS. PARRAO: I am Edith Parrao,
21 P-A-R-R-A-O, and I'm from Olympia. And I always
22 watch the geese when I am going in the park by the
23 Nisqually wetland refuge. And they're such
24 beautiful birds and they mate for life and go
25 through a mourning period when one of their

1 partner dies. And they're such good parents with
2 their goslings, and I just don't think they should
3 be gassed. Thank you.

4 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 27.

5 MS. SKINNER: I'm Rebecca Skinner and
6 I'm from Seattle. And I'm just going to read the
7 letter that I sent over a month ago to the
8 Division of Migratory Bird Management which I
9 haven't received any response, so...

10 "Recently I observed three Canada geese and
11 a flock of goslings. These geese reminded me that
12 springtime weather has arrived in Seattle.

13 "I am writing because I am concerned about
14 the future of Canada geese and the lethal methods
15 of dealing with humane wildlife conflicts. The
16 geese I see along Lake Washington or Lake Union in
17 Seattle are a friendly reminder of why I moved to
18 Seattle.

19 I enjoy observing wildlife and do not want
20 their livelihood threatened because of public
21 misconceptions regarding threats to public health
22 and safety via goose feces.

23 Many people in the northwest are interested
24 in community-based programs to help resolve
25 problems with geese humanely. I'm asking the U.S.

1 Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States
2 Department of Agriculture to support
3 community-based programs that deal with geese
4 humanely.

5 Last summer I spent many evenings on the
6 shore of Lake Washington observing geese who
7 establish long-term bonds and create tightly knit
8 family units. One of the most interesting
9 experiences I had while sitting with the geese
10 involved a transient who told me he had names for
11 all the geese. He told me they return every year
12 to the same shore to rest.

13 Please let the geese rest in peace and stop
14 the lethal methods of gassing geese in order to
15 control population. There are many problems with
16 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plan to kill
17 large numbers of birds, including the fact that the
18 USDA officials mistakenly kill ducks and other
19 wildlife in the process of gassing geese. Thank
20 you for taking the time to hear my concerns
21 regarding lethal methods of controlling wildlife.
22 I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the
23 outdoors this summer and spend time with wildlife
24 in your home state. Thank you.

25 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 28.

1 MR. PENNINGTON: My name is Nancy
2 Pennington, P-E-N-N-I-N-G-T-O-N. I was just going
3 to -- I'm from Seattle -- say that there don't
4 appear to be a lot of hunters here, but the
5 gentleman before the last woman, I believe, works
6 for the USDA.

7 MR. SENG: State waterfowl biologist.

8 MR. PENNINGTON: State. And this is a
9 public hearing, which means private citizens can
10 comment. Is this appropriate for him to be
11 commenting?

12 MR. TROST: (Nodding head.)

13 MR. PENNINGTON: It is. I have a
14 couple of questions. One is, in your presentation
15 there was a lot made of health and safety in
16 regard to the geese. Dr. Metz and a couple of
17 other people have addressed safety issues -- the
18 health issue which I think has been established is
19 non-existent. There are no threats to public
20 health from the geese.

21 The question I have is, what is the safety
22 threat?

23 MR. TROST: The most often used
24 example is collisions with aircraft at airports.
25 And there are documented fatalities associated --

1 MR. PENNINGTON: So airports?

2 MR. TROST: At airports, yes.

3 MR. PENNINGTON: Okay. That's a
4 safety issue?

5 MR. TROST: Yes.

6 MR. PENNINGTON: Okay. I just wanted
7 to make one comment. I concur with everything
8 that everybody has said except the gentleman from
9 Oregon, that I'm opposed to all lethal methods for
10 all the reasons that everybody has stated, but one
11 I think is really important is that our children
12 are being taught that the way to deal with any
13 problem is to kill it.

14 I don't believe that your department has
15 given a fair chance to alternative methods. And
16 I'd also like to point out as someone else did,
17 that these people are sneaking around in the dead
18 of night to gas the geese. They want the children
19 in the parks to see what happens. If they are
20 doing a decent and honorable thing, they can do it
21 in broad daylight.

22 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

23 MR. PENNINGTON: I also wonder why you
24 don't take advantage, there is a room full of
25 volunteers willing to go out and addle eggs to

1 stop the birth of too many birds. Why don't you
2 use it?

3 Obviously the USDA can't get to every spot
4 to addle every egg. We are willing and ready to
5 go. Why are the permits being denied? This just
6 doesn't make any sense. And I thank you for
7 listening to my comments.

8 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 29.

9 MR. MORAN: I'm Jamie Moran,
10 M-O-R-A-N, of Seattle. I oppose lethal management
11 methods--management, quote, unquote. While
12 Alternative C is very good in that it encourages
13 and I encourage egg addling, it does allow for
14 inhumane special hunting, and, therefore, is
15 flawed. Thank you.

16 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 30.

17 SPEAKER: Pass.

18 MR. SENG: 31.

19 MS. BAKER: Karen Baker, Redmond. I
20 pretty much agree with everything that's been said
21 by everyone else. It's just unacceptable to spend
22 our tax dollars to murder hundreds of thousands of
23 animals. And in this day and age, it's just
24 ridiculous. There's much better things that we
25 can be doing with our tax dollars.

1 And in addition to egg addling, I'm sure
2 there's some other means of birth control that can
3 be devised. I believe I read somewhere that
4 there's things that can be put in feed to give to
5 birds to keep them from reproducing, so something
6 like that could probably be useful.

7 But going out and killing hundreds of
8 thousands of birds is just totally unacceptable,
9 and I don't like my tax money being used for it.

10 MR. SENG: Thank you. 32.

11 MS. GRUBB: My name is Eunice Grubb,
12 spelled E-U-N-I-C-E. And like others here I'm an
13 advocate for the humane treatment of all animals.
14 I'd like to quote the philosopher or naturalist,
15 Immanuel Kant, who has said that the moral
16 character of a man can be judged by the way he
17 treats animals.

18 By extension, our governments, our
19 communities can also be judged, their moral
20 character can also be judged by the way it or we
21 treat the animals in our communities. The cruel
22 roundup and gassing of these innocent animals is
23 truly inhumane and unacceptable.

24 Non-lethal methods of hunting and gassing
25 are also not acceptable. If they must be removed,

1 killing, killing, killing is not, should not be
2 the way of our lives today. Thank you.

3 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

4 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 33.

5 MR. KINNEY: My name is Les Kinney,
6 K-I-N-N-E-Y. I was out at Marymoore Park a week
7 and a half ago, and a V-pattern of geese flew
8 overhead, and there was probably 30 or 40 geese,
9 and it was absolutely gorgeous. And the thought
10 of shooting or gassing those geese is just
11 appalling to me. Please look at alternatives to
12 killing to manage the geese population. Thank
13 you.

14 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

15 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 34.

16 MS. DUNSMORE: Hello, my name is Terry
17 Dunsmore, D-U-N-S-M-O-R-E. Everyone here has
18 spoken so eloquently about being opposed to the
19 goose kill and I am also completely opposed to it.
20 But I do have a question for you.

21 You mentioned some social value studies that
22 were done, and I'm interested in how the studies
23 were conducted. Were they outcome studies, where
24 I might get copies of those, and what the outcomes
25 of those outcome studies were. Can someone speak

1 to that or answer that question?

2 MR. TROST: I'm not sure that I
3 referred to specific studies, however, I would
4 refer you to the Draft Environmental Impact
5 Statement itself for a complete source of
6 references and discussions on that topic.

7 Have you a copy of that?

8 MS. DUNSMORE: I don't. I have
9 requested it on the thing they sent around, but it
10 said -- it was under socioeconomic environment.
11 You said this is part of the DEIS.

12 MR. TROST: Right. Those factors were
13 considered, but I don't know that specific --
14 environmental impact studies and NEPA law does not
15 require that new studies be done, but that you
16 take into account all the available information
17 and existing studies.

18 So when we do an environmental impact
19 statement, regardless of the subject, we do not go
20 out and commission specific studies on that issue.

21 MS. DUNSMORE: So it might be based on
22 old studies?

23 MR. TROST: Yes.

24 MS. DUNSMORE: Sometimes maybe very
25 old studies like 20-year-old, like public opinion

1 from 20 years ago or something?

2 MR. TROST: There may be some of that
3 in there as well.

4 MS. DUNSMORE: Okay. Thank you.

5 MR. SENG: Thank you. Card 35.

6 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Wayne Johnson
7 from the Northwest Animal Rights Network. And I
8 am a clinical psychologist and have been for the
9 last 32 years. So I hope you'll permit me to say
10 that gassing one of the these magnificent birds
11 let alone another 320,000 is insane.

12 I want to look at this from the point of
13 view of an animal rights activist. It's obvious
14 from what's been said here that we like these
15 geese. That they're very special animals, but I
16 hope that we would be as consistent with Panda
17 Bears or pigs or any other of God's living
18 creatures.

19 Now, we've been talking about this issue for
20 a long time here in the Northwest, sir. In the
21 mid 1980s they told us that the way to deal with
22 it was translocation. So they rounded these geese
23 up, translocated them to eastern Washington and
24 western Idaho.

25 After we got the hunting tags back, we found

1 out about 50 percent of the animals that had been
2 translocated were dead. So translocation along
3 with the goslings that died in transit during a
4 rainstorm that year meant more dead geese.

5 Then you tried addling, but addling wasn't
6 enough, and the numbers of geese killed went up.
7 The result of the conversation on addling meant
8 more dead geese. You asked us to submit testimony
9 and come to community forums. We did, and the
10 answer was more dead geese. The Humane Society of
11 the United States proposed community-based
12 solutions, and the answer was more dead geese.

13 Simply tonight, Dr. Metz argued from the
14 information that Converse and his colleagues have
15 done in Ithaca and New Jersey showing that you've
16 not even close to met -- despite the disingenuous
17 comment about airports -- not even close to met
18 the tough standard of the Migratory Bird Treaty
19 Act. Airports have their own permitting process.
20 The fact is that Sea-Tac has a permit, the Renton
21 Airport has a permit.

22 The health considerations are around lakes,
23 around golf courses, pooping has become a capital
24 crime, and that's insane. And so I'm under no
25 illusion that the fix is in, that the option will

1 be taken and that hundreds of thousands of geese
2 are going to be killed.

3 No matter how many times we use a rational
4 forum, the only answer to this particular problem
5 is massive civil disobedience. The only thing,
6 the only thing that is going to stop more dead
7 geese is for enough citizens to say no.

8 Now, from the point of view of an animal
9 rights activist, do we have the numbers now? No,
10 we don't. We don't have the numbers now. But
11 there are a growing number of people that will
12 walk around Greenlake and not see any geese or
13 very few geese.

14 And there are a growing number of people who
15 will realize what killing geese actually means,
16 that I believe that you're going to have a fight
17 on your hands.

18 Last summer we were able to round up, no pun
19 intended, a few citizens that cared enough to
20 engage in civil disobedience. This year maybe
21 we'll have a few more. The results are going to
22 be more dead geese.

23 But ultimately I believe, from an animal
24 rights perspective, that enough people will
25 finally say enough, that it is going to be more

1 and more difficult for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
2 and the paid killers and pimps in the USDA to kill
3 these geese. Thank you.

4 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

5 MR. SENG: Card 36.

6 SPEAKER: Pass.

7 MR. SENG: 37.

8 MS. HARTMAN: My name is Kristi
9 Hartman, K-R-I-S-T-I, H-A-R-T-M-A-N. I'm not with
10 any particular affiliation, though my husband,
11 Brad, and I are here as Washington State voters
12 and we are also Lake Washington waterfront
13 property owners and have been since 1998 and I
14 also lived in Lake Union for three years prior to
15 that. And we came on kind of short notice
16 tonight, so I apologize for the dress. We're not
17 particularly appropriate.

18 And I would like to thank the animal rights
19 organizations that are here tonight for keeping us
20 posted on issues that, while we might not agree
21 with everything they always have to say, it does
22 give us the opportunity to educate ourselves about
23 these issues.

24 I jotted down some notes and it kind of
25 brings back a timeline that goes back to last

1 spring when we first were made aware of the geese
2 issue here in Washington and management issues
3 about how we should deal with their population.

4 And the first thing that I wanted to mention
5 was that I used to work with Judge Marsha Peckman
6 when she was a juvenile court judge, and so I paid
7 attention to her decision as to whether or not to
8 let the geese killings go forward.

9 And I was really surprised at how that
10 turned out, very surprised and disappointed. And
11 I guess the thing that surprised me the most was
12 that the burden of proof seemed to be on the wrong
13 end.

14 And from the very beginning I had been
15 surprised that if this is a federal issue, that it
16 seems like the will of the people of Washington
17 State have largely been ignored. I want to stick
18 to my timeline, so I'm going to come back to that.

19 And after Judge Peckman's decision happened,
20 I heard about the Gasworks Park roundup. I read
21 it in the paper and it just seemed to be sort of,
22 I don't know, overblown. I couldn't imagine that
23 something as horrible as that would happen here in
24 Seattle.

25 And I contacted the reporter whose article I

1 read and said did this really happen? And I
2 talked to other people who said yes. In fact, I
3 found out there was a pickup truck that had been
4 revamped to be a gas chamber, so geese were loaded
5 into the back where they couldn't even stand up in
6 the back and they were gassed.

7 And I did also hear about the suffocation
8 issues, where -- I mean we're talking hot summer
9 days. This was like in July or August and the
10 temperatures in the 70s and 80s and it was so hot
11 outside, I can't imagine geese being loaded up in
12 there waiting for the rest of them to be led in
13 weren't horribly suffering.

14 I find that just awful to bear. As a result
15 of that, I contacted local officials. It's been
16 since last summer, as I mentioned, so I don't
17 recall all of the people that I wrote directly,
18 but I recall I wrote at least four or five
19 letters, and I did receive some responses, both my
20 email.

21 And the thing that I remember the most about
22 the responses was, yes, they remembered the
23 judge's decision, and, yes, they were saddened by
24 this as well, but they had to do something about
25 the goose populations. They had to address the

1 citizens' concerns about health and safety, and so
2 what could be done.

3 However, the thing that just shocked them
4 was that they had no idea about the gas chamber
5 issue. They didn't realize that this was the
6 method which the management was intending to
7 handle the problem.

8 So I was surprised to learn that these
9 officials didn't realize directly how this was
10 going to be run. I did somehow land myself on the
11 mailing list and I did last summer receive a copy.
12 I must have been one of the early ones that got
13 this big fat report in the mail, and I read every
14 bit of it, cover to cover.

15 It's a subject that really interests me,
16 primarily because I had heard about the egg
17 addling. And I thought that sounds like a great
18 idea. No harm to the geese, and lessen the
19 population. All these good things.

20 And I also heard about tactics which
21 involved landscaping projects, letting the fronts
22 of the grass grow up near the lake edge to
23 discourage geese from gathering there. Numerous
24 stuff and so I wanted to see if any of this was
25 included in report.

1 And as the first gal that spoke from the
2 Humane Society mentioned, the thing that was very
3 disturbing about the report, that there was
4 nothing really specifically mentioned about how
5 they were going to lethally manage the geese. It
6 was all in there about lethal management, but I
7 didn't really see anything about how it was going
8 to happen.

9 And mind you, this came after I read the
10 articles at Gasworks and the gassing, so I went,
11 hmm, no wonder the officials didn't really know
12 what was going to happen, because if they were
13 reading this environmental impact statement and
14 saying, yes, okay this looks fine, how were they
15 to know to object?

16 It bothers me that there were large groups
17 of volunteers that I also read about through the
18 summer papers that were learning how to addle eggs
19 and do all of that, and I read about the people
20 that would train dogs to scare the geese off. And
21 there were all these various community groups. I
22 was so proud of all the community support that was
23 there to obviously support the geese population,
24 but also support and address the issue of
25 eradication or, you know, move them out, do

1 something.

2 But I really was proud of our community in
3 doing that. And something that this reminds me of
4 is, that it seems that the USDA is constantly
5 taking the easy way out for management. It made
6 me drive to Olympia about the Lake Hole trap issue
7 when the Washington Citizen Initiative was in
8 danger of being overturned and all of that stuff.

9 But the comments that happened back when I
10 went to that hearing were again USDA comments that
11 basically said they didn't want to deal with the
12 issue in a way that wasn't quick and easy no
13 matter the cost to the taxpayers or the taxpayers'
14 will in wanting to look at alternative solutions.

15 I just wanted to conclude by saying how much
16 I support and my neighbors support non-lethal
17 methods of managing these geese, and would really
18 encourage you to consider and work with the
19 community organizations that have voiced their
20 opinions and their support of non-lethal methods.

21 They're here and Washington State is a place
22 where we'll work with you. We have lots of hands
23 to help. And I hope that you would utilize those
24 hands to enact our will of wanting non-lethal
25 methods of management. That's all. Thank you

1 very much for your time and consideration.

2 THE AUDIENCE: (Applause.)

3 MR. SENG: Thank you. Is there anyone
4 holding a card higher than 37, any latecomers
5 holding a card?

6 THE AUDIENCE: (No response.)

7 MR. SENG: Okay. Then I would like to
8 remind you that the signup sheets are on the back
9 table now. If you wish to receive a copy of the
10 final EIS, please signup so you'll get a copy in
11 the mail. I'd like to thank you very much for
12 taking time out on such a beautiful evening to
13 come share your comments with us. And I declare
14 this meeting adjourned. Have a safe trip home.

15 (Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.)

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25