

Migratory Bird Permits Authorizing Take of Depredating Canada Geese

There are a number of migratory bird permits under which Canada Geese may be taken. Not included here are hunting licenses acquired by individual hunters through State and Federal Duck Stamps and State licenses. The following permit types can include take of resident Canada Geese.

Airport Depredation permits: A Federal Migratory Bird Depredation Permit is required to capture or kill migratory birds for depredation control purposes, including at airports for human health and safety reasons. No permit is required merely to scare or herd depredating geese. Permits require that the airport continue to integrate non-lethal techniques when implementing any lethal measures. The application requests the airport to indicate whether they are operating under an approved Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, and must describe the nonlethal measures the airport has taken to control or eliminate the problem. An Animal Damage Project Report ("Form 37") completed by USDA, Wildlife Services is required to document the non-lethal techniques used, and that the airport has consulted with Wildlife Services wildlife specialists.

Individual Depredation Permits: Permits are issued on occasion to help relieve crop damage or provide human or bird safety. The applicant must describe the extent of the damage and estimate the economic loss suffered as a result, such as percentage of acres of crop and dollar loss, cost to replace damaged property, or cost of injuries. The applicant must also indicate the long-term measures planned to be taken to eliminate the problem. All depredation permit applications require the USDA, Wildlife Services Form 37, as described under airport permits above.

Depredation permit applications are available on the web:

<http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-13.pdf>.

Canada Goose Registration Site: On August 10, 2006, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("we") published a final rule on resident Canada goose management. This final rule clarified and slightly modified several program requirements regarding eligibility, definitions, methodologies, and dates. This final rule became effective on August 20, 2007.

Traditionally we used special Canada goose seasons in September to specifically target resident goose populations and address some of the conflicts and problems caused by overabundant resident Canada geese. The objectives identified in the November 2005 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) published November 18, 2005, include reducing the resident Canada goose population to levels more inline with the Flyway Councils' established goals and objectives.

From the Final Rule and the Canada Goose FEIS, regulations were finalized to allow take of resident Canada geese through a registration process. The registration process varies from the traditional depredation permit in that it allows a direct authorization process with no permit fees. However, there are certain restrictions and follow-up procedures associated with the registration process. Some states restrict registration to certain counties, and registration instructions must be read carefully to be sure compliance with all state regulations are met.

The Federal Register Final Rule can be found on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at: <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2007/E7-16306.html>, and the Environmental Impact Statement at <http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/2006/06-6739.html>.

The Resident Canada Goose Nest and Egg Registration Site is available to landowners, public land managers, or local government in the lower 48 states or the District of Columbia. Registration gives federal authorization to destroy resident Canada goose nests and eggs on property under your jurisdiction. Registration must be made each year prior to taking nests and/or eggs, between January 1 and June 30 of the year in which nests and eggs are to be destroyed. Nests and eggs may be taken only between March 1 and June 30. Report of take must be made by returning to the registration site by October 31, to report numbers of nests with eggs destroyed, date (month), and location (county). You will not be able to register the following year if a report has not been filed.

Access the Goose Registration site on the web at:
<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>.

SPECIAL CANADA GOOSE PERMIT - A Federal Special Canada goose permit is available to State wildlife agencies for certain resident (nonmigratory) Canada goose management and control activities. States wishing to apply must provide a brief description of their long-term resident Canada goose management concerns, including where the problems are occurring. It must also include an estimate of the size and trend of the resident Canada goose breeding population in the State and an explanation of how the estimate was derived, and the number of resident Canada geese, including eggs and nests, that is proposed to take annually. The application must indicate how the goose management and control activities proposed will address human health and safety concerns, protect personal property, or allow resolution of other injury to people or property. If the State has a State Canada goose management plan, a copy must be included.

The Special Canada Goose Permit application is available to State wildlife agencies at the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/forms/3-200-67.pdf>.