

**Lake of the Pines Association
Goose Depredation During Annual Waterfowl Season
Anticipated Procedures**

BACKGROUND

Director Bomhoff and Richard Mattison met with Craig Ferrari on Friday July 31, 2020. Mr Ferrari is a longstanding member (twenty six years) of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Mr. Ferrari understands the dynamics of the Resident Canada Goose population explosion, and is very aware of our efforts to the control the population. Mr. Ferrari is very supportive of our efforts. Our discussions included the explosive growth of Resident Canada Geese, the health risk that that population presents to our community, and the potential difficulties that we face in actively gaining control of that population in our area. We discussed and reached consensus that the only effective means of controlling these birds is through continued harvesting and harassment of excess numbers. Consensus is that the efforts to control this population should include continued harvesting of these birds at all available times allowed by law, which would include both the early (September, 5 day) and regular (October thru January, \pm 100 days) seasons.

Consensus is that LOP should continue to pursue our formal Depredation Permit to take Resident Canada Geese and in fact request that our quota be increased. In addition, consensus is that we should start our application process for our Depredation Permit as soon as possible since many Fish and Wildlife personnel are on reduced workloads due to Covid-19. LOP will also apply for an additional Nest and Egg collection Permit.

The efforts of the Wildlife Management Service Team to control the Resident Canada Goose population is likely to take several years to be really be effective at reducing their numbers. These birds are very smart and will learn over time that it is better to avoid Lake of the Pines. The WMST will do everything in our power to help them decide to take up residence elsewhere.

PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES

There are several differences in procedures required to continue our Resident Canada Goose depredation and control efforts during the hunting seasons.

We must follow all pertinent regulations and requirements set forth under the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations. These include:

- All hunters will have a valid California hunting license with a California State Duck Stamp and, a Federal Migratory bird Duck Stamp. The license and all stamps must be signed by the bearer.
- All firearms must be physically restricted to holding only three shells
- Only steel shot may be used
- Blinds, decoys and calling may be used
- If a vessel is used, any motor must be raised and out of the water
- The vessel must be stopped and not in motion

- There are “bag limits” which must be adhered to for each hunter. During the early five day season in September the “bag limit” is ten Resident Canada Geese per hunter. During the normal waterfowl season the “bag limit” is ten Canada Geese per hunter.
- Each hunter is responsible for maintaining possession of his/her own birds that are taken or harvested.
- The allowable possession limit is three times the daily “bag” limit, (for example ten x three is thirty birds per licensed hunter) for the early season
- All game must be processed for use

How We Will Comply

The Wildlife Management Service Team has been soliciting and collecting Homeowner Permission Forms from all Lakeshore homeowners. The response from homeowners has been very supportive.

The WMST will only allow approved and proven team members to carry out our depredation control efforts whether during the regular hunting seasons or under the terms of the depredation permit. All approved and participating WMST members will have a signed copy of the: Lake of the Pines Association, Shooting Team Protocol, on file (see attached).

The WMST will target specific areas and activities on specific days. LOP Zoning specifies that WMST shooting hours will be from 0900 to 1700 hours. We propose targeting our efforts by only harvesting birds from specific areas where we have Homeowner Permission Forms completed and in hand. The WMST will assure a clear one hundred and fifty yards from any homeowner for whom we do not have such form. All ranges will be verified with a laser rangefinder.

The WMST will focus on points within the lake (such as Bomkey Point, Pennington Point, Clubhouse Point, etc) and most of our activities will be conducted from shore with all adjacent HOA and homeowner permissions. The WMST will set up a blind and decoys at one or more of these locations and harvest Canada Geese only. There will be no take of other waterfowl allowed. Well disciplined and trained waterfowl dogs may be used as they are available to retrieve harvested birds.

Resident Canada geese will not be herded to any blind area that is being hunted, however the WMST will be continuing to conduct our normal Canada Goose harassment procedures throughout other areas of LOP by all means available including; golf carts, approved well disciplined and trained dogs, boats, and WMST team members as appropriate. Areas that will be included for this activity are the main Lake, Huck Finn Pond, Hazel Pond, the entrance pond, all Golf course areas and Parks, as well as any lakeshore homeowners properties where we have permission to do so.

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Shooting Team Protocol V6

The Director-in-Charge will select the days and times for depredation operations during the Annual Waterfowl Hunting Seasons and will select only licensed and experienced hunters for the shooters and spotters.

The Director-in-Charge will notify Admin, Public Safety and Nevada County Dispatch on the day and times. The red flags will be displayed during designated shooting times.

Communication Plan: A cell phone number will be given to Nevada County Dispatch, Public Safety and Administration.

Emergency Medical Plan. There will be a first aid kit available. In case of an emergency the cell phone will be used to call 911. If operating by boat, the injured helper will immediately respond to the Park 4 launch ramp and be met by FD and paramedics.

A shooting team will consist of 2 LOP members. There will be a spotter and a shooter.

- The shooter's duty is to control the weapon or weapons in a safe manner
- The spotter's duty is to ensure the shooter has all necessary safety information and will monitor the shooter and weapons.
- Shooting will be limited to geese on the lake between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

Safety meeting outline

The spotter will be the range master:

1. Their job is to know the condition of the shotgun or shotguns at all times.
2. They will insure that all shooters have valid Hunting License with both a State and Federal Waterfowl Stamp.
3. They will verify that all firearms have a "plug" installed and the firearm is only capable of holding three (3) shotgun shells.
4. They will advise the shooter on the safe direction of fire.
5. They will announce when eye and ear protection is needed.

The shooter will:

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
2. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded
3. Be certain of their target, their line of fire and what lies beyond the target
4. **Never point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.**
5. Keep the shotgun(s) unloaded when not in use.
6. Keep their finger off the trigger until they are on the target and have made the decision to shoot.
7. Aim at a horizontal angle or below and must have a 150-yard clear line of fire.

Signed and Agreed: _____

Name: (Printed) _____ Role: _____