

# Canada Goose Management Program Changes



Barbara Avers, PhD, Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist



# Background

- Extinct around 1900
- Reintroduced in 1960's
- Population goal is 175,000 to 225,000
  - About 281,000 today
- Thriving in urban and suburban settings
- Increasing conflicts
  - Droppings, feathers, aggression, etc.
- Management strategies
  - Hunting
  - Techniques to manage local conflicts



# Canada Goose Management Program

- Addressing conflicts for over 50 years
  - Procedures and permit issuance
    - Nest/egg destruction and round up and relocation or euthanasia
- Federal Special Canada Goose Permit





# Issues

- Increased nuisance complaints and health and safety issues
- Challenges to managing conflicts:
  - Federal protections
  - Disease concerns (e.g., HPAI)
  - Municipal development and ordinances limit hunting opportunities
  - Reduced human tolerance of geese





# Issues

- Relocation of geese not sustainable:
  - Lack of suitable release sites
  - Moving location of conflicts
  - Disease transmission concerns (HPAI)
  - Short-term effectiveness of round up



# Nest & Egg Destruction Changes for 2025

- Permit nest/egg destruction statewide





# Round Up & Relocation Changes for 2025

- Round up allowed in limited situations
  - Approved situations where there are human health/safety concerns
  - Meet other criteria
- No relocation
  - All birds euthanized and either disposed of or processed for donation to charitable organizations



# Round Up & Relocation Changes for 2025

- USDA-WS will conduct all round up
  - Efficiency due to logistics
  - Build into agency agreements
  - Process to donate meat to charitable organizations
  - Modeled after other states' programs
- 2025 pilot program to assess costs, logistics, capacity, etc.





# WCO Changes

- Remove language allowing round up and relocation (transportation) by sites and nuisance animal control operators
- Include language to allow nuisance animal control operators to capture, hold, and euthanize aggressive geese



# WCO Changes

- Reduce permit fee from \$200 to \$100 for nuisance animal control operators to participate in capture, holding, and euthanizing aggressive Canada geese and the destruction of nests and eggs.
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for a site permit to participate in the transport of Canada geese
- Remove the \$300 permit fee for nuisance animal control operators to transport geese



# Thank You



[Michigan.gov/Waterfowl](https://Michigan.gov/Waterfowl)

