



South Dakota

GAME, FISH and PARKS

Giant Canada Goose Management Plan 2018

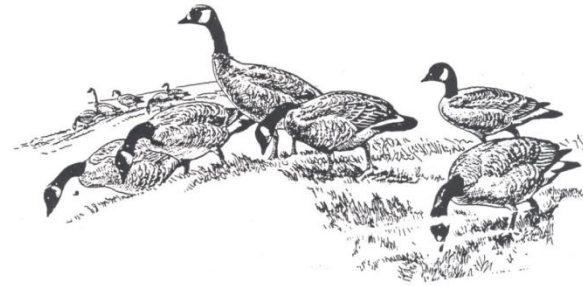
Commission Update

Rocco Murano, Senior
Waterfowl Biologist

- New Plan Approved October 2016
- Stakeholder members included:
 - ✓ Jack Broome – GFP Regional Advisory Panel
 - ✓ Mark DeVries – SD Stockgrowers Association
 - ✓ Paul Dennert – GFP Commissioner
 - ✓ Drew Ellis – US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - ✓ Mike Elsen – SD Farm Bureau
 - ✓ Richard Grosz – US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - ✓ Chris Hesla – SD Wildlife Federation
 - ✓ Brad Johnson – US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - ✓ John Johnson – GFP Regional Advisory Panel
 - ✓ Rolf Kraft – GFP Regional Advisory Panel
 - ✓ Eric Reisenweber – Delta Waterfowl
 - ✓ Spencer Vaa – SD Waterfowl Association



SOUTH DAKOTA GIANT CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2020



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS PIERRE,
SOUTH DAKOTA

WILDLIFE DIVISION REPORT 2016-02

OCTOBER 2016



Giant Canada Goose Management

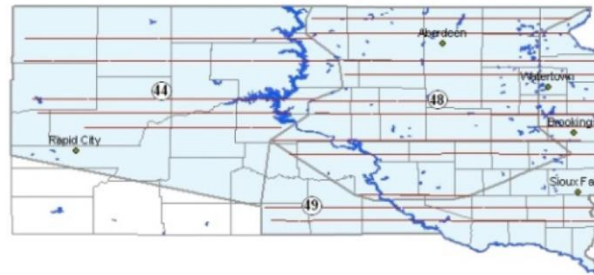
GOAL: SDGFP will manage giant Canada goose populations breeding in South Dakota for maximum recreational opportunity consistent with the welfare of the population, habitat constraints, and social tolerance.

Objective 1:

Manage the giant Canada goose population using South Dakota BPOP index (three-year average) objective range of 115,000 to 165,000 geese.

- Population objective based on 3-year USFWS May Breeding Habitat and Population survey index.

Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey



Strata and Transect Lines

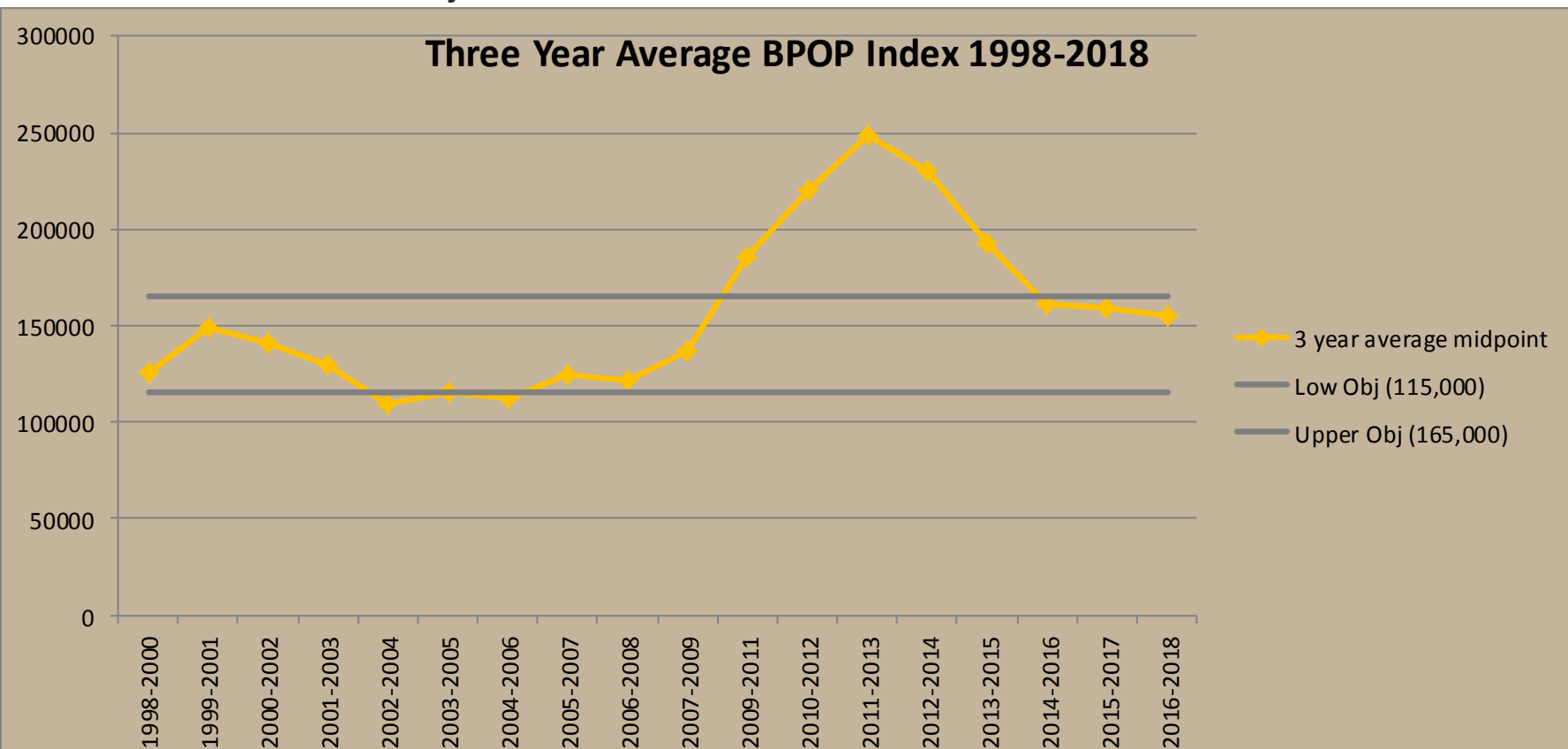


Population Objective

115,000 - 165,000



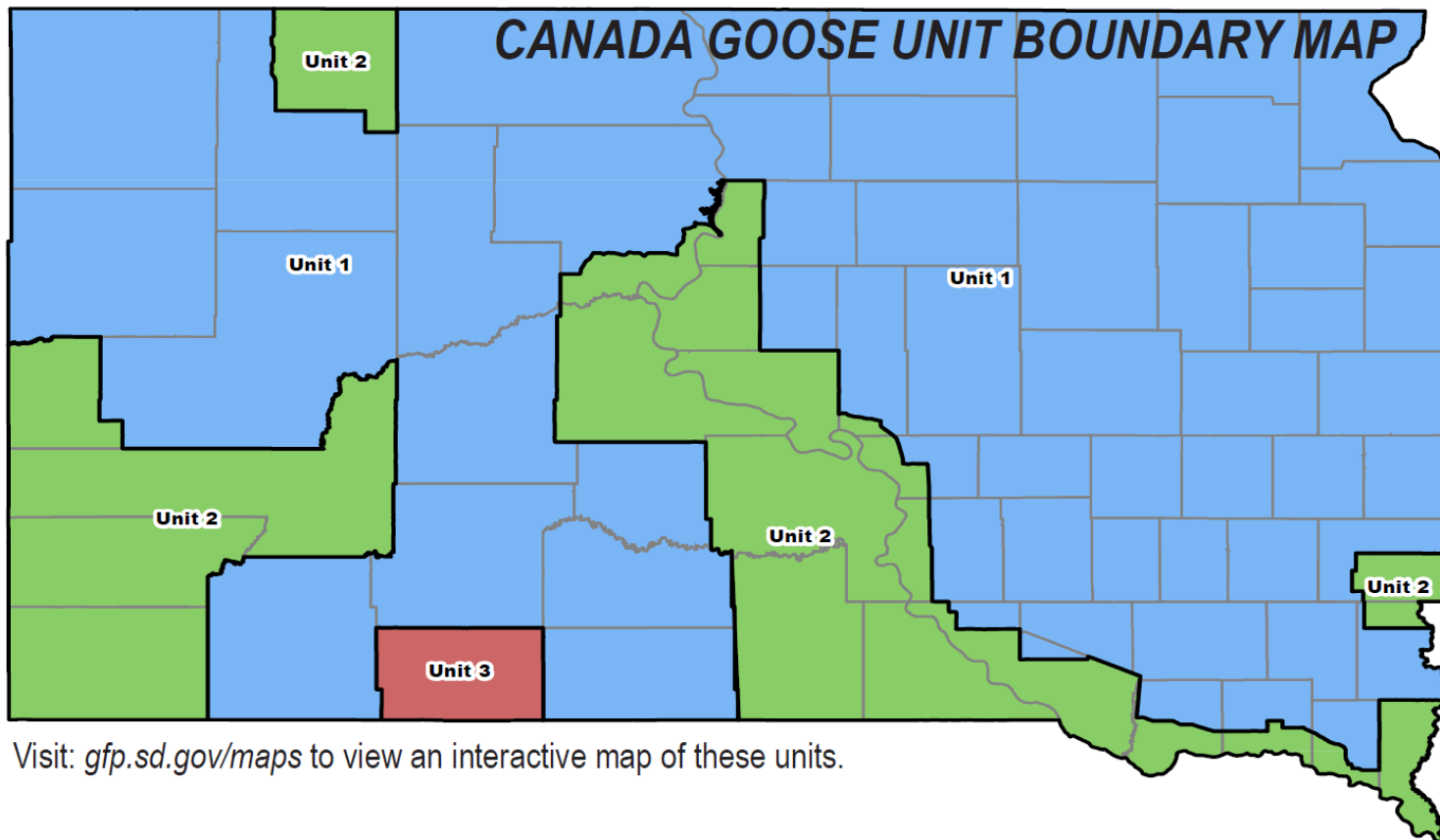
- 2018 Breeding Index was 144,269 down 14%, from the 2017 estimate of 167,230.
- This puts our 3 year average population within objective range at 155,032. This is the 3rd consecutive year of falling within objective.



Objective 2:

Provide maximum hunting opportunity consistent with Objective 1 while maintaining a quality hunting experience.

- Tools including season length, daily bag, and Unit boundaries are used within the limits of the USFWS federal framework.



Visit: gfp.sd.gov/maps to view an interactive map of these units.

Goose Harvest and Hunter Activity

- 27% decline in resident hunter number since 2008

Comparison of the 2008 - 2017 Canada goose harvest statistics

Year	Resident Hunters					Nonresident Hunters				
	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction	Number Hunters	Harvest	Ave Day Hunted	Ave Bag	Satisfaction
2008	13,463	97,068	7.21	7.21	5.03	2,483	6,381	3.89	2.57	5.24
2009	12,927	98,892	7.25	7.65	4.92	1,986	5,561	4.14	2.80	5.27
2010	13,552	123,188	7.53	9.09	5.19	2,198	6,440	4.45	2.93	5.50
2011	13,376	131,505	7.28	9.83	5.31	2,167	6,332	4.25	2.92	5.63
2012	13,725	157,363	7.61	11.47	5.19	2,277	7,054	4.37	3.10	5.44
2013	12,004	117,846	7.54	9.82	5.06	2,160	6,310	4.24	2.92	5.37
2014	12,130	97,956	6.92	8.08	4.96	1,969	5,193	4.31	2.76	5.22
2015	10,228	73,471	7.00	7.18	4.78	2,104	5,482	4.30	2.70	4.98
2016	9,964	85,809	6.98	8.61	4.87	2,046	5,485	4.51	2.77	4.86
2017	9,762	76,827	6.95	7.87	5.06	2,428	6,601	4.19	2.74	5.18

Early Fall Harvest and Hunter Activity

- 39% reduction in Early Fall hunter numbers since 2008
- High average season bags have maintained relatively high harvest

Comparison of the 2008 - 2017 Early Fall Canada goose harvests

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number Hunters</i>	<i>Harvest</i>	<i>Average Season Bag</i>
2008	5,275	27,924	5.29
2009	6,157	39,275	6.38
2010	5,767	44,183	7.66
2011	5,417	50,361	9.30
2012	3,636	28,788	7.92
2013	4,528	29,887	6.60
2014	5,106	28,814	5.64
2015	3,883	20,735	5.34
2016	3,366	27,660	8.22
2017	3,226	25,808	8.00

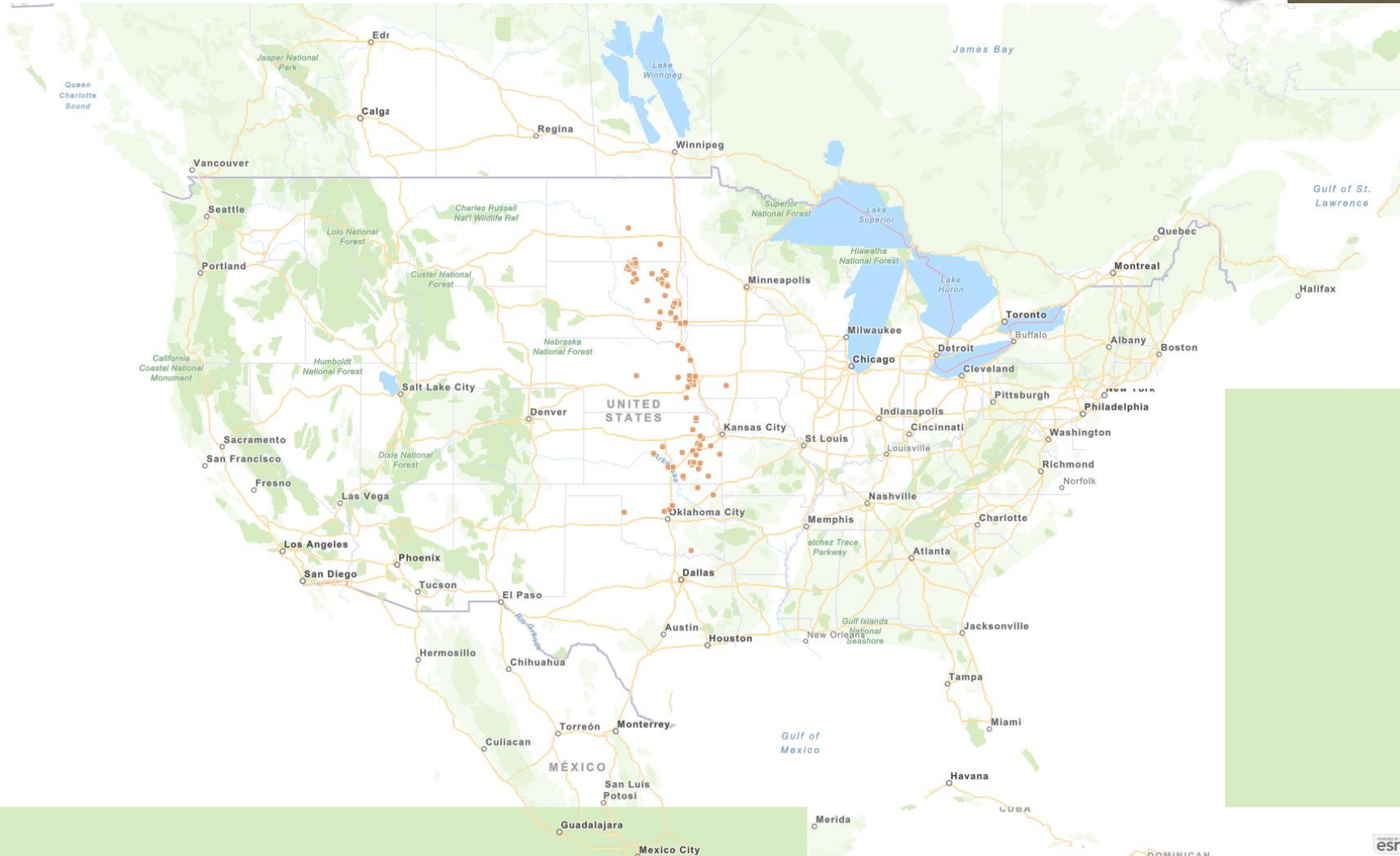
Strategy 2f: Maintain an operational Canada goose banding program and conduct a standardized band analysis program in South Dakota.



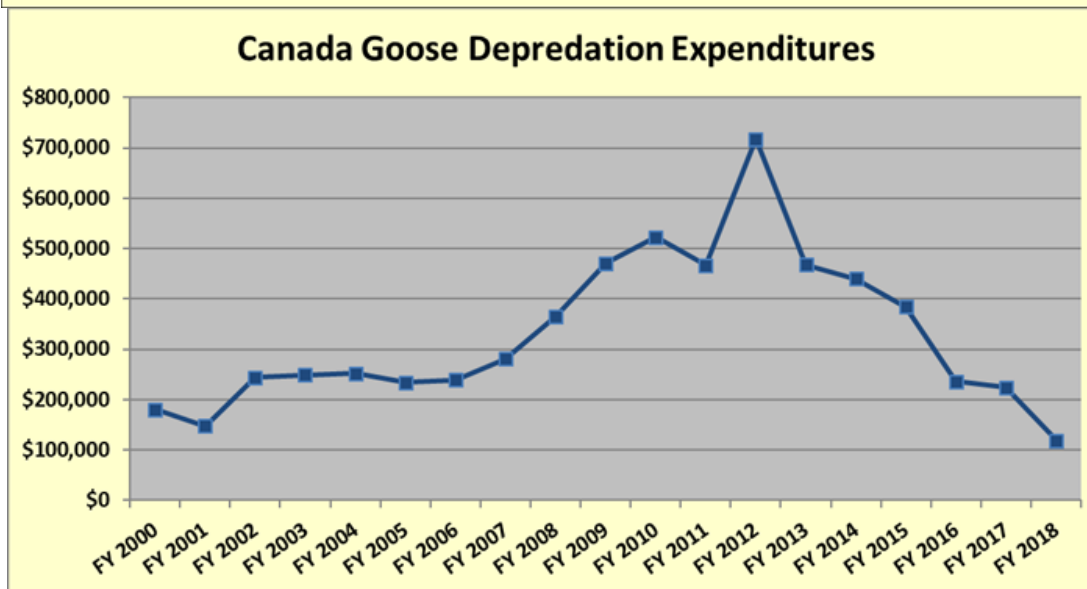
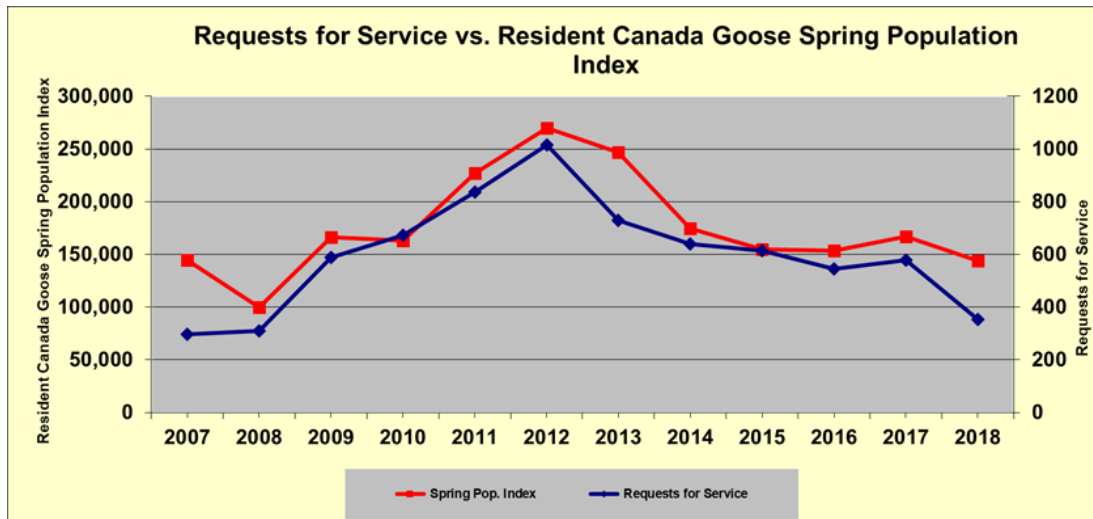
- Banding data allows us to monitor harvest rates, movements, and derivation of harvest.

Year	# Banded	# Direct Recoveries	Recovery Rate	Harvest Rate (Recovery Rate/.84)
2012	1,824	307	17%	20%
2013	1,872	313	17%	20%
2014	2,503	404	16%	19%
2015	2,179	259	12%	14%
2016	1,938	311	16%	19%
2017	1,529	203	13%	15.5%
2018	1,625			
Combined	13,467 (total)	1,797 (total)	15% (mean)	18% (mean)

2017 Canada Goose Direct Recoveries



Objective 3: Cooperatively work with private landowners and municipalities to reduce Canada goose depredation to growing crops, human safety concerns, and other human-wildlife conflicts



Giant Canada Goose Management Decision Table



"MANAGEMENT TOOLS"	RESTRICTIVE MANAGEMENT	MODERATE MANAGEMENT	LIBERAL MANAGEMENT
	Increase Population	Maintain Population	Decrease Population
Justification	<p>Canada goose population below objective based on available biological data, hunter survey comments, landowner comments public comments, and field staff observations.</p> <p>Goose depredation on row crops is expected to be limited and should be adequately addressed through the wildlife damage management program.</p> <p>Non-lethal tools will primarily be used; however, unique situations may be addressed using nest work or kill permits.</p>	<p>Canada goose population at objective based on available biological data, hunter survey comments, landowner comments, public comments, and field staff observations.</p> <p>Manageable Canada goose depredation on row crops is expected, but should be adequately addressed through wildlife damage management program.</p> <p>Non-lethal tools will primarily be used, but chronic depredation issues may be addressed using nest work and kill permits.</p>	<p>Canada goose population above objective based on available biological data, hunter survey comments, landowner comments, public comments, and field staff observations.</p> <p>Goose depredation on row crops is expected to be above desired levels. The wildlife damage management program has difficulty addressing requests in a timely manner. Non-lethal tools will be used, but nest work and kill permits will be used frequently to stop row crop damage.</p> <p>Indicators for this category would be moderate to overabundant populations causing moderate to major depredation issues.</p>
Spring Population Index (3-Year Average)	Below 115,000 (Two consecutive 3-year averages)	115,000-165,000	Above 165,000 (Two consecutive 3-year averages)
Regular Season Days	Full Framework	Full Framework	Full Framework
Regular Season Daily Bag	Daily Bag: Unit 1: 3 - 5 Units 2 and 3: 4	Daily Bag: Unit 1: 5 - 8 Units 2 and 3: 4	Daily Bag: Unit 1: Up to 8 Units 2 and 3: 4
Early Fall September Season (Unit 1)	Yes (Consider Restricting Season Length) Daily Bag: 3 - 5	Yes Daily Bag: 5 - 8	Yes Daily Bag: Up to 15
August Management Take	Not available except for human safety concerns.	Can be available in areas with unacceptable levels of crop depredation or human safety concerns. Daily Bag: 8	Can be available in areas with unacceptable levels of crop depredation or human safety concerns. Daily Bag: Up to 15



Questions?