

**2001 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2004**

Title: Enhancing Canada Goose Hunting and Management – Phase II

Project Manager: William H. Becker

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

**Address: 500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155**

Web Site Address: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

Fund: Future Resources Fund

Legal Citation: ML2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 4 (c)

As amended in ML2003, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 13

Appropriation Amount: \$340,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This project piloted the notion that paying people who own land near concentrations of nuisance geese to allow hunters on their land to hunt the nuisance geese would be a good way to thin nuisance goose flocks and provide recreation opportunity. The key resource management problem addressed stems from the fact that farmers near goose concentrations suffer economic harm from crop depredation by geese. The project also included measuring willingness to pay for the hunting experience, so as to ascertain whether this could be self-financing.

The project was conducted during two early season nuisance goose hunts and included landowners statewide, but concentrated near nuisance flocks in the Grand Rapids area, west central Minnesota, and southeast Minnesota. Landowners were paid to allow hunters on their land to hunt geese, and to leave forage crops for geese. Over the two seasons an estimated 2,000 to 2,700 nuisance geese were taken. Hunters surveyed were willing to pay \$11.50 per day per hunter to gain access to the land. The leases paid the landowner \$500 per season per set-up area for a hunting group. All in all the hunters were moderately satisfied, rating their hunting experience as medium to good (2.4) on a five point scale where 1= very poor and 5 = excellent.

Anecdotally, DNR field representatives found this to be a positive way to work with landowners suffering crop depredation by geese.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The pilot project is complete. The legislature was contacted about continuing the program using other funds. No additional funds were appropriated.

Date of Report: October 15, 2004
LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2004

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LCMR Final Work Program

I. Enhancing Canada Goose Hunting and Management – Phase II, #EM-53

Project Manager: Bill Becker
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Total Biennial Project Budget: \$340,000

LCMR Appropriation

<u>Carried Forward:</u>	<u>-Amount Spent</u>	<u>=\$ Balance</u>
\$131,520.79	\$105,294.64	\$26,226.15

Legal Citation: ML2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd. 4 (c)
As amended in ML2003, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 13

Appropriation Language:

(c) Enhancing Canada Goose Hunting and Management
\$340,000 is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources-to enter into professional and technical agreements on private farmlands for development of foraging sites and public hunting opportunities and to provide technical assistance to local units of government in developing controlled hunts for nuisance geese. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2004

II and III Final Project Summary

This project piloted the notion that paying people who own land near concentrations of nuisance geese to allow hunters on their land to hunt the nuisance geese would be a good way to thin nuisance goose flocks and provide recreation opportunity. The key resource management problem addressed stems from the fact that farmers near goose concentrations suffer economic harm from crop depredation by geese. The project also included measuring willingness to pay for the hunting experience, so as to ascertain whether this could be self-financing.

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IV. Outline of Project Results: This project addresses burgeoning numbers of Canada geese by providing goose hunting and forage leases, controlled hunting opportunities, and information as to location of hunting opportunities to reduce nuisance and crop damage.

Result 1: Canada Goose Forage and Hunting Leases, and Information on Hunting Opportunities. This will provide funds to enter into agreements with private landowners to provide goose foraging sites and to create additional hunting opportunities for the public. Activities will focus in agricultural areas of the state where crop damage due to Canada geese has been a significant problem. Landowners would be required to provide suitable vegetation for goose foraging to prevent damage to remaining crop areas, and/or to allow controlled public hunting on their lands to reduce local goose populations.

Result 1 Total Budget	Expended	Balance
\$131,520.79	\$105,294.64	\$26,226.15

V. Total Project Budget:
See Attachment A

VI. Past, Present and Future Spending:

The DNR staff will provide in-kind support and technical assistance.

- A. Past Spending: Phase I of this project was funded by the LCMR for \$350,000. The Minnesota Waterfowl Association, the DNR Section of Wildlife and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. are cooperatively completing this work.
- B. Spending Between July 1, 2003 and March 7, 2003: During this period this project was managed by the Minnesota Waterfowl

Association. DNR severed financial relations with the Association on March 7, 2003. During this period of MWA management the project obtained 91 leases on private land on which hunting took place. In addition four controlled hunts were held in the metro area at public parks and golf courses. The total amount spent over this period of Association management was \$208,479.21.

- C. Current and Future Spending: The DNR currently spends \$2,000 - \$25,000 (depending on budgets) on goose forage leases.

Project Partners,
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It is expected that in some areas of the state, hunting and forage leases will be beyond the scope of this project to satisfactorily reduce Canada goose populations. It is hoped that many of the controlled hunts initiated by this project will become operational, and not require on-going support or funding.

- D. Time: All work will be completed within one year.

VII. Dissemination:

The Project Manager and partners will develop initial information products to inform the public about the scope and significance of this project in Minnesota. Other periodic progress reports, project completion reports, and pertinent GIS data will be shared with other state and federal resource management agencies and made available to the State Electronic Library and other information depositories. Site-specific information and other pertinent information will be provided thru the DNR's web site as it is developed with links to the other existing web sites such as LCMR.

**Attachment A: Enhancing Canada Goose Hunting and Management
- Phase II**

**Legal Citation: ML 2001, First Special Session, Chapter 2, Section 14, Subd.4c as amended
by ML2003, First Special Session, Chapter 13, Section 13.**

Status Report as of June 13, 2003

Item	Overall Budget			Result One		
	Budget	Expended	Balance	Budget	Expended	Balance
Management and Administration ¹	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Support Services ¹	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0
Contracts:	\$16,794.80	\$18,694.64	(\$1,899.84)	\$16,794.80	\$18,694.64	(\$1,899.84)
Professional Technical Service Agreements	\$85,000.00	\$80,600.00	\$4,400.00	\$85,000.00	\$80,600.00	\$4,400.00
Travel/Communication:	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Legal Fees	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Anticipated Return to Future Resources Fund	\$3,725.99	\$0.00	\$3,725.99	\$3,725.99	\$0.00	\$3,725.99
Total Budget:	\$131,520.79	\$105,294.64	\$26,226.15	\$131,520.79	\$0.00	\$26,226.15

¹¹ Personnel expenses are for new and current DNR OMBS. Current staff will provide daily project management and support services. All hours for current DNR staff will be actual hours spent working on pass through administration as coded by employees assigned in the DNR cost accounting system. This is not a supplanting of general fund dollars because the general fund salary savings are retained and spent for OMBS management activities. Thus the total biennial OMBS effort equals the fy 2003-04 general fund supported effort plus the LCMR Contract Administration supported effort. This therefore is a supplement as required by M.S. 2003, 116P.03. In addition, any use of more than 50% of a classified position on this project will be complemented by a commensurate backfill in the program lending the classified personnel.