

Coyotes, Geese and Other Creatures: Best practices for managing urban wildlife



David Drake

**Dept. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology; UW-Madison
University of Wisconsin Extension**

Wildlife Damage Management



**Reduce or eliminate conflicts between wildlife
and people or other species/resources**

Wildlife Damage Management



- **USDA - APHIS - WS**
- **WI DNR**
- **UWEX**
- **NWCOs**

Wildlife-caused Household Damage

- **Urban/suburban wildlife damage = \$8.3 billion**
 - \$4.4 billion in damage
 - \$2.3 billion in abatement
 - \$1.6 billion in time/wages



Wildlife Damage Management – Keys to Success

- Correct species identification critical



Wildlife Damage Management – Keys to Success

- Integrated approach
 - Do nothing
 - Non-lethal
 - Lethal



Non-Lethal Management

- Exclusion
- Harassment (noise, visual, or both)
- Repellents (taste and area)
- Trap and relocate
- Habitat modification
- Cultural modification



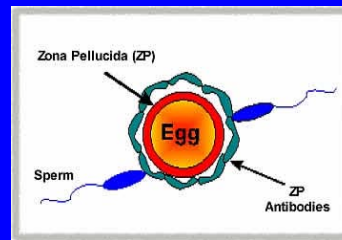
Lethal Management

- Shooting
- Body-gripping traps
- Trap and euthanize
- Toxicants



Non-traditional Management Practices

- Reproductive controls
 - Sterilization
 - Immunocontraception
 - Contraception
 - Egg addling, puncturing, or oiling



Politics and Policy



- Biological problem → policy solution
- Wildlife is a public resource

Stakeholder

- Traditional stakeholders –hunters, anglers, and trappers
- Any person affected by, or will affect, wildlife mgt.



Stakeholder Input

- Public comment periods
- Citizen task forces
- Surveys
- Ballot initiatives
- Focus groups
- Local govt. committees
- Internet and toll-free hotlines



Citizen Participation

- Informs citizens
- Improves decision making
- Improves the mgt. environment



Challenges to Citizen Participation

- Internal
- External



Keys to Successful Stakeholder Participation

- **Stakeholder diversity critical**
- **Structured public meeting process**
 - **small group discussions**
 - **experienced facilitators**
 - **defined ground rules**

Sources: Decker & Richmond (1995); Stout & Knuth (1995); Curtis & Hauber (1997); Kays & Tregoning (1997); Warren (1997)

Keys to Successful Stakeholder Participation



- **Transparency**
- **Patience**
- **Time and resource commitments**
- **Sufficient technical advice**

Sources: Decker & Richmond (1995); Stout & Knuth (1995); Curtis & Hauber (1997); Kays & Tregoning (1997); Warren (1997)

Documenting Impacts



- **Build your case on facts**
- **Historical context important**
- **Population estimates vs. impacts**

Develop a Management Plan



- **Define measurable objectives**
- **Identify tolerance zones**
- **Identify management options**
- **Evaluation strategy**

Communicating with the Public



- **Mgt. decisions receive greatest support when:**
 - **public is informed**
 - **public contributes to the process**

Source: Stout & Knuth (1995)