



Making a difference...together

Capital Regional District

Regional Goose Management Strategy Terms of Reference

OVERVIEW

Non migratory Canada geese are an on-going concern in the regional district. Since May 2010 CRD Regional Parks has partnered with regional municipalities and associated agencies to develop a Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy.

In November 2010 the BC Agriculture, Environment and Wildlife Fund (AEWF) agreed to provide funding of \$40,000 for the first year of the project (Phase 1) with additional funding for Phase 2 of the project contingent upon satisfactory progress and implementation of the project. Municipalities and stakeholders are providing in kind and additional financial support which will increase the budget for Phase 1 to approximately \$60,000. CRD Regional Parks is providing administrative and financial project coordination.

Following completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project, the program is intended to be self-sustaining and will be run mainly by a regional inter-agency committee including farm community members as well as representatives from various agencies.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project is to develop a Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy that will provide guidance on controlling the population of resident Canada geese in the regional district.

The objectives of the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy are:

- a. To reduce the damage to agricultural crops by Canada geese that results in economic losses to farmers;
- b. To develop a knowledge base for the CRD and its member municipalities, federal and provincial agencies, First Nations, Vancouver Island farmers and non-government environmental organizations on Canada geese population management methods;
- c. To improve safety conditions for the Victoria International Airport; and to reduce Canada geese impacts on parks and recreational areas in the regional district.

Given the funding available, it will not be physically possible to collect geese population data and produce “region-wide” geese maps for the entire Capital Regional District which stretches from Port Renfrew to the Southern Gulf Islands. The Working Group agreed to prioritize the project areas for data collection and mapping as follows:

Tier One Participants

- First Tier: District of Saanich, District of Central Saanich, District of North Saanich, Town of Sidney and District of Metchosin

Tier Two Participants

- Second Tier: The above municipalities as well as City of Victoria, District of Oak Bay, Town of Esquimalt, Town of View Royal, City of Langford, City of Colwood, District of Sooke and Otter Point area

WORKING GROUP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Working Group is the body which guides the development of the RCGMS, makes decisions within the framework of the funding proposals, communicates and engages with regional stakeholders.

Individual members act as a liaison and provide knowledge and expertise on an ongoing basis. Members are asked to put the regional public interest before any specific group or individual interest:

- CRD Regional Parks – Chair
- 1 Agriculture Representative
- 1 Municipal Representative
- 1 First Nations Representative
- 1 Environmental Representative
- 1 Non Governmental Representative
- 1 Provincial (Funder) Liaison

The Working Group is responsible to provide regular updates and information and, when required, consult with the Steering Committee on issues that the Working Group feels they do not have all the information, feels appropriate and, where there is not agreement on a course of action.

The Working Group is responsible for all project communication with the public and media. Specifics will be defined in a Communications Protocol with Regional Parks providing the leadership and support. This should include information about responding to media inquiries and designating a media spokesperson for the project.

Any consultant hired with project funds will work collaboratively and cooperatively with the Working Group but ultimately be under the responsibility of the hiring agency.

The Working Group will meet as required at the call of the Chair; a quorum for making key project decisions will consist of the Chair and 3 Working Group representatives.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee is a body of regional stakeholders who have contributed to the project and invested in the development of the RCGMS.

- Saanich Peninsula and Metchosin Farmers
- District of Saanich
- District of Metchosin
- Town of Sidney
- Saanich Fruit Growers Association
- District of North Saanich
- Greater Victoria Golf Course Association
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- BC Ministry of Environment
- Environment Canada – Wildlife Services

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The guiding decision making framework will be consensus.

Consensus is defined as:

An expression of general agreement about an issue, recommendation or report without using a voting process. Members may have concerns about specific aspects of decisions but can accept that the general agreement goes forward and will support the overall decision. Participants will strive to reach the best possible decision for the group and all of its members, rather than opt to pursue a majority opinion, potentially to the detriment of a minority.

An open process that ensures every participant is able to exercise their full involvement at every stage of the process without delaying the timely completion of the process.

When a consensus cannot be reached the issue, recommendation or report will be subject to a sequence of progressively more detailed dispute resolution techniques.

Where it is not possible to resolve the issue(s) at the table the Working Group may decide to strike a sub-committee charged with bringing recommendations back to the Working Group and/or Steering Committee.

REPORTING AND PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

All minutes of the Working Group and Steering Committee will be made available to the public through the website and email distribution.

Regular reporting for funders and key stakeholders will be posted on the website.

Working Group meetings will be open to the public.

Steering Committee meetings will be advertised and open to the public.

PROJECT SUPPORT RESOURCES

CRD Regional Parks will provide administrative, financial and GIS resources.

From time to time, an outside consultant will be hired; CRD contractual procedures must be adhered to.

RENUMERATION

Committee members will not be paid to participate.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Website: www.crd.bc.ca/regionalgoosestrategy.com
- ARDCORP funding proposal

Terms of Reference endorsed by the Regional Canada Goose Management Strategy Working Group on August 31, 2011.