



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

May 11, 2020

Dear Canada Goose Round-up Applicant:

The Department of Natural Resources (Department) has made the difficult decision to greatly reduce the 2020 Canada Goose Round-up Program. In response to the economic impact to state revenue collections as a result of necessary restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Directive 2020-03 on March 30, 2020, Restrictions on Discretionary Spending During COVID-19 Emergency, places limits on all state spending. A portion of the Canada Goose Round-up Program has been identified as meeting exemption 3. c. "Activities critical to protecting the health, safety, or welfare of Michigan residents, including residents of a state institution or facility".

Based on that exemption, Canada goose round-up may continue this year, although on a greatly reduced scale to address only the instances where Canada geese need to be removed from a site for human health and safety risks. We recognize that, most often, Canada goose complaints are related to nuisance or aesthetic reasons (e.g. droppings, feathers on lawns, docks, beaches, etc.). However, there are situations where geese can pose an actual risk to human health and safety. Round-up permits will **only** be issued for human health and safety reasons and not for nuisance reasons. The Department has developed human health and safety criteria to determine a site's eligibility. Examples of sites where goose round-up may be permitted include nursing homes, medical care facilities, hospital containment ponds, car proving grounds, fire suppression ponds, wastewater treatment ponds, and public swimming beaches with elevated E. Coli counts and large numbers of Canada geese on site. Again, permits will **not** be issued for reasons of aesthetics, nuisance resolution, or convenience.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA-WS) will be in contact with you soon to inform you if your site is eligible for Canada goose round-up this summer. For sites that are not eligible, your 2020 Round Up (Capture) and hold Canada Geese Permit Applications and application fees will be returned. For those applications where fees have already been processed, please be aware that refunds may take some time for the Department to process.

Thank you for your understanding during these unusual circumstances and we apologize for this inconvenience. If you have questions regarding the status of your permit, please contact Mr. Jake Nave, Wildlife Specialist, USDA-WS, at MI.Goose.Permits@usda.gov or 517-318-3475.

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For questions regarding the Canada Goose Program, please contact Ms. Barbara Avers,
Waterfowl and Wetland Specialist, Wildlife Division, at aversb@michigan.gov or 517-930-1163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Kennedy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dan Kennedy
Acting Wildlife Chief

cc: Mr. Jake Nave, USDA-WS
Ms. Barb Avers, DNR
Ms. Casey Reitz, DNR