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ADC Continues With EIS Process

Robert H. Schmidt, Editor, *The Probe*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program is continuing with its preparation for a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the biological, socio-cultural, economic, and physical impacts of the ADC program. The purpose of the current EIS is to inform the public of various alternatives being considered. Through the EIS process, ADC—a division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—is attempting to develop a responsible and effective plan that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The final EIS will replace a similar document prepared in 1979 when ADC was a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

NEPA establishes policies, goals, and procedures to ensure that Federal agency decisions reflect a thorough understanding of the environmental consequences of a proposed action and its alternatives. This enables the Federal agency to inform the public about potential impacts on society and the environment.

The draft EIS issued in 1990 was part of an informational and decision-making process necessary to ensure that ADC actions met with policies and goals required by NEPA. Issues and alternatives addressed in the draft EIS were derived from agency and public comments about a variety of ADC-related topics. By the close of the comment period for the draft EIS, 1,559 comment letters had been received.

Four major areas of concern about the draft EIS evolved from the comments received by ADC.

- Did the draft EIS consider an adequate range of potential alternatives as required by NEPA?
- How does ADC make decisions about wildlife damage management?
- Did the draft EIS provide enough detail to evaluate potential risks to humans and wildlife?
- Are the proposed methods for mitigating the environmental impacts of wildlife damage and management sufficient?

ADC currently is developing responses to the comments and is making appropriate revisions to the draft. Release of a final document is expected in 1992. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management recently have joined the EIS process as cooperating agencies, which will assist in making the EIS useful for their own purposes.

There may be an opportunity for additional public comment on the EIS. It is probable that whatever the outcome of the final EIS and the accompanying Record Of Decision, there will be litigation. This makes the importance of a comprehensive, disclosing, and procedurally-correct final EIS even greater.

The primary statutory authority for the ADC program is the Animal Damage Control Act of March 2, 1931, as amended. ADC's goal is to help resolve conflicts between wildlife and agricultural, urban, or natural resources, or when wildlife present a threat to public health or safety.

In this EIS process, the objectives of ADC are: (1) to produce an EIS which complies with NEPA, (2) to have a comprehensive EIS which can be used as a foundation for new and evolving programs as they attempt to comply with NEPA, and (3) to produce a useful reference in wildlife damage management. The third objective is well on its way to being completed. Wildlife damage management professionals are looking forward to the completion of the EIS process.

The Probe thanks Rick Wadleigh, USDA/APHIS/ADC in Hyattsville, Maryland, and Gary Larson, USDA/APHIS/ADC in Washington, D.C., for their assistance with this article. For more information on the EIS, call Rick Wadleigh, ADC Environmental Management Staff Officer, at 301-436-8281.



Badger, *Taxidea taxus*



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 24-28, 1992: Ninth International Bear Conference, Missoula Montana. For further information, contact L. Jack Lyon, Intermountain Research Station, P.O. Box 8089, Missoula, MT, 69807, phone (406) 329-3485.

March 2-5, 1992: 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Hyatt Newporter, Newport Beach, California. Contact: Dr. Terrell Salmon, Business Manager, c/o DANR-North Region, University of California, Davis, CA 95616-8575, (916) 757-8874; FAX (916) 757-8817.

March 27-April 1, 1992: 57th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Radisson Plaza Hotel Charlotte and Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. Contact: L.L. Williamson, Wildlife Management Institute, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 725, Washington, D.C. 20005. Two of the session at the conference will be "Wildlife Damage Management" and "Biological Diversity in Wildlife Management". For more information about the "Wildlife Damage Management" session, contact co-chair John P. Weigand, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Bldg., Montana State University, Bozeman, MT 59717-0322.

September 13-16, 1992: International Conference on Avian Interactions with Utility Structures, Hotel International, Miami, Florida. Will focus on avian interactions with powerlines, towers, buildings, and aircraft. Contact: Ed Colson, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 3400 Crow Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA 94853, (415) 866-5461; FAX (415) 866-5318.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

The 4th North American Symposium on Society and Resource Management will be held on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus 17-20 May 1992. The Symposium theme, *Integrated Resource Management*, includes many general themes such as: Managing Agricultural Production Systems and Environmental Quality; Aquatic Systems; Conservation and Sustainable Resource Development; Cultural Resource

Management; Environmental Ethics; etc. If you wish to submit a paper or poster, please submit a typewritten, 2-page (double-spaced) abstract by 1 December 1991 to: Donald R. Field, Program Chair, School of Natural Resources, 146 Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.



NADC ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The following individuals have been selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the National Animal Damage Control Advisory Committee.

- Floyd T. Anderson, Brockett, ND, sunflower grower
- Jack H. Berryman, Fairfax, VA - Counselor Emeritus, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Elladean H. Bittner, Congress, AZ - cattle rancher
- James G. Butler, College Station, TX - cattle rancher
- Jim Curran, Fallon, NV - Wildlife Biologist with Nevada Department of Fisheries
- John H. Fitch, Augusta, ME - President of Mainewatch Institute
- Doris G. Fultz, Greensboro, NC - Associate Professor, Animal Science, North Carolina A&T State University
- John W. Grandy IV, Washington, DC - Vice President, Wildlife and Habitat Protection, Humane Society of the U.S.
- Richard L. Hackett, Ferndale, CA - sheep rancher
- Tracy L. Hanner, Bear Creek, NC - clinical veterinarian, North Carolina A&T State University
- Janice S. Henke, Queensbury, NY - lobbyist for National Trappers Association
- Inez L. Jaca, Nampa, ID - cattle rancher
- Dale H. Lundgren, Sturgis, SD - sheep rancher
- Lester W. Myers, Isola, MS - catfish producer
- Ernesto Nunez, Dade City, FL - swine producer
- Bart O'Gara, Lolo, MT - leader, Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit
- Donald K. Rolston, Cheyenne, WY - Commissioner of Agriculture, State of Wyoming
- Cynthia Siddoway, Terreton, ID - sheep rancher
- Robert R. Turner, Voss, TX - sheep and goat rancher
- Carol A. Wynne, Arlington, VA - Executive Director, Fur Information Council of America

The next NADCAC meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held December 3-5, 1991, in Denver, Colorado.

The Probe is the newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association, published 10 times per year.

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Robert M. Timm, *Hopland Field Station, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449*

Editorial Assistant:

Pamela J. Tinnin, *Laurelwood Press, Cloverdale, CA*

Your contributions to *The Probe* are welcome. Please send news clippings, new techniques, publications, and meeting notices to *The Probe*, c/o Hopland Field Station, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449. If you prefer to FAX material, our FAX number is (707) 744-1040. The deadline for submitting material is the 15th of each month.

— Animal Damage Control in the News —

MICHIGAN WOMAN, 62, FENDS OFF BEAR

According to a report in the September 2 California *Sacramento Bee*, a 62-year-old Michigan woman fought off a bear and saved her husband's life. The bear attacked Lorraine and Deane Lengkeek while they were hiking in Montana. According to the couple, they were descending a mountain trail in Glacier National Park when they surprised a female bear with two cubs. When the bear charged, the Lengkeeks flattened themselves on the ground, but their tactic didn't work. That's when Mrs. Lengkeek came up swinging—grabbing a pair of binoculars, she "...aimed for the nose" and just kept hitting. "I never quit and wasn't going to quit," said Mrs. Lengkeek. Although her husband suffered seven tooth punctures, cuts on his chest and right wrist and multiple bruises, he said "She saved my life — no question." It is not known whether it was a brown or grizzly bear.

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM DWRC

In early 1991, the International Programs Research Section (IPRS) at DWRC received inquiries from Caribbean countries regarding a variety of bird and mammal concerns. On Islands such as Grand Cayman, farmers are antagonized by parrots because the birds damage fruits and other crops. To protect the endangered parrots (*Amazona* spp.), new methods are needed to protect the crops from damage. On Montserrat, one of the avian predators attacking parrots' nests, the Pearly-eyed Thrasher (*Margarops fuscatus*), also preys on nests of the endangered Montserrat Oriole (*Icterus oberi*). In addition, it also causes crop damage. Mongooses introduced onto islands such as Saint Lucia to control sugarcane rat problems are believed to be responsible for the demise of endangered lizards and ground-nesting birds. (On Grenada, mongooses are believed to be the prime carriers of rabies.) These problems and others were evaluated by Dr. James Keith, Wildlife Biologist IPRS, in August. More studies will be done in the future to seek ways to relieve such situations.

WLFA REPORTS RAID ON WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECT

In the September issue of the *WLFA-gram*, newsletter of The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America, an article reported a "First-ever Raid on Wildlife Research Project". According to the article, members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), a well known animal rights group, claimed responsibility for a multi-building break-in at a Washington State University (WSU) wildlife research facility. The August 13 raid involved the release of coyotes, mink, and mice. Charlie Powell, information coordinator of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, said the mink and coyotes were pen reared and therefore not equipped to survive in the wild. Powell said damage will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The FBI is investigating.

RECIPES DISTRIBUTED AS REMEDY FOR BROWN TREE SNAKE PROBLEM

As part of the continuing effort to control the brown tree snake on the island of Guam, the following recipes have been distributed by the Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources.

FRIED SNAKE

- 1 pound of skinned snake cut in 1-inch pieces
- 1 cup sherry
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon Season-All
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup Italian salad dressing
- flour

Marinate pieces of snake in the mixture of sherry, pepper, season-all, lemon juice and Italian dressing for two hours. Drain and dredge with flour. Fry pieces for about 15 minutes, turning often until brown. Drain and serve hot.

SNAKE GUAM STYLE (COCONUT MILK)

- 1 pound of skinned snake cut in 1-inch pieces
- Coconut milk from two grated coconuts
- Salt to taste
- 3 cloves tumeric (grated)
- 1 whole onion sliced thin

Cook snake in 1 cup water for about 30 minutes or until tender. Add mixture of coconut milk, salt, tumeric, and onion and cook on low heat for 5 minutes. (Do not boil coconut milk mixture.) Serve hot.

NRA CREATES NEW WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Hunter Services Division of the National Rifle Association recently announced the creation of its Wildlife Management Department. Gary S. Kania has been selected to manage this new department. Prior to accepting this position, Gary served for nine years as a wildlife researcher with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, where he studied wildlife damage, behavior, and ecology. Kania holds an undergraduate degree in wildlife management from the University of Maine, as well as two masters degrees, one in biology with an emphasis in zoology, and another in environmental education from South Connecticut State University. His training as an environmental educator will enable him to effectively communicate the necessity of hunting as a wildlife management tool. Gary recently attended the 5th Eastern Wildlife Damage Control Conference. The new department's primary responsibilities include development of educationally sound pro-hunting materials for school curricula, and providing biologically sound expertise on hunting-related issues, legislation, and regulatory proposals. Gary can be contacted at (202) 828-6241.

The editors of The Probe thank contributors to this issue: Ron Thompson, Darrell Gretz, Dick Curnow, Ken Garner, and Wes Jones. Send your contributions to The Probe, 4070 University Road, Hopland, CA 95449.

Nominations for NADCA for 1992-93

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Wes Jones, has recommended a slate of candidates to serve NADCA for 1992-93. However, additional nominees have been solicited from the membership, in accordance with the NADCA Bylaws, (see October *Probe*, issue #115).

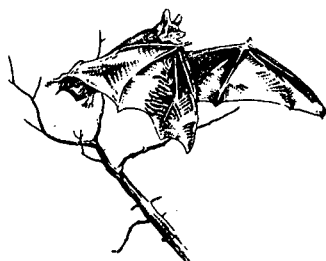
These are the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee:

Officers

President - Terrell P. Salmon, CA
Vice President, West - Derrell Gretz, CO
Vice President, East - James E. Miller, VA
Secretary - Michael D. Hoy, AR
Treasurer - Wes R. Jones, WI

Regional Directors

1. Tom R. Hoffman, OR
2. Franklin Anderson, CO
3. Craig L. Maycock, WY
4. Albert V. Bivings, AR
5. Charles S. Brown, NE
6. Laine Stowell, WI
7. James E. Forbes, NY
8. Phillip W. Eggborn, VA
9. Kenneth Garner, TN



These are the geographic regions within NADCA:

Regions

Region 1 - AK, CA, HI, NV, OR, WA
Region 2 - AZ, CO, NM, UT
Region 3 - ID, MT, WY,
Region 4 - AR, LA, OK, TX
Region 5 - IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD
Region 6 - IL, IN, MI, OH, WI
Region 7 - CT, PA, RI, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT
Region 8 - DC, DE, MD, NC, SC, VA, WV
Region 9 - AL, FL, GA, KY MS, TN

The final date for Wes Jones to receive additional nominations was November 12. All members will be receiving ballots by mail shortly.

Where Your NADCA Dues Go...

The activities of your organization are supported by the time, efforts, and dedication of all its members...and by the dues and other financial contributions received.

Members occasionally ask, "Where does my \$15 dues go?" According to the organization's financial records, which are maintained by Treasurer Wes Jones and shared regularly with the Board, here's the answer:

About \$10 of every \$15 received as dues from Active members supports production, printing, and mailing of our *Probe* newsletter (ten issues per year, plus a membership list). The rest of our dues, plus periodic donations and contributions above the "Active member" level, assist in supporting the various other activities of our organization. These include the following: defraying travel costs of officers and directors (particularly those persons retired, who do not have the opportunity to utilize travel funds provided by their employers); providing sponsorship and awards for the various wildlife damage control conferences; and defraying other postage, telephone, and printing costs incurred by the organization.

According to our treasurer, NADCA's financial resources as of October 1991 totalled approximately \$5,500. How can we build a stronger organization? The answer is simple—MORE MEMBERS! Enlist a friend, acquaintance, or colleague to join NADCA today! Give them the application from this copy of the *Probe* (or a photocopy with your name on it), and thereby enter yourself in the membership contest—the shotgun could be yours. More members will result in a lower per-unit cost of each issue of the *Probe*...and more dollars to support the other important functions of our organization.

Co-Editor Schmidt Moves To Utah

Probe Co-editor Robert Schmidt has recently accepted a position on the faculty of Utah State University at Logan. Schmidt joins the Fisheries & Wildlife Department as part of a group developing a model academic program in wildlife damage control. Previously, Schmidt was Extension Natural Resources Specialist with UC Berkeley, stationed at the Hopland Field Station. Thanks to the magic of FAX machines, Schmidt will continue to co-edit the *Probe* along with Bob Timm at Hopland.

Letter to *Inside APHIS* Draws Fire From Virginia Wildlife Biologist

In an August 23 letter to *Inside APHIS*, Thomas N. Tomsa stated that "It would seem that the purpose of *Inside APHIS* is to provide factual information about and recognition of APHIS people and programs, and not to serve as a forum for personal or political positions." Tomsa is a wildlife biologist with the Virginia office of USDA-APHIS-Animal Damage Control.

Tomsa's strong response came after a letter in an earlier issue of *Inside APHIS* from John M. Coffin, V.M.D., which harshly criticized ADC. In his letter, Coffin stated that "...trapping and poisoning are indiscriminate methods that are a serious hazard to many endangered species that we want to protect." Coffin also cited coyote control measures as a "blind, primitive reaction" which has been "failing for over a hundred years" as well as the "primitive methods" which he claimed capture only the younger and less intelligent coyotes.

Tomsa strongly disagreed with Coffin, stating that "Wildlife damage problems, including livestock losses to coyotes, are approached both socially and scientifically by professional wildlife biologists specially trained in the area of wildlife damage management." Although he agreed with Coffin that coyotes have "spread their range across the country", Tomsa believes that the population increase is a "testimonial to the intelligence and adaptability of the species", not a "reflection of the ability of ADC to control coyote damage problems."

Stressing that the effectiveness of ADC operations "cannot be judged without comparing rates of predation loss prior to and subsequent to application of controls", Tomsa found that Coffin's judgement that coyote damage control efforts have failed hardly seems objective, considering "...the magnitude of predation loss that would be incurred in the absence of ADC operations".

In Tomsa's experience in a pilot coyote damage control program in New York, the average predation loss rate experienced by thirty-two program cooperators was reduced from one sheep killed per three days prior to the onset of ADC operations to one sheep killed per 230 days subsequent to ADC operations. "This reduction was achieved using a combination of lethal and non-lethal damage control methods. ADC utilizes the latest technology and methodology developed by the Denver Wildlife Research Center and other wildlife agencies and organizations to ensure that damage control techniques are as effective, selective, and humane as possible," said Tomsa.

Regarding Coffin's statement that ADC control programs pose hazards to "many endangered species", Tomsa firmly believes that ADC operations do not pose hazards to threatened or endangered wildlife species. "On the contrary," he said, "ADC conducts predator control activities in cooperation with other agencies to protect and enhance reproduction of several endangered species (California Least Tern, Piping Plover, etc.)."

Tomsa stated that ADC's greatest challenge is in educating the public, "so that we might be more accurately perceived as a professional, responsible assistance program, accountable to the public and sensitive to its needs."

NADCA Logo Contest Still On!

Rules for this contest are minimal. Send your logo sketch to the Treasurer, Route 1, Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871. The logo should be suitable for use on patches, hats, letterheads, and publications. We hope to be able to confirm the selection at the Vertebrate Pest Conference in California in March 1992. The prize for the creative winner will be a fine set of predator calls donated by Lohman Manufacturing Col. of Neosho, Missouri, along with one of the aforementioned hats plus one year's prepaid membership.

If that prize is not enough to motivate you, how about this? All the names of the persons submitting entries for the contest (but not selected) will be in a drawing for one of our official NADCA hats. Two chances at a prize — one based on creativity, the other on luck!



MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE CONTEST Strengthen NADCA and win two ways!

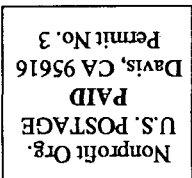
THE PRIZE — A handsome 12-gauge automatic shotgun, Remington Model 11-87 Special Purpose, with ventilated rib and choke tubes. New for 1991 at a suggested retail price of \$605! Shipped to a USA address.

CURRENT MEMBERS — The rules are simple — pass this page on to a person you believe should be a member of NADCA. If they submit a paid membership application using this page, your name will be placed in a group from which one name will be drawn for the prize. Two-page or double-sided photocopies are legal for multiple entries; the more you hand out, the more chances for you to win. The determining factor for members — check the expiration date on the mailing label on the reverse. If it isn't the current month or later, you better get out that checkbook pronto!

NEW MEMBERS — You have a chance to win a prize also; in fact, you have two chances if you sign up early! If your membership application is the one drawn for the grand prize above, you will be refunded the amount you paid for membership. Your second chance? New members signing up before the next mailing of this newsletter will then be "Current Members" as above, and will also be competing for the Grand Prize by recruiting additional members.

CLOSING DATE — The contest will close on March 2, 1992. The drawing will be at an open meeting at the 15th Vertebrate Pest Conference, Newport Beach, California.





Terrell P. Salmon
DANR-North Region
University of California
Davis, CA 95616-8575

Membership Application

NATIONAL ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Wes Jones, Treasurer, Route 1 Box 37, Shell Lake, WI 54871

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ Office Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Dues \$ _____ Donation \$: _____ Total \$: _____ Date: _____

(Underline: Student \$7.50, Active \$15, Sponsor \$30, Patron \$100)

Check or Money Order payable to NADCA

Select one type of occupation or principal interest:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Pest Control Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> USDA - APHIS - ADC | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal - other than APHIS | <input type="checkbox"/> State Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADC Equipment/Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> University |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ | |