



## Work Instruction (WI)

**DIRECTIVE NO.** 250-WI-8500.1.1C  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 11/13/2015  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** 11/13/2020

**APPROVED BY Signature:**   
**NAME:** Edward A. Connell  
**TITLE:** Chief, Medical and Environmental Management Division

### COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY

**Responsible Office:** 250 / Medical and Environmental Management Division

**Title:** Goose Egg Addling

#### PREFACE

##### P.1 PURPOSE

This Work Instruction (WI) defines the procedures for performing goose egg addling. Goose egg addling is authorized at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) to control the local population of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*).

##### P.2 APPLICABILITY

This instruction applies to Medical and Environmental Management Division (MEMD) civil servants and their authorized contractors at Greenbelt only.

##### P.3 REFERENCES

- a. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries PART 21 – MIGRATORY BIRD PERMITS Subpart D – Control of Depredating and Otherwise Injurious Birds
- b. Registration website for egg addling for the season between January to June on The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Resident Canada Goose website  
<https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx> as registration must be done between January 1 and June 30. Egg addling occurs only from months of March through June.
- c. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)/Animal Damage Control (ADC), Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage, Waterfowl, 1994

##### P.4 CANCELLATION

250-WI-8500.1.1B Goose Egg Addling

##### P.5 TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS

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Field tools, equipment, materials, and personal protective equipment (PPE) include:

- Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log to record number of eggs added, nests affected, locations of nests, and any additional information deemed important;
- GSFC site map to mark locations of nests;
- Protective gloves;
- Boat (and life jackets) to reach nests on islands;
- 100% food grade, non-aerosol oil;
- Bucket large enough for eggs to float freely;
- Water to fill bucket;
- Rags and towels;
- Trash bags for egg disposal;
- Pen or pencil to record data; and
- Fending tools (protective metal or plastic shields, umbrellas, or others).

**P.6 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND WARNINGS**

All egg adding procedures shall be performed by at least two people.

The goose egg adding procedures present a risk to human health due to the possible aggressive nature of geese attempting to protect their nests. Egg adding also may pose a threat to human health through bacteria associated with egg handling. While performing adding, a metal or plastic shield should be available to protect against geese. The use of two people allows one person to fend off geese while the other carries out the egg adding procedures. Fending tools, such as an open umbrella, can serve as a means of scaring the geese or creating a protective barrier. Plastic, rubber, or latex gloves should be worn during the process to protect from possible bacteria on the eggs and to keep hands clean from oil. Long pants, long sleeve shirt, and sturdy shoes should be worn to protect against ticks and other insects.

A completed Job Hazard Analysis for this job task is maintained by MEMD.

**P.7 TRAINING**

None.

**P.8 RECORDS**

Record Title	Record Custodian	Retention
Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log (for activities performed by GSFC)	MEMD	*8/23.5A3a Note 3. Destroy 5 years after superseded or when no longer needed, whichever is later.

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Registration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Annual Report submitted on website	MEMD	*8/23.5A3a Note 3. Destroy 5 years after superseded or when no longer needed, whichever is later.
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\* *NRRS – NASA Records Retention Schedule (NPR 1441.1)*

## P.9 MEASUREMENT/VERIFICATION

None.

### Instructions

In this document, a requirement is identified by "shall," a good practice by "should," permission by "may" or "can," expectation by "will," and descriptive material by "is."

### 1. Method Summary

Goose egg addling is performed as one means to control the GSFC population of Canada Geese. Canada Geese begin to mate in early spring. They prefer to make their nests near a body of water with a clear view of the surrounding area. They also prefer natural or human-made barriers that protect one side of their nest from approach, while allowing a clear view of the remaining area; therefore, they tend to make nests near fences or buildings. Geese tend to make their nests in the same area each year, therefore, it is important to keep an accurate record of the locations of the nests for use in the following years. The USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services provides guidelines for egg addling in the Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage report. The USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services are co-permittees and are authorized to participate in depredation at GSFC.

Egg addling shall be performed by authorized MEMD personnel or designated contractor.

Egg addling shall be performed each year between the months of March and June. The egg addling procedures have been adopted from USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services. In accordance with the registration, an annual report shall be submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regardless of whether or not eggs were treated. Final report shall be submitted on the registration website by October 31 if egg addling is performed that year.

### 2. Preparation

The following preparation instructions shall be followed:

- a. Register to perform egg addling work per instructions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's website <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>.

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- b. Documentation of geese nesting dates should be kept to improve accuracy of egg addling times. Since geese tend to mate and nest at the same time each year, records on the dates of nesting will be useful in determining nesting times for the following years. If these records are not kept, then knowledgeable local authorities or individuals should be consulted to determine likely goose nesting periods.
- c. Locating nests should start in early spring when nesting typically begins. Egg addling should be performed between March and June only by regulation.
- d. Use observation to determine when nesting has begun. A good indication of the beginning of nesting is when geese begin to pair up, stay in one spot and chase other geese away.
- e. Record the location of nests on the Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log sheet.

### 3. Procedures

The following procedures shall be followed:

- a. Review the Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log for the location of prior nesting sites.
- b. Obtain necessary materials and PPE.  
Review all egg addling procedures with protocols stated by authorities. For instance, information about Canada goose nesting management, including addling protocols, can be found in "Management of Canada Goose Nesting" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, August 2009, at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/downloads/canada\\_goose.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/downloads/canada_goose.pdf).
- c. Two people shall participate in the procedures. One person should perform the necessary egg addling and the other should protect the first from aggressive geese.
- d. When boating is necessary, passengers shall wear life jackets.
- e. Don protective shields and gloves.
- f. Make weekly inspections of grounds to look for nests and eggs.
- g. **Approach nests with caution and be prepared for aggressive geese attempting to protect their nests.**
- h. Once nests are located and eggs begin to appear, gently feel them to see if they are warm. If they are not warm this indicates that incubation has not begun, because the clutch is not complete and the goose will continue to lay more eggs. If the eggs are not warm, you may mark the nest and come back within a week, or simply move on to a new nest. If the eggs are warm continue with the following procedures.
- i. Eggs that are 14 days or older shall not be addled. The life of the egg does not start until incubation has begun. If the age of the eggs cannot be determined by weekly inspections the float test shall be used.
- j. To perform the float test, fill a bucket with enough water that it will be possible to distinguish between floating and sinking eggs. Obtain the water from either a nearby body of water or from personal supply. Place the eggs individually in the bucket of water, if the egg stays at the bottom, it is under 14 days old and can be addled. If the egg floats to the top, it is 14 days or older and cannot be addled.

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- k. If any eggs in the nest are 14 days or older, return all the eggs and locate a new nest. Incubation typically does not occur until all eggs have been laid. Therefore, all eggs in the nest should be the same or close in age.
- l. If all eggs in the nest are below 14 days old, dry them thoroughly with rags or towels prior to oiling.
- m. Oil the eggs with 100% food grade oil.
- n. Eggs can be oiled by rubbing, dipping, or spraying using a non-aerosol container.
- o. Evenly coat the entire egg with a light to moderate amount of oil.
- p. Eggs may be returned to the nest, buried in place, or removed and destroyed. Returning the eggs to the nest causes the goose to continue to incubate; therefore, preventing additional egg laying. Burying eggs reduces the effect of eggs possibly bursting and releasing an obnoxious odor. It is considered best to leave oiled eggs to recycle naturally.
- q. If it is necessary to destroy the nests, eggs shall be collected in a trash bag and disposed of.
- r. **If removal of nonviable eggs is deemed necessary, be prepared for possible bursting and obnoxious odors.**
- s. Proceed to a new nest and repeat the above procedures.
- t. Use the Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log to record location, date, number of eggs in clutch, number of eggs addled, number of nests affected, and what was done with the eggs. Record any additional comments that may be deemed important.
- u. On GSFC site map, mark locations of nests. This can be used to keep track of nests visited and help locate nests in the following years.
- v. Egg addling shall be performed each year, in accordance with the limitations set forth in the current Depredation Permit or Egg Addling registration.

#### 4. Record Keeping

The following record keeping procedures shall be followed:

- a. The number of eggs and nests that were treated and the final disposition of the eggs shall be documented on the Canada Goose Egg Treatment Log sheet and the Annual Report Form on website <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx> (website login information is retained by the responsible civil servant in MEMD). This report shall be completed and filed annually with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a condition of the permit. This report shall be completed and filed even if egg addling has not been performed for that year.
- b. Records shall be legibly written.
- c. Maintain records in accordance with section P.8. All records and permits shall be made readily available for inspections.

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## Flow Diagram

None

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### **Appendix A – Definitions**

- A.1 Clutch – all the eggs laid and incubated together by one goose.
- A.2 Egg addling – any process by which an egg ceases to be viable.
- A.3 Egg oiling – a method for suppressing reproduction of birds by applying a small quantity of 100% food grade vegetable or corn oil on eggs in nests.
- A.4 Float test – the process of placing eggs in a bucket of water to see if they float or sink, in order to determine if eggs are 14 days of age or less.
- A.5 Nesting – when birds build a shelter to hold their eggs.

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### **Appendix B – Acronyms**

ADC – Animal Damage Control  
APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations  
GSFC – Goddard Space Flight Center  
MEMD – Medical and Environmental Management Division  
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

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**CHANGE HISTORY LOG**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Description of Changes</b>
Baseline	6/6/2005	Initial Release
A	1/21/2010	Changed all references from Safety and Environmental Division (S&E) to Medical and Environmental Management Division (MEMD) due to division reorganization. Updated signature block.
B	11/30/2010	3. Procedures: Changed to use US Dept of Agriculture Management of Canada Geese. 4. Record Management: Changed the documentation of addled egg information to entering on US Fish and Wildlife website.
C	11/13/2015	Updated to new template. P.3 References: Removed Humane Society Egg Addling Protocol. P.5 Tools, Equipment, and Materials: Updated type of oil to be used. P.7, Training: Changed to "None." P.8, Records: Updated retention schedule and removed Job Safety Analysis. 1. Method Summary: Added designated contractor to list of those authorized to perform this task. 3. Procedures: Made editorial changes. 4. Record Keeping: Item a reporting conditions were updated. Item c the word section was added before P8. Appendix B: Removed EPA and Humane Society (HSUS).

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