



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

NOV 26 2010

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Mr. Foster Fell

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Dear Mr. Fell:

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

This is in response to your October 22, 2010, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, which was received on October 22, 2010, and assigned FOIA case number 11-042.

Freedom of  
Information

Specifically, you requested all communications between the Office of Wildlife Services (WS) and Bend Park and Recreation District (BMPRD) regarding management of resident population of Canadian geese on BMPRD land. Also, you seek copies of videos taken of the roundup, capture, and subsequent gassing of the 109 Canada geese which were exterminated on June 28 or 29, 2010. In addition to the requested information above, you seek answers to the following questions:

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

- (1) BMPRD had actually achieved zero population growth of its resident goose population growth of its resident goose population using nonlethal methods (Bend Bulletin, June 23, 2010). In WS guidelines zero population growth is cited as evidence that a management program is working. Why did Wildlife Services ignore its own guidelines by recommending extermination?
- (2) BMPRD reported to Geese Peace, National Director David Feld, that fewer goslings had been hatched in 2010 than in previous years.
- (3) Geese Peace held workshops in April 2010 for BMPRD in order to improve its already promising nonlethal methodology. Why did WS then urge BMPD not to give the Geese Peace recommendations adequate time to be tested but to immediately change course and proceed with the June 29, 2010, extermination.

The Office of Wildlife Services conducted a search of their files and located the enclosed 25 pages of correspondence responsive to your request. Portions of information has been withheld under Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) of the FOIA. Exemption 6 permits the Government to protect from disclosure information that would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The release of this information will not shed any light on Government operations. Specifically, we have withheld the names and signatures of company employees from the enclosures. No video tapes were found.

With regard to your questions listed above, the FOIA is a records disclosure statute which does not require an agency to answer questions posed in a request or create records to respond to a request.



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FOIA 11-042

You may appeal our partial denial of this information. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter. Send to:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401

Please refer to FOIA 11-042 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

All fees for processing your request have been waived. If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Staff

Sincerely,

Tonya G. Woods  
Director  
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosures