

Phasing in the Use of Nonlead Ammunition

Rancho Cordova
July 29, 2014



Requirements of the law

1. Establish regulations by July 2015 that phase-in requirements
2. Fully implement by July 2019
3. Implement as soon as practicable
4. Maintain existing certification process
5. Maintain existing Condor zone restrictions
6. Exemption for potential ATF ban
7. Establish coupon (incentive) program if funding becomes available



DFW starting point proposal

2015 - Nonlead would be required for:

- Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves
- Bighorn sheep

Reasoning:

- WA and ER = 925,000 ac, high densities of hunters, other ecological values
- Sheep hunting = small group of hunters



DFW starting point proposal

2016 - Nonlead would be required for:

- Larger (most) game birds, including turkeys (waterfowl size shot)
- Small game mammals (by shotgun)
- Non-game, depredation and furbearers (by shotgun)

Reasoning:

- Nonlead shot (waterfowl size) readily available for larger game birds, small mammals, nongame and furbearers



DFW starting point proposal

2019 - Nonlead would be required for the take of all wildlife:

- All big game
- All remaining game birds
- Small game mammals (by rifle/handgun)
- Non-game, depredation and furbearers (by rifle/handgun)
- Muzzle loaders

Reasoning:

- Uncertainty about field testing equipment (LED)
- Uncertainty about availability/market response



Outreach to date:

1. January 11 – International Sportsmen’s Expo
2. January 15 – WRC Meeting, Van Nuys
3. March 1 - Natl. Wild Turkey Fed., Vacaville
4. March 18 – Director’s Hunting Advisory Committee, Sacramento
5. March 28-29 – Fred Hall Show, Del Mar
6. April 15 – Public Workshop, Ventura
7. June 3 – Public Workshop, Eureka
8. July 19 – DU Meeting, Corning
9. July 19 – Public Workshop, Redding
10. July 28 – WRC Meeting, Sacramento



Scheduled meetings:

1. July 29 – Public Workshop, Rancho Cordova
2. August 5 – Public Workshop, San Diego
3. August 12 - Public Workshop, Fresno
4. August 19 - Public Workshop, Rancho Cucamonga
5. Sept. 17 – Regulation recommendation at WRC meeting in Sacramento



Comments received (cont.)

General transition to nonlead:

1. Help hunters learn about availability of nonlead ammo (not just on web)
2. Nonlead shooting clinics needed
3. Are nonlead shotgun slugs available for deer on Wildlife Areas?
4. Is there nonlead for .177 caliber?
5. Nonlead ammo for rimfire cartridges not available
6. Economic impacts (DFW and hunters)?
7. Will there be a lead buy-back program?



Comments received (cont.)

8. Are there lead-free alloys for people who cast their own bullets?
9. New choke tubes needed for nonlead turkey and upland game loads
10. Would nonlead ammunition be required for handguns used for personal protection?
11. How will hand loads be certified?
12. Increased risk of fire with nonlead ammo



Comments received (cont.)

13. Policy needs to be developed for enforcement
14. Enforcement staff time will be diverted from more important work
15. Increased costs to train enforcement staff
16. DFW officers need non-destructive testing methods for projectiles
17. DFW enforcement of this law is Tyranny
18. Takings issue with not being able to use up lead ammo stocks?



Comments received to date

Specific comments on phasing:

1. Defer nonlead on public lands to 2016 or 2019
2. Delay the ban for licensed game bird clubs
3. Require full implementation in 2015
4. Complete phase-in of nonlead by 2016
5. A longer phase-in period would be more fair



Comments received (cont.)

6. Postpone implementation until manufacturers can develop available and affordable substitutes
7. ATF armor piercing ban will stifle development and production of nonlead ammunition
8. Allow an exception for older firearms
8. Allow muzzleloaders to continue to use lead
9. Post list of comments on DFW web page



Written and emailed comments

wildlifemgmt@wildlife.ca.gov

or

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: Non-lead implementation
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811



Questions or comments?

