

Phasing in the Use of Nonlead Ammunition

San Diego, CA
August 5, 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
11. July 29 – Public Workshop, Rancho Cordova



Scheduled meetings:

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



Comments received to date

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 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 while hunting?
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. Takings issue with not being able to use up lead ammo stocks?



Comments received (cont.)

Specific comments on phasing:

1. Defer nonlead requirement on public lands to 2016 or 2019
2. Delay the ban for licensed game bird clubs
3. A longer phase-in period would be more fair
4. Postpone implementation until manufacturers can develop available and affordable substitutes



Comments received (cont.)

5. Allow an exception for older firearms
6. Allow muzzleloaders to continue to use lead
7. ATF armor piercing ban will stifle development and production of nonlead ammunition
8. Require full implementation in 2015
9. Complete phase-in of nonlead by 2016
10. Build in as much flexibility as possible
11. 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?



Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5

(i) The commission shall promulgate regulations by July 1, 2015, that phase in the requirements of this section. The requirements of this section shall be fully implemented statewide by no later than July 1, 2019. If any of the requirements of this section can be implemented practicably, in whole or in part, in advance of July 1, 2019, the commission shall implement those requirements. The commission shall not reduce or eliminate any existing regulatory restrictions on the use of lead ammunition in California condor range unless or until the additional requirements for use of nonlead ammunition as required by this section are implemented.



Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5

(j) (1) The prohibition in subdivision (b) shall be temporarily suspended for a specific hunting season and caliber upon a finding by the director that nonlead ammunition of a specific caliber is not commercially available from any manufacturer because of federal prohibitions relating to armor-piercing ammunition pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code.



Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5

(d) (1) To the extent that funding is available, the commission shall establish a process that will provide hunters with nonlead ammunition at no or reduced charge. The process shall provide that the offer for nonlead ammunition at no or reduced charge may be redeemed through a coupon sent to a permit holder with the appropriate permit tag. If available funding is not sufficient to provide nonlead ammunition at no charge, the commission shall set the value of the reduced charge coupon at the maximum value possible through available funding, up to the average cost within this state for nonlead ammunition, as determined by the commission.



Fish and Game Code Section 3004.5

(2) The nonlead ammunition coupon program described in paragraph (1) shall be implemented only to the extent that sufficient funding, as determined by the Department of Finance, is obtained from local, federal, public, or other nonstate sources in order to implement the program.

