Non-Lead Ammunition Benefits All Wildlife

Golden Eagle, Jesus Giraldo Gutierrez, Shutter Stock

Lead ammunition easily fragments upon impact, scattering tiny bits of lead and lead alloy through game.

Lead fragments contaminate meat and viscera. There is **no safe level of lead for wildlife or people**.

Scavenging wildlife such as Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, Condors, and Vultures which ingest parts of animals killed with lead (even gut piles) are poisoned by it. They experience loss of mobility, impaired nervous system function, organ failure, and suppressed immune systems.

- California Condor recovery is threatened by lead-contaminated prey items
- Golden Eagle populations are in decline due in part to lead-contaminated prey
- Bald Eagle population resilience is threatened by lead
- Scavenging Raptors in Southern States have been found with high levels of lead

- Hunters and their families may be endangered by ingesting lead in game killed with lead ammunition.

LEAD POISONING FROM AMMUNITION IS PREVENTABLE

Non-lead ammunition is widely available and removes the threat of lead poisoning.

Lead bullet fragmentation upon entry into ballistics gel

Copper bullet upon entry into ballistics gel

- Non-lead ammunition is comparable in price to premium lead bullets
- Non-lead ammunition is just as, if not more, effective as lead ammunition
- Lead ammunition was banned in waterfowl hunting in 1991 with little to no effect on the amount of waterfowl hunting done in the United States

Three Ps of Non-Lead Ammo (From Arizona Game and Fish)

Precision — All non-lead ammunition is milled, one bullet at a time, on metal lathes utilizing uniform tools to ensure each bullet is identical, which improves precision.

Traditional lead-based bullets are created in a brass cup with molten lead. This manufacturing process introduces inconsistencies that can reduce precision in the field.

Performance — Most non-lead bullets peel open rather than mushroom under compression as a lead bullet does. This opening mechanism requires less energy, while retaining nearly 100 percent of the bullet weight. This results in greater impact at reasonable ranges and deeper penetration.

Price — Non-lead bullets are all premium bullets and when compared to premium lead-based bullets are very similar in price. While cheaper lead-based options exist, they do not deliver the same performance on game as premium bullets.

HUNTERS LEADING THE WAY TO CONSERVATION

The North American Non-Lead Partnership empowers hunters with knowledge and resources to conserve wildlife and natural resources.

https://nonleadpartnership.org/home/en

RESOURCES

https://youtu.be/hwQcGLJlhkk

Scientific Papers on Lead from huntingwithnonlead.org:
https://huntingwithnonlead.org/research/studies

Videos from huntingwithnonlead.org: https://huntingwithnonlead.org/research/videos

STATES WITH NON-LEAD WEBSITES

California

Hunting in California
https://wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting

Minnesota

Hunting Ammunition Index
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/ammo/index.html

Lead Information for Deer Hunters
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/ammo/lead.html

Get The Lead Out Loon Poisoning
https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/leadout.html

Maine

Hunting and Trapping Landing Page
https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/index.html

Hunting with Nonlead Ammunition
https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/nonlead-ammunition.html

Utah

Hunters Helping Condors
https://wildlife.utah.gov/hunters-helping-condors.html

Washington

Game Bird and Small Game Regulations
https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/migratory-waterfowl-upland-game

Non-toxic Shot Requirement
https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/migratory-waterfowl-upland-game/non-toxic-shot