

Phasing in the Use of Nonlead Ammunition

Redding Community Center
July 19, 2014



Our purpose today...

- Get your input on least disruptive timeline to phase-in the requirements of the law
- Focus on implementation, not the pros and cons of the law.
- AB 711 was signed by the governor and took effect on January 1, 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 approach

1. Share a starting point proposal that implements phases based on current understanding of availability (practicable)
2. Implement an aggressive outreach program
3. Work with the Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee to develop regulation recommendation
4. Timing goal = one regulation recommendation by September 2014



Current uncertainties

1. Availability of field testing equipment for law enforcement
2. True availability of existing nonlead ammunition – would it meet demand?
3. Potential availability – what would be the market response to regulation?
4. How much lead time does the market need?

DFW starting point reflects these



Current understanding of availability

1. Ammunition in general in short supply
2. For some gauges and calibers, nonlead will probably always be hard if not impossible to get
3. Need to distinguish between “product availability” and “market availability”



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 cont'd

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



Overview of outreach efforts

1. Series of meetings around the state
2. Specific contact to manufacturers, retailers
3. Check-in at Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee meeting on July 28th
4. One recommendation to WRC in September
5. Commission initiates a 3-meeting rule-making process for adoption by July 2015



Comments received to date

General transition to nonlead:

1. Help hunters learn about availability of nonlead ammo
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. Will there be a lead buy-back program?
7. How will license sales be impacted?



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. DFW officers need non-destructive testing methods for projectiles



Comments received (cont.)

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. Postpone implementation until manufacturers can develop available and affordable substitutes



Comments received (cont.)

6. A longer phase-in period would be more fair
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

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or

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Attn: Non-lead implementation
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Questions and comments?

