



Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

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Resolution No. 2015-001

May 27, 2015

Resolution on the support of tribal efforts to reduce or look for alternative non-lead ammunition for the taking of wildlife on tribal lands.

Lead-based ammunition poses significant health risks to humans and wildlife. Lead is a potent neurotoxicant that is unsafe for humans, wildlife and the environment. Lead ammunition exposes humans and wildlife to this life-threatening poison. The Centers for Disease Control states there is no safe level of lead exposure.

Given the overwhelming evidence for the toxic effects of lead in humans and wildlife, even at very low exposure levels, convincing data that the discharge of lead-based ammunition into the environment poses significant risks of lead exposure to humans and wildlife, and the availability of non-lead alternative products for hunting, the science community supports reducing and eventually eliminating the introduction of lead into the environment from lead-based ammunition.

Whereas the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's mission is to assist Native American and Alaska Native Tribes with the conservation, protection, and enhancement of their fish and wildlife resources;

Whereas the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society's purpose, in part, is to protect, preserve and conserve the wise use of tribal fish, wildlife, and recreation resources; and to assist in the facilitation and coordination of intertribal communication in regards to fish and wildlife matters; and to improve the general welfare of tribal people through educational, charitable, as well as fish and wildlife enhancement activities; and

Whereas biologists, doctors and researchers from the science community in 2013 released a consensus statement stating the following:

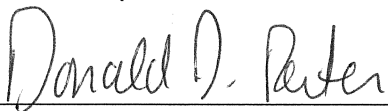
- Lead is one of the most well-studied of all anthropogenic toxins and there is overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrating that there is no safe level of lead exposure for children;
- Lead-based ammunition is likely the greatest, largely unregulated source of lead knowingly discharged into the environment in the United States;

- The discharge of lead-based ammunition and accumulation of spent lead-based ammunition in the environment poses significant health risks to humans and wildlife;
- Lead-based ammunition is a significant source of lead exposure in humans that ingest wild game, and people consuming meat shot with lead-based ammunition have been shown to have lead pellets/fragments in the gastrointestinal tract; and
- Lead poisoning from ingestion of spent lead-based ammunition fragments poses a serious and significant threat to wildlife, including wild scavenging species such as the bald eagle, golden eagle, ravens, turkey vultures, and pumas; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society supports tribal efforts to reduce or look for alternative non-lead ammunition for the taking of wildlife on tribal¹ lands.

¹ For the purposes of this resolution, tribal lands refers to those properties in which a tribe retains management interest or jurisdiction sufficient to regulate or influence the use of lead ammunition.

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2015 NAFWS National Conference and Annual Business Meeting, held at Juneau, AK, on May 20, 2015, by a vote of 49 for, 0 opposed, and no abstentions.



Donald J. Reiter,
Secretary/Treasurer