

ANTI-LEAD SHOT MYTHODOLOGY

&

ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL METHODOLOGY

**(PROPAGANDA BASED ILL-INFORMED OPINION, CONSPIRACY & "NON-PEER REVIEW")
(ALSO KNOWN AS - PSUEDO-SCIENCE, MYTHICAL SCIENCE & SUBVERSION OF SCIENCE)**

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A number of dedicated and well qualified environmentalists have made contributions towards these notes; the purpose being to outline the major environmental and wildlife disasters that are continually generated by - politicians, government departments, quasi-governmental groups, and to also detail how these and certain 'conservation groups' conspire to 'invent' scientific research results in an effort to indoctrinate their policies on the public; largely to obtain funding for more 'psuedo-research', in order to justify their anti-lead mythodology, the use of the insidiously deadly 1080 poison, expand their funding sources, and much more; all at the expense of our historically unique environment and its wildlife.

WHEN & WHERE THE ANTI-LEAD SHOT MYTHODOLOGY STARTED

Only over recent years it has become widely known amongst shooting sports enthusiasts and environmentalists that the anti-lead shot brigade's 'scientific evidence' either does not exist or the 'evidence' is a figment of someone's imagination, or it has been fabricated – **MYTHODOLGY**; i.e. scientific opinion and/or propaganda, that is not based on **honest** scientific research, or on any research at all!

It is also now widely known that the anti-lead shot programme (now extended to anti-lead projectiles) is nothing more than a Western-bloc method (promoted by UN & most EU members) of restricting the sporting use of firearms; yet it is hunters in Western-bloc countries and other developed countries that have continually made the greatest contribution towards the welfare of wildlife – particularly waterfowl and their habitats.

Back in the late 1950's US Government financed research commenced to **prove** that wild waterfowl die from ingesting lead shot, but when this research failed to determine this hypothesis a large number of '**pseudo-research**' programmes were created – programmes that saw high numbers of captive waterfowl dosed with massive quantities of lead shot; this resulted in a number of birds dying, which was hardly surprising as the lead dosage was at least a hundred times greater than any bird would/could possibly ingest in the wild. Just Google – "**DOSING DUCKS WITH LEAD SHOT**"

After that and whilst still in its infancy, the United Nations identified the opportunity to establish a world-wide anti-lead/anti-shooting sports programme; a programme with the sole aim of curtailing the growth of shooting sports, and at the same time take firearms out of private hands in the late 1950's – **many years ahead of George Orwell's "1984"**! But just 10-years after George actually wrote the book!

LEAD IN THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2012 investigations by the UK's Countryside Alliance into lead in the environment revealed that research carried out by the UK's Dept of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs determined that over thirty commonly eaten foods contained elements of lead – none of which had come from lead shot! This is well covered in the Countryside Alliance publication - **"A CASE FOR LEAD"**. (Copies available) **So far no humans have been recorded as dying through from eating any of these vegetables - and no waterfowl living in the wild have died from ingesting lead shot!**

In January 2016 UK research determined that BEER also contained a significant lead content: <http://www.shootinguk.co.uk/guns/ammunition/there-is-more-lead-in-beer-than-game-meat-say-mps-51041>

PSUEDO-SCIENCE

Eminent Australian scientist, **John Reid**, had this to say about the 'modern scientific' approach to 'research':

"There are issues concerning the way science and scientists are perceived by the public and by themselves. Why is it assumed that science always gets it right, that only industry is capable of wrecking the environment?

There are issues about the unholy alliance between environmental scientists on the government payroll and environmental activists and lobby groups acting politically.

There are issues about the way in which scientists continue to produce those environmental "threats" which have proven so useful in maintaining projects' funding."

In other words - make the science fit a pre-determined outcome (pseudo-science) – and always follow/support the funding source!

MYTHODOLOGY

In **New Zealand** it works like this: activist groups that rarely make any constructive environmental contribution, such as: Forest & Bird, Greenpeace, the Green Party, Dept of Conservation (plus all other NZ Government Departments), NZ Fish & Game Council, Save Animals from Exploitation, etc., and **Overseas**: the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the US Fish & Game Service, etc., all conspire to use pseudo-science to push for national and international action on 'invented issues' - particularly in areas such as health or the environment; even whilst knowing that the issue invariably contains no genuine scientific support. **Then** an international agreement is rapidly established, and 'the science' on which it is based becomes institutionalised and funded by government.

Time and again when this happens "the science" stops being science; because the scientists working on the relevant topic start being advocates and stop being researchers. After all, they are now being paid by the bureaucracy to support a particular doctrine, not to discover new stuff! (*Most of this is courtesy John Reid*)

<http://blackjay.net/?p=237> (*The Subversion of Science*)

Peter Scott, an ardent wildfowler, founded the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust in the UK in 1947, in association with a number of his shooting companions and with most of its early members being wildfowlers. Sadly, the WWT's anti-lead shot stance is costing it dearly; not only with a loss of members and potential members, but also in the demise of its once high profile!

Between 1979 & 1982 I organised (built the crates and provided the birds) to export NZ Brown teal, NZ Scaup, NZ Shoveler and NZ Grey duck to the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, but as a direct result of this totally counter-productive WWT anti-lead shot nonsense I have filed my entire collection of WWT's annual publication - dating back to 1947 - in our attic – and I will never again be associated with this organisation!

*But, 18 of Peter Scott's books will remain in my library as I am certain that if he was still alive he would be **very** unimpressed with WWT's change of direction!*

AND - FROM THE USA'S HUNT FOR TRUTH

The crux of anti-hunting activists' argument against traditional ammunition rests on the misplaced assertion that the use of lead ammunition for hunting also leads to elevated lead exposure and poisoning in scavenging animals, such as the California Condor, that allegedly ingest fragments of spent ammunition contained in carcasses left in the field by hunters. **(After a total ban of lead ammunition in California it was found that this assertion was untrue and was simply another mythological attack on shooting sports!)**

The 'scientific studies' relied on by the anti-lead proponents have never been scientifically sound, because the proponents use "psuedo-science" to support their anti-lead ammunition agenda.

HuntForTruth.org has procured, and analyzed, over one hundred thousand documents (100,000+) from governmental agencies, universities and researchers and has found systemic flaws, which include faulty methodology and sampling protocols, together with the selective use of data.

The anti-lead ammunition protagonists have employed psuedo-science and mythodology as a tool to support their distorted agenda. Indeed, the scientific studies used to impose lead ammunition bans are very seriously flawed.

Researchers that have published these papers have used questionable sampling sizes and have ignored data believed to be contrary to their pre-conceived conclusions regarding lead ammunition. They have also routinely ignored evidence of alternative sources of lead in the environment as a potential cause of lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife.

Key studies that profess to link lead ammunition to lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife have been criticized by genuine scientists, and have even been embroiled in lawsuits for withholding original data that show results contrary to their published conclusions.

<http://www.huntfortruth.org/myths/>

A copy of this expose is attached to this document and is essential reading for all who wish to know the truth about the anti-shooting sports conspirators. But to obtain further information click-on to the link above.

In March 2015 I wrote in detail about the background to the anti-lead shot scenario in New Zealand - pointing out that it has played **the** major role in the demise of the mallard in New Zealand – and possibly the total demise of duck shooting in this country. **(Copies of "THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK SHOOTING IN NZ" are available)**

The 'demise' article was distributed widely, here and overseas, and in New Zealand it eventually resulted in the NZ Fish & Game Council (via the Minister of Conservation) admitting that there is now a major problem with mallard numbers - now estimated to have dropped from close to 3 million to well under 400,000!

Sadly, the NZ Fish & Game Council is at least 4-5 years too late and mallards are now rare in most areas of the North Island, with their numbers also dropping rapidly in many areas of the South Island!

Even if it was proven that wild waterfowl die from ingesting lead shot the number of birds that die would be insignificant in comparison to the number shot, and not recovered, when alternatives to lead shot are used. The percentage of birds shot and not recorded when alternatives to lead shot is used has risen from 6% when lead shot is used to between 30-90%; according to research conducted by the Humane Society in the USA! (Little wonder that our Dept of Conservation is by far the most hated Government Dept in NZ's history, or that the Southland Fish & Game Council (the principle anti-lead shot promoter) was, in 2014, voted "PUBLIC ENEMY #1" in the SOUTHLAND TIMES - by game bird hunters!

Yet, in September 2016 the Southland Fish & Game Council voted to ban the use of lead shot in all gauges for waterfowl hunting - except 410!

What our bureaucratic dictators forget (or don't know/care) is that the life expectancy of a wild mallard in New Zealand is only 1.2-years – but thanks to bureaucratic incompetence and its anti-lead shot obsession the life expectancy of a mallard is now in the vicinity of only 9 months!

In addition, self-styled 'armchair-experts' claim that it takes approximately three weeks for a duck, goose or swan to die from ingesting lead shot, but in a lifetime of living in wetlands neither I nor any of my six Labradors (1970-NOW) have ever found such a specimen! But what we have found since the ban on lead shot is large numbers of seriously crippled mallards – birds with broken wings and legs and with no hope of survival; all shot with steel!

In 2014 my present Lab pulled out 12 such birds at the far end of Taumata Lagoon - on the Monday after the 2014 opening weekend!

My informants tell me that there are now no significant numbers of mallards in any areas of the North Island and long gone are the great flocks that were seen in the Waikato, Central North Island, the Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Firth of Thames, Wairarapa, Wellington (Pauatahanui Sanctuary and the Eastbourne Lakes) and rapidly reducing numbers in all areas of the South Island. Also, that the mallard decline started soon after high capacity shotguns were allowed and the acceleration towards oblivion started as soon as lead shot was banned in 12 gauge shotguns.

And to further reinforce the fact that environmental psuedo-science and conspiracy are widespread; have a close look at this link to MAIL ONLINE:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2738653/Stunning-satellite-images-summer-ice-cap-thicker-covers-1-7million-square-kilometres-MORE-2-years-ago-despite-Al-Gore-s-prediction-ICE-FREE-now.html>

This totally refutes the Greenpeace, United Nations and Gore nonsense about the Arctic Circle (and about 'GLOBAL WARMING') - and the Greenpeace advert showing Polar Bears scavenging in towns for food! Not surprisingly this Greenpeace advert has now disappeared!

After cutting and pasting the Mail Online link you will see that Al Gore admits that he was totally incorrect about Global Warming – just as groups and individual 'psuedo-scientists' are totally wrong about lead shot and lead projectiles.

And quite recently a Greenpeace foundation member has clarified the real facts, which are - that climate change has been with us since the world was created! This is essential viewing:

<https://www.prageru.com/courses/environmental-science/what-they-havent-told-you-about-climate-change#.Vc4sj> IViko

Whatever atmospheric/climate problems the world is experiencing are largely generated by people and their dramatic modification and destruction of the worlds naturally environment.

For well over 30-years Wellington (& Wairarapa) bureaucrats have been talking about the creation of water storage reservoirs in the Wairarapa. These talks alone have cost rate-payers huge sums of money, but in December 2016 such facilities never look like being created.



BEFORE THE NZ RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT "ENCOURAGED" REGIONAL COUNCILS TO PREVENT WETLAND CREATION (because the costs of obtaining Resource Consent is far too great) THIS SUPERB WETLAND WAS CREATED FOR \$1,000, IN FOUR DAYS, BY A D6 BULLDOZER.

THE WORST RMA EXAMPLE WAS WHEN TWO FRIENDS CREATED 20-HECTARES OF WETLANDS – WHICH RESULTED IN ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO TAKEN THEM TO COURT! TO HIS CREDIT THE MAGISTRATE VISITED THE CREATED WETLANDS (EACH OF WHICH HAD A VARIETY OF STRUCTURES TO ENAMBLE ON-GOING WETLAND MANAGEMENT) AND HE INSTANTLY DISMISSED THE CASE AND 'DEMANDED' THAT THE WETLANDS BECOME A "WORLD HERITAGE SITE"!

PROPAGANDA & CONSPIRACY

By far the most successful propaganda/conspiracy campaign ever to take place in New Zealand (and possibly the WORLD!) is the Department of Conservation's aerial bombardment of 1080. Many believe that DOC's 1080 propaganda makes the work of Dr Joseph Goebbels look rank amateurish; because the DOC program has absolutely nothing whatever to do with the elimination of predators - it is simply a billion dollar business; for these reasons:

- **There are now very few possums & only 0.004% carry Bovine TB**
- **1080 has little effect on feral cats, ferret, stoat or weasel numbers – all of which carry Bovine TB**
- **1080 has little effect on rat numbers** (DOC's mythical annual 'explosion' of rat numbers in areas that have been aerially bombarded with 1080 on numerous occasions confirms that the DOC 1080 program is all about money!)
- **1080 has little effect of hedgehog numbers**
- **The movement of domestic cattle is mainly responsible for the spread of Bovine TB!**
- **It is simply a billion dollar industry that is now totally out of control!**

The death of animals and birds poisoned by 1080 is far from instant – it is an extremely slow and agonising death – as can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNdigahLEHU&feature=youtu.be>

The DOC program has so far:

- **Eliminated over 10,000 domestic animals**
- **Pushed already endangered birds closer towards extinction – with over 10,000 Kea being killed by 1080 in the past five years!**
- **Has pushed two of the world's rarest species of frogs closer towards extinction**
- **Has contaminated rivers, lakes and town water supplies**
- **Has eliminated invertebrates in creeks, streams and rivers**
- **Has poisoned fresh-water trout, thereby destroying a major part of our tourism industry**
- **Has cost New Zealand tax-payers several billion dollars!**
- **Has eliminated millions of endemic bush birds and in areas where here the poison has been dropped the BUSH IS SILENT**

Yet, DOC is now teaching school children about the virtues of 1080!

DOC's 1080 program is undoubtedly a very serious crime against our endemic wildlife, all native wildlife and our environment; it is simply a billion dollar industry that has nothing whatever to do with eliminating predators - **all of which are readily eliminated by trapping and reside only in the forest fringes.**

On the 5th January this year an 'interesting' letter from the USA was published in the Wairarapa Time Age; it read **"I WAS PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND FOR AN EXTENDED VACATION, BUT HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE AIR DROPPED 1080 POISON AND WILL BE SPENDING MY MONEY IN VIETNAM."** (A COPY OF THE FULL VERSION IS AVAILABLE)

In 1987, when DOC was created, its fiduciary mandate was to ensure a future for our country's endemic birds and at the same time protect and enhance their habitat, but DOC has failed in everything it has been involved in!

On top of this 1080 nonsense another major DOC failure has been the expenditure of between \$20 & \$30 million of public money attempting to design and manufacture predator elimination traps that are superior to the inexpensive Timms trap (NZ made & manufactured) and the UK's FENN trap. The majority of trapping professionals believe that DOC has failed, yet again! And that, yet again, there is never any accountability!

Quite obviously the DOC wildlife management mentality, its obnoxious attitude and its utter failure, can only be changed by serious political action, as can the failure of the NZ Fish & Game Council to address their anti-lead shot nonsense, the decline of mallards and the disastrous state of our wetlands.

The best solution may well be for our next Government to totally restructure both DOC and the Fish & Game Council into organisations that are managed by educated, experienced and dedicated people with an intrinsic interest in our environment and its wildlife. (This is not to say that there aren't some very knowledgeable environmentalists working for regional Fish & Game Councils, but these are **not** the people making environmental or gamebird management decisions!)

The current situation in anti-environmental groups is synonymous with religion - from which the priests get wealth and power (as is the case in all religions) and it is impossible to get rid of any of them - no matter how irrational, ignorant and self contradictory they are!

LEAD SHOT IN THE NEW ZEALAND ENVIRONMENT

In early 2015 close to 200 dairy cows died soon after grazing on the Nightcaps Gun Club clay target shooting grounds in Southland.

Numerous 'self styled experts' immediately claimed that the cows had died from lead poisoning – including the Southland Fish & Game Council and the NZ Fish & Game Council!

But, within days of the deaths it was determined by veterinary surgeons that the cows had died from toxic Swede poisoning; **yet since then the NZ Fish & Game Council and the former Minister of Conservation (Dr Smith) are still claiming that the cows died of lead shot poisoning.** Why would they wish to do this?

Research on the effects/regularity of toxic Swede poisoning in New Zealand goes back over 50-years, see:

http://www.grassland.org.nz/publications/nzgrassland_publication_334.pdf

The NZ Fish & Game/DOC conspiracy has already resulted in at least 8 guns shops closing in the last 5-years and one major shooting sports equipment importer going into liquidation; largely because of the drop of game bird licence sales, shotgun sales and other sales of shooting sports equipment. There is now every indication that a massive drop in gamebird licence sales is imminent!

NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH ON LEAD SHOT IN WATERFOWL

The only New Zealand independent/thorough/honest (non-psuedo-science) research on the gestation of lead shot by waterfowl (*and perhaps the only honest research of its kind in the world*) was completed between the 2001 & 2004 duck hunting seasons in the Waikato region of New Zealand, when over 700 mallards shot during the duck hunting seasons were autopsied. This research determined – that an average 4.4% of the mallards shot had lead shot in their gizzard, and that the condition of these birds was in no way indicative that they were in the process of being poisoned by lead and like all birds shot were in very good condition – and were flying when shot!

WETLAND DEGRADATION

On top of all this is the wanton disregard and degradation of our major wetlands – by Government departments, district, city & regional councils', Fish & Game Councils and most so-called conservation groups is a national disgrace. Here are just a few wetlands that are in such a degraded state that they are unlikely to ever recover:

- **The Whangamarino wetlands**
- **All Waikato wetlands**
- **Lake Ellesmere wetlands** (now a cess-pool)
- **Lake Forsyth** (now a cess-pool)
- **Wairarapa wetlands**
- **Horowhenua & Manawatu wetlands**

In spite of New Zealand being a signatory to the Ramsar Convention – under which major New Zealand lakes **must** be maintained to international standards – 95% of New Zealand lakes do not come close to achieving this standard; because, the problem is far too difficult and expensive for DOC, Fish & Game, a host of other Government departments, all NZ Councils' and 90% of all so called conservation groups. (*Where apathy rules supreme!*)

Of course, it has been far easier for these groups to create a diversion by introducing their ill-conceived anti-lead shot philosophy!

Pollution problems in all our once immense wetlands and fresh water rivers have all been generated by people, spreading; insecticides, sewage, pesticides, herbicides, effluent from dairy farming, excessive nutrients, alien weeds, irrigation bores and a major lowering of the water table, 1080, and with non-existent management from an ever increasing numbers of bureaucrats (now estimated to number 500,000 out of a population of only 4,400,000!)

Many New Zealand estuaries are also suffering from identical problems!

If any readers have doubts about the degradation of our wetlands they should purchased a copy of Dr Mike Joy's new book "**POLLUTED INHERITANCE: NZ'S FRESHWATER CRISIS**".

This book is readily available via the Internet for \$15.

THE NEW ZEALAND ANTI-LEAD SHOT BRIGADE

What the anti-lead shot, anti-lead and anti-shooting sports groups, including the NZ Fish & Game Council (**over 70% of NZ wetlands have gone down the drain since the Acclimatisation Societies & Fish & Game Councils' were created!**), the NZ Green Party, NZ Forest & Birds (**70% of indigenous NZ Forests have disappeared since F&B was created!**), the NZ Dept of Conservation, several NZ Regional Councils', together with the UK's Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the UK's RSPCA, Birdlife, etc., What all supporters of these groups should be doing is promoting and be active in programs that will enhance, improve, and preserve this planet, such as:

- **PREVENTING & CONTROLLING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN THE AIR, ON LAND & IN WATERWAYS** (*In December 2015 it was announced that New Zealand had achieved one of the world's worst ratings for generating CARBON DIOXIDE and other atmospheric pollutants!*)
- **ENDING THE DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE FORESTS**
- **ENDING THE DESTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE HABITATS**
- **PREVENTING THE DEGRADATION OF NEW ZEALAND WETLANDS**
- **ENDING THE DESTRUCTION OF WETLANDS**
- **CREATING WETLANDS**
- **MANAGING WETLANDS AND ASSOCIATED HABITAT**
- **PLANTING NATIVE FLORA**
- **ONGOING MANAGEMENT/SUSTAINABILITY OF WHAT STILL EXISTS OF THE NEW ZEALAND'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
- **DRASTICALLY IMPROVING THE MANAGEMENT OF ALL FLORA & FAUNA**
- **SAVING RARE WILDLIFE FROM EXTINCTION**
- **CONTROLLING/ELIMINATING ALL INTRODUCED (and self-introduced) PREDATORS THAT IMPACT ON THE SURVIVAL OF OUR RARE & ENDANGERED WILDLIFE** – particularly: Feral Cat, Ferret, Stoat, Weasel, Rat, Hedgehog, Harrier Hawk & Pukeko
- **IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF EVERYONE – AT ALL LEVELS**



THIS 30-HECTARE WAIRARAPA WETLAND (A WETLAND OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE) - SUPPORTS OVER 400 HISTORIC NATIVE TREES & PLANTS AND OVER 50 SPECIES OF BIRDS: YET IT WAS IN DANGER OF BEING DESTROYED BY THE GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO FIND FUNDS TO RE-BUILD AN ADJACENT FLOOD DAMAGED STOPBACK: YET THE GWRC IS PREPARED TO SPEND MILLIONS ON A PROGRAM TO PREVENT GREYTOWN BEING FLOODED; IN SPITE OF GREYTOWN NOT BEING SUBJECTED TO A MAJOR FLOOD SINCE 1947! HOPEFULLY THE TAUMATA LAGOON WATER INPUT PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY EXTENDING A DRAIN – AND REVERSING THE FLOW OF WATER FROM THE NEIGHBOUR AND INTO THE LAGOON.

PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT, CREATION & MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENT WILL MAKE NEW ZEALAND & THE WORLD A FAR BETTER PLACE - NOW & IN THE FUTURE

CONSPIRACIES IN THE UK

Anyone who does not believe that conspiracy exists will soon change their thinking when they read that in a UK High Court Judgement by Justice Ouseley (13/11/2015) a shocking abuse of institutional power was revealed.

This judgement sets out comprehensive details that show how two UK Government Departments - Natural England and the Department for Environment Food & Environment Affairs – conspired with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (currently under investigation for sidetracking public funding into a non-constitutional area), to systematically deprive an innocent man of his livelihood.

Over a four year period the conspirators continually refused to grant this man a Licence to control the Common Buzzard in order to protect his game birds, despite his fulfilment of all normal requirements, was challenged - and condemned by Justice Ouseley in a 61-page decision.

The individual received great support from the National Gamekeepers Association and had it not been for this Association these Government Departments and the RSPB would have got away with it.

There is no right of appeal against a Natural England Licensing decision, hence the need for a judicial review.

The full details of this sordid affair can be seen here:

<http://www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk/news/fairness-in-wild-bird-licensing-as-keeper-wins-landmark-legal-battle>

KEEP LEAD AMMUNITION PETITION IN THE UK

In October 2015 this Petition was launched in the UK:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/112165>

If you read the attached copy of the letter from the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs concerning lead you will see there has been a rejection of the anti-shooting sports proposals to ban lead in shooting sports.

The now infamous OXFORD LEAD SYMPOSIUM (Internet link is available) is one of the best examples of the anti-lead shot conspiracy – with all participants having convinced each other that wild waterfowl die from lead shot poisoning – **WHICH IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE!**

In my piece – **“THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK SHOOTING”** – I discuss my meeting in 1995 with Sir Thomas Thorp, when he was researching Firearms Control in New Zealand, when he stated quite categorically:
“The United Nations want to ban all these things (firearms)”

EXAMPLES OF THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF STEEL SHOT

- I have been an avid shotgun shooter for well over 50-years – sporting clays (with many scores in the 90's out of a 100 and one 98/100), was an "A" Grade SKEET shooter for many years, an avid game bird hunter of all species (including 20-years hunting Canada geese on Lake Ellesmere), plus, hares, rabbits, feral pigeons, etc., etc., but when lead shot was banned in 12 gauge shotguns my first attempt to shoot ducks with steel shot was a total disaster!
- Not only was I blowing feathers out of mallards at relatively close range very few fell out of the sky and on the Sunday morning I gave up and went home – 200 metres away – where there were 50-60 mallards on the home pond!
- I fired a couple of shots into the air and most of them took to the air, none headed for the main lagoon and within a minute a pair came back and I shot at the drake at only 15-metres – seeing his wing break. It took my very experienced Lab 'Scott' at least 10-minutes to catch this bird and when he presented it to me it was very much alive - and I had to wring his neck.
- The wing was shattered and when I plucked him I found that the breast had been struck numerous times, but the pellets had not penetrated - and he was inedible!



THE HAYES' HOME POND – WHERE OVER 200 MALLARDS HAVE BEEN REARED DURING THE LAST FOUR BREEDING SEASONS; ALONG WITH 15 RARE & ENDANGERED NZ BROWN TEAL



MALLARD PRODUCTIVITY

- There are numerous similar examples regarding the use of lead – a good/bad one being a friend who had 2 visitors shooting at ducks on his property, using 12-gauge semi-autos and steel; they fired 5 boxes of ammunition for 3 ducks! My friend was on an adjacent wetland and all he could see after 5th shots from each shotgun were birds gliding down in the distance – none of which were retrievable.
- Whilst there are some quite good alternative to steel shot the good alternatives cost \$3-4 per round and they are only used by a few wealthy individuals! Steel shot cartridges are less than \$1 per round are this is what the majority of 12ga duck hunter's use!

SOME ENCOURAGING NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

During 2016 anti-shooting sports groups, including the UK's Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (founded in 1947 by wildfowl hunters), the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the UK's Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals and Germany's 'Birdlife' commenced a joint orchestration of lies in an effort to get lead shot and all lead projectiles band in all shooting sports. This orchestrated plan failed and will have cost these groups a lot of support!

This was in spite of these groups knowing that the UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs research had determined that over 30 commonly eaten vegetables contained elements of lead – none of which had come from lead shot. This research proved irrevocably that lead is a natural element!

In addition, the UK's Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP – the DEFRA Minister rejected the UK's anti-shooting sports Lead Ammunition Group's "LEAD SHOT REPORT", because there was no evidence that there was no negative lead shot link in respect of the UK's bird numbers. A copy of this letter is attached. On the LAG committee were representatives from a number of anti-shooting sports groups! (see the Minister's attached letter)

In addition to the UK Minister's decision, in September 2016 during the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) meeting in Hawaii the IUCN proposal to totally ban the use of lead shot was heavily defeated, although the IUCN still recommended phasing out the use of lead shot in wetlands; this clearly shows that the IUCN philosophy has nothing whatever to do with the welfare of birds, but everything to do with its anti-shooting sports obsession!

An obsession that has now filtered through to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (one of 15 Regional Councils in New Zealand) which has prevented a \$300,000 Clay Target Club from opening – because it claims lead shot is a contaminant; as well as clay birds!

THERE IS NOW NO DOUBT THAT THE ANTI-LEAD SHOT SCENARIO IN NEW ZEALAND IS A TOTALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FARCE - A FARCE THAT LOOKS LIKELY TO DESTROY WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES, TOGETHER WITH INCOME FROM THE SPORT; AN INCOME THAT HAS HISTORICALLY GENERATED HUGE FUNDING FOR WETLAND & WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY & A FEW ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

My 6 Labradors' and I have spent a lifetime in wetlands, but none of us have ever found a species of waterfowl that was dying of lead poisoning – because waterfowl do not die from ingesting lead shot!

There are now few mallards in the North Island and rapidly reducing numbers in the South Island

Since its creation in 1987 the Dept of Conservation has been in permanent disaster mode - and whilst it continues as a totally misdirected Government Department there is absolutely no future for any endemic New Zealand wildlife - and little future for any wildlife in New Zealand.

Most quasi-governmental departments, including; Regional Councils, District Councils, City Councils, Forest & Bird, NZ Fish & Game Council, Conservation Boards, Federated Farmers groups, etc., may claim that they are carrying out environmental work – **BUT THIS IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE** – because all of them have done **nothing** whilst the unrelenting destruction of 70% of New Zealand's native bush and 70% of our natural wetlands has taken place, **and have stood idly by during the rapidly approaching demise of our endemic wildlife - and our game birds!**

The disastrous state of our lakes & rivers is a very clear summary of what little use these groups are – and because there is no accountability they will continue to do **NOTHING!**

Many of these groups also conspire to totally eliminate game bird hunting in New Zealand – particularly the Dept of Conservation, the NZ Fish & Game Council and Forest & Bird; in spite of over 35,000 people being involved in the sport; a sport that once a major tourist attraction! (I used to have two America's visit twice each year for Canada goose hunting and duck shooting, but since the mallard population plummeted and the goose population has all but disappeared – through endless slaughters from helicopters – these people don't visit any more! And there must be a huge number of other individuals that have gone the same way.)

The Canada goose was introduced into New Zealand in the 1880's and today New Zealand is the only country in the world where the species is a "PEST" and one that can be killed at any time - and by any means!

Some Regional Councils' have made a contribution towards predator control trapping programmes, but there is no doubt that the DOC/Regional Council 1080 programme, together with the NZ Fish & Game Council & Government anti-lead shot campaign are well orchestrated conspiracies!

Some city councils, such as Hutt City & Tauranga, have made a serious commitment towards finding suitable areas for 'noisy sports', and are to be commended.

Overall, the lack of interest in our environment and our wildlife, together with volumes of ill-informed information being circulated, continual conspiracies, and only lip-service being paid towards conservation; many New Zealanders' see no long term future for any of our endemic wildlife species or for our game birds or what once was our unique environment!

However, there is a ray of hope, because NZ FIRST is the only political party that is seriously active in environmental matters and a party that has already indicated that it will ban the use of 1080 and re-introduce lead for all shotgun gauges used for game bird hunting – and NZ FIRST is the only political party that is a consistent supporter of shooting sports!

There is no doubt that a **conspiracy** exists between the New Zealand National and Labour political parties, DOC, NZ Fish & Game Council and most Regional Councils' – and this is where most of the anti-lead shot scenario is being generated, and that their aims are to destroy game bird hunting, clay target shooting and also restrict the private ownership of firearms!

Historically, there has only ever been three New Zealand organisations that have made serious contributions to the welfare of our environment and our endemic birds – Ducks Unlimited NZ, the former NZ Wildlife Service and the QEII National Trust.

Sadly, neither the NZ FISH & GAME COUNCIL (Founded in co-ordination with the Dept of Conservation in 1987) nor any of its 12 regional offices have shown any intrinsic interest in protecting our endemic wildlife, supporting game birds - or in predator control - and have very minimal interest in wetlands and waterfowl. In fact the Fish & Game Council has eliminated Canada goose hunting and mallards hunting.

Many, also now believe that the next waterfowl species in line for extermination will be the NZ Paradise Shelduck – an endemic species that needs very careful management, but doesn't receive any management! The female doesn't breed till her third season and a pair have a unique monogamous relations ship; if one of the pairs is killed the survivor rarely takes another mate!



**HAPPIER DAYS IN NEW ZEALAND
NZ WATERFOWL HUNTERS ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER SEE THIS AGAIN**

I sincerely thank John Reid, USA's Hunt for Truth, UK's Shooting News, Ian Summerell in the UK, Ducks Unlimited (NZ), Bud Jones QSM, David Craze, Murray Dench, the UK's GUN TRADE WORLD magazine, Peter Maxwell (Editor NZ GUNS & HUNTING magazine), my right hand man Richard Pinkerton, plus numerous other dedicated conservationists for their contributions towards these notes – all of which are factual.

NEIL HAYES – December 2016
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P O Box 188, CARTERTON 5743

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOLLOWS, INCLUDING:

1. A copy of the UK's DEFRA Minister's letter
2. A copy of the Gun Trade World announcement – Nov 2016
3. A remarkably MYTHS document from HUNT FOR TRUTH



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John Swift
Chair, Lead Ammunition Group

12 July 2016

The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
From the Secretary of State

Dear Mr Swift,

Following your recent correspondence with Rory Stewart I am now in a position to respond to your report on Lead Ammunition, Wildlife and Human Health which you submitted on 3 June 2015.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work over the last five years. Please also pass on my thanks to all those that have played a part in bringing together the report and the information on which it is based.

It was disappointing that a number of Group members resigned and that a whole group consensus could not therefore be reached on this important issue. However I fully appreciate the challenges the divergence of opinions within the Group presented you with.

Following receipt of your report, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) sought independent scientific advice from the Committee on Toxicity about the human health risk assessment within it. This has led the FSA to conclude that the evidence provided in your report does not affect their current advice. This advice, which has been in place since 2012, states:

'To minimise the risk of lead intake, people who frequently eat lead-shot game, particularly small game, should cut down their consumption. This advice is especially important for vulnerable groups such as toddlers and children, pregnant women and women trying for a baby.'

With regard to the impact of lead ammunition on wildlife, we note that the report does not provide evidence of causation linking possible impacts of lead ammunition with sizes of bird populations in England.

In both instances – human health and wildlife – the report did not show that the impacts of lead ammunition were significant enough to justify changing current policy; we therefore do not accept your recommendation to ban the use of lead ammunition.

The use of lead ammunition is already banned on all foreshores, certain SSSIs and for the shooting of all ducks, geese, coot and moorhen. I do, however, recognise that there appears to be an issue with poor compliance with the Lead Shot Regulations and I can confirm that Defra will look at how the existing Regulations on wildfowling can be better implemented. We also understand that the FSA will be considering if action is required to raise awareness of their advice amongst the at-risk population.

As you know the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been asked by the European Commission to gather information on the potential risks presented by metallic lead, to establish if there is a case for regulating its use within the European Union; we will keep the evidence presented by the ECHA under review.

As agreed when the Group was initiated your report will be published on LAG's website. I appreciate that you are keen to publish your report and invite you to do so following receipt of this letter.

Although this marks the end of the Group which the Government established in 2010, I have no doubt that the evidence you have gathered together will form a useful input to the exercise the ECHA is taking forward. I would like to thank you again for your efforts.

Best wishes,

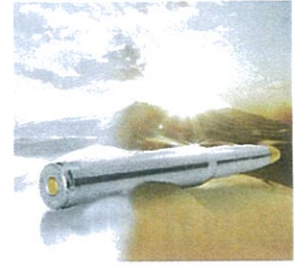
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



Why the Barrett family believes in the best firearms

PAGE 18



How RWS builds and tests its ammunition for results

PAGE 26

NOVEMBER 2016

www.guntradeworld.com

Global lead ban thrown out

Plans for a worldwide ban on lead ammunition have been rejected after strong lobbying from international shooting bodies.

As reported last month, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was due to meet in Hawaii and top of its agenda at the week-long congress was a vote on phasing out lead ammunition completely.

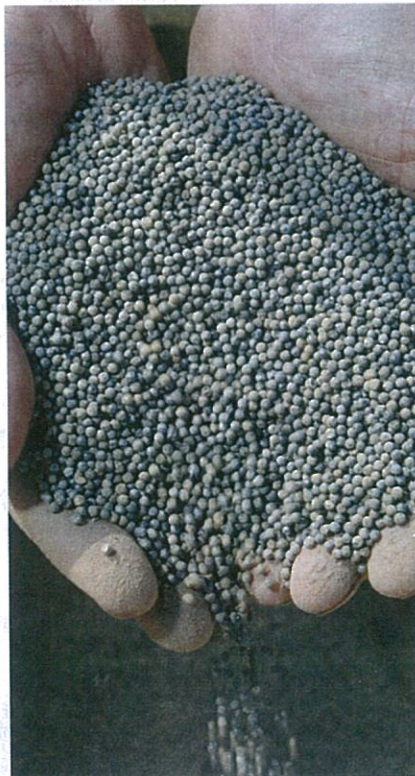
However, a number of industry and shooting groups put significant pressure on the congress, which had already been subject to anti-shooting and environmental body lobbying, which had put the issue in the spotlight in the first place.

If successful, the IUCN's decision would have become a policy driver for its 1,300 member organisations, including departments in governments across the world, along with a network of 1,600 experts who help form opinions and plans.

Among those who campaigned for the rejection of plans to enforce a worldwide ban on lead ammunition was the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation (FACE).

Its conservation manager, David Scallan, lobbied hard to ensure the motion was significantly weakened by the time it was put to the vote in September.

After intense debate, IUCN members voted in favour of a reworded motion that encourages governments "to phase out, where feasible, lead shot used for hunting over wetlands and lead ammunition used for hunting in areas where scavengers are at particular risk from the use of lead ammunition, based on scientific evidence, and the replacement of it with suitable alternatives."



David explained: "This was an excellent example of how FACE and its members worked together to inform the policy of IUCN on an extremely complex issue. The final motion is something that FACE and its members can be pleased with, considering that the membership of IUCN is mainly composed of non-hunting organisations, many of which are unaware of the complexities associated with this issue."

Peter Glenser, chairman of the British Association for Shooting (BASC) and Conservation, which helped with much of the evidence that FACE used to counter anti-lead arguments, said: "FACE should be applauded for working tirelessly in the months leading up to this congress to ensure the taming of the original motion, which was based on ideology and emotion rather than science and evidence. It is clear that their intensive lobbying of delegates during the week of congress paid off."

"Pressure groups had banded together to table a motion that was impossible to subsequently remove from the agenda. Thankfully, the work done by FACE, BASC and others, limited the potential damage."

"We are confident the UK government will stand firmly behind that decision, rather than bow to any pressure that may fall out of an IUCN vote that holds no statutory authority."

"BASC wrote to 200 shooting organisations worldwide to alert them to the motion and encouraging them to work with their governments to oppose the motion. That momentum will not stop."

Under the African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, signatory countries – of which the UK is one – are obliged to legislate to restrict the use of lead shot over wetlands.

In a number of countries, regulations have been introduced restricting the use of lead ammunition over wetlands and for waterfowl.

Both Austria and Australia have already thrown out similar calls for bans on lead ammunition, while Norway has even reinstated a law allowing lead shot to be used for live quarry.

MYTHS

CLAIMS AND TRUTHS

Proponents of California bill AB 711 convinced the California legislature to ban the use of lead ammunition throughout the state, despite the fact that the previous 5 year lead ban within the Condor Corridor failed to reduce the levels of lead in condors. This lead ban will be effective July 1, 2019.

There have been concerns raised by a diverse array of opposition that proponents of the bill have based their claims on unauthenticated scientific methodologies and have failed to release the details of their studies to the public. Since 2007, HuntForTruth.org has sought to uncover the truth regarding the use of traditional ammunition and has raised serious questions about the purported nexus between lead ammunition and lead poisoning or mortality in California condors and other wildlife as we combat the assault on traditional ammunition in all 50 states.

CLAIMS

TRUTHS

Scientific Claims Asserted by Lead Ammunition Ban Proponents

Truths

Scientific studies claim a causal link between the use of lead ammunition in hunting and lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife.

The crux of anti-hunting activists' argument against traditional ammunition rests on the misplaced assertion that the use of lead ammunition for hunting leads to elevated lead exposure and poisoning in scavenging animals, such as the California condor, that allegedly ingest fragments of spent ammunition in gut-piles or carcasses left in the field by hunters. The scientific studies relied on by the anti-lead proponents are in fact not scientifically sound. In other words, the proponents use "faulty science" to support their anti-lead ammunition agenda. HuntForTruth.org has procured and analyzed over one hundred thousand documents from governmental agencies, universities and researchers and have found systemic flaws, which include faulty methodology and sampling protocols and the selective use of data (i.e. "cherry picking" data for publication).

For a scientific evaluation of several of these studies, [click here](#).

Lead ammunition ban proponents claim that the science behind lead ban proposals is sound.

The anti-lead ammunition proponents have employed faulty science as a tool to support their distorted agenda. Indeed, the scientific studies used to impose lead ammunition bans are flawed. Researchers that have published these papers have used questionable sampling sizes and have ignored data believed to be contrary to their pre-conceived conclusions regarding lead ammunition. They have also routinely ignored evidence of alternative sources of lead in the environment as a potential cause of lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife. Key studies that profess to link lead ammunition to lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife have been criticized by scientists, and have even been embroiled in lawsuits for withholding original data that show results contrary to their published conclusions.

To learn more about the faulty science behind the campaign to ban lead ammunition, [click here](#).

Lead ammunition ban proponents claim that voluminous scientific studies referenced in their Master Bibliographies support their claim that lead ammunition causes lead poisoning in wildlife.

The so-called Master Bibliographies are a compilation of numerous scientific publications which express at best a very tenuous nexus between lead ammunition and lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife. While a majority of the publications discuss lead generally, the very few papers that actually purport to evaluate lead ammunition are easily debunked.

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Lead ammunition ban proponents claim that the science used to support lead ammunition bans is transparent and readily available for public review.

HuntForTruth.org continues its aggressive effort to gather information and science to expose the truth behind the campaign to ban traditional ammunition. We have encountered less than forthcoming responses from certain agencies and universities regarding the information and data used in studies purported to support lead ammunition bans. Nevertheless, HuntForTruth.org has obtained over one hundred thousand documents from public records requests concerning the lead ammunition issue. Our organization exists in order to share this information with policymakers and the general public to facilitate a fully informed debate regarding the use of lead ammunition. To stay informed, please [sign up](#) to our e-mail alerts so that we can keep you updated on developments in this important policy debate.

Lead Ammunition Ban Proponents' Claims about Lead Poisoning Truths

It is claimed that scientific studies suggest hunters' lead ammunition causes lead poisoning and mortality in wildlife.

It is claimed that lead fragments from hunters' ammunition in gut piles and carcasses left in the field by hunters are poisoning scavenging animals. However, such lead fragments are an unlikely source of lead poisoning in wildlife because the lead used in ammunition is metallic lead, which is not sufficiently soluble in the digestive tract of scavengers to result in poisoning under natural feeding conditions in the wild. For example, several scientific studies have shown that it is extremely difficult to poison raptors with lead even with constant feeding of large amounts of lead shot with food over extended periods of time.

The moderate acid levels in the digestive tract of wildlife, the buffering of the acid due to the presence of food and the limited time present in the digestive tract, typically do not produce the conditions required to cause significant dissolution of the lead in ammunition to cause lead poisoning.

Typically, lead fragments in the digestive tract of scavengers pass through the animal very rapidly with the processing of the food consumed with the lead ammunition.

In contrast, unlike metallic lead, soluble forms of industrial lead compounds, such as in old leaded paint chips, legacy leaded gasoline and pesticides are very soluble in the digestive tracts of wildlife and are far more likely to cause rapid lead poisoning.

Scientific studies claim that lead ammunition used by hunters significantly fragments upon striking game, causing widespread contamination of the meat, which in turn may be consumed by both humans and wildlife.

Lead ammunition does not fragment upon impact with game nearly as much as certain scientific studies suggest. One of the often cited studies that alleges that lead ammunition significantly fragments is fatally flawed. In the Hunt, et al. study, researchers selectively chose a highly fragmenting ammunition type, which they then over-sampled in their research, to the exclusion of the most often used types of lead ammunition. Additionally, many of the radiographs used to "prove" projectile fragments in game cannot differentiate between lead and copper jacket projectiles, gravel, or bone fragments. This flawed methodology produced an unreliable result that significantly overstated the number of lead fragments in the meat of game taken with lead ammunition.

For more information on ammunition, [click here](#).

Claims Regarding Alternative Sources of Lead Contamination Truths

It is claimed that lead ammunition is the primary source of lead in the environment that poisons wildlife, and there are no other significant sources.

There are many alternative sources of lead in the environment that are far more likely sources of lead poisoning or mortality in wildlife. Residual lead from legacy leaded gasoline, paint, pesticides, landfills and mining tailings, as well as microtrash and lead acid batteries from illegal dumping are only a few alternative sources of lead in the environment, which are known to poison wildlife.

These alternative sources are far more likely to poison and even kill wildlife as these sources of lead are in the form of highly soluble industrial lead compounds, unlike lead in ammunition that is a highly insoluble metallic form.

Activists and scientists advocating lead ammunition bans routinely overlook such alternative sources of lead poisoning, as it clearly does not support their anti-lead ammunition campaign.

To learn more about how activists have ignored the threat that lead-based paint poses to California condors.

Lead Ammunition Ban Proponents' Claims about Truths

Lead Ammunition Bans

Lead ammunition bans have not proven to be effective in reducing lead exposure in wildlife. In 2008, the California Legislature implemented legislation (AB 821) that banned lead ammunition in the "California Condor Zone". The bill was predicated and passed on its proponents' assurances that hunters' lead ammunition was the cause of lead poisoning and mortality in California condors.

It is claimed that the lead ammunition bans currently in effect have been successful.

However, California condor blood-lead sampling results from 2007-2011 show that the blood-lead levels and lead related deaths have actually remained static, if not slightly increased, after the implementation of the AB 821 lead ammunition ban. Though the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has determined that they have experienced approximately 99% hunter compliance with the lead ammunition ban, poisoning of California condors continues unabated. Despite the promises and assertions made by the AB 821 lead ammunition ban proponents, the data clearly shows that hunters' ammunition is not the cause of lead poisoning or mortality in California condors, and that alternative sources of lead in the environment are the real concern.

To learn how California's lead ammunition ban has failed to decrease lead poisoning and mortality in California condors, [click here](#).

It is claimed that the fact that some regulatory agencies have adopted lead ammunition restrictions shows that lead bans are justified.

While anti-lead ammunition proponents have had some success in selling their argument to the public and to elected representatives, there is substantial evidence that the assault on lead ammunition is based on faulty science using questionable scientific methodology, sampling protocols and data. To learn more about faulty science behind the lead ammunition issue, [click here](#).

It is claimed that the 1991 federal lead ammunition ban for hunting waterfowl justifies the banning of lead ammunition used for hunting upland game.

The 1991 federal lead ammunition ban for waterfowl hunting has little relevance to the proposed expansion of lead ammunition bans for hunting upland game. Waterfowl hunting in an aquatic environment is far different from hunting upland game in dry terrain fields. What is unique about waterfowl hunting is the accumulation of shot (density) in shallow sediments that allegedly are ingested by certain waterfowl species. Consequently, the nature of the waterfowls' habitat, eating habits, and digestion make for a very unique situation not present in upland game.

Upland game does not feed in the field like waterfowl does in the water. Additionally, studies have found that upland game does not naturally ingest shot in the field to any significant extent.

For more information regarding upland game studies, [click here](#).

Lead Ammunition Ban Proponents' Claims Regarding Lead and Alternative Metals

Truths

It is claimed that there is no reason to prefer lead ammunition for hunting.

For hundreds of years, lead has been an integral component of traditional ammunition. Lead has historically been, and continues to be, the most popular ammunition choice among hunters because it is relatively inexpensive, offers superior ballistic and terminal performance, and actually poses fewer safety and environmental concerns than alternative metals ammunition.

It is claimed that alternative metals ammunition ("non-toxic") is preferable to lead ammunition because it is environmentally friendly and safe.

Hunters and recreational shooters should not be misled into giving up lead ammunition for alternative metals ammunition. There are significant consequences that arise from the use of alternative metals ammunition. Alternative ammunition containing bismuth, tungsten or copper coated steel have all raised various concerns among environmentalists. For example, some recent studies now claim that bismuth has been found to leach into the soil and groundwater and interfere with soil bacteria. Other studies claim that tungsten, which is transformed to a soluble form by oxidation, can accumulate in the spleen of wildlife and possibly cause immune system disorders. Even copper has been claimed to be toxic under certain circumstances.

Steel shot does not perform as well as lead for hunting, leading to higher numbers of crippled game. Additionally, steel shot used for hunting upland game may ricochet off hard surfaces, such as trees and rocks, possibly endangering nearby hunters.

It is claimed that alternative metals ammunition performs as well as lead ammunition.

Most non-lead alternatives offer inferior ballistic performance compared to lead. Because most alternative metals are less dense than lead, they lose energy and velocity in flight faster than lead and retain less down-range energy. For rifle ammunition, alternative metals are able to offer similar performance to lead at close range, but the generally lighter density of non-lead alternatives undermines their ballistic performance above 100-150 yards and makes lead a far superior ammunition for long range targets. Furthermore, the additional length of the projectile required to achieve similar sectional density to lead ammunition causes problems with gyroscopic stability at longer ranges. Unfortunately, rifles and pistols have rifling that is designed to gyroscopically stabilize lead projectiles and not alternative metal ammunition. For shot, steel and other harder metals offer inferior terminal performance because the projectile passes straight through the game without deformation, thus wounding and crippling the game instead of killing it on impact.

To learn more about the ballistic performance of lead and alternative metals, [click here](#).

It is claimed that alternative metals ammunition is as safe as lead ammunition to both shooters and firearms.

Using non-lead alternative metals ammunition creates a number of user and safety concerns. While lead is relatively malleable and will deform and flatten if it strikes something hard, many non-lead alternatives are composed of harder elements which are more likely to ricochet when they strike a hard surface, possibly endangering nearby hunters. These harder elements present further safety concerns because they can become embedded in trees and cause damage to sawmill equipment, threatening the safety of loggers and mill workers. Finally, harder metals like tungsten and steel are less attractive than lead ammunition to many hunters because steel shot may cause ring bulge (a slight expansion of the choke) in older tightly choked shotguns.

It is claimed that alternative metals ammunition are as accessible as lead ammunition to hunters.

Alternative metals ammunition, other than steel shotgun ammunition, is far more expensive than lead ammunition and prices less affluent hunters and recreational shooters out of the sport. For more information regarding lead ammunition vs. alternative metals ammunition, [click here](#).

It is claimed that alternative metals ammunition prices will decrease as the usage increases.

The cost of non-lead alternative ammunition is prohibitive for many hunters. While it is anticipated that the cost of alternative ammunition will decrease as demands increase, in its Summary of Lead Shot Alternatives, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that non-lead alternatives cost approximately two to twenty times more than lead ammunition. As of 2007, lead-free ammunition was generally about twice the cost of lead ammunition. Unfortunately, the least expensive alternative, steel, is perceived to be the least effective alternative due to its poor ballistic and terminal performance.

Lead Ban Proponents' Claims Regarding Conservationist Efforts

Truths

It is claimed that hunters and recreational shooters that use lead ammunition are anti-environment and are not conservationists.

Hunters, recreational shooters and affiliated organizations contribute billions of dollars annually throughout the country to conservation programs that enhance and preserve our environment. Sportsman contribute nearly eight million dollars a day and approximately three billion dollars a year for conservation. This funding represents, on average, nearly half of state fish and wildlife agencies' funding. The licensing fees and other charges to hunters support wildlife management and restoration, habitat improvement and general conservation efforts.

Collectively, hunters and anglers provide more than 75% of the annual funds for all fifty state conservation agencies. The real truth is that hunters, recreational shooters, and affiliated organizations are the true "conservationists." Without their contributions, wildlife management and conservation efforts would not be possible.

It is claimed that the NRA and its affiliated groups neither protect the environment nor represent hunters.

Hunters and recreational shooters and their affiliated organizations, like the NRA, are the nation's most dedicated conservationists. Recognizing that groups attempting to ban the use of lead ammunition base their claims on faulty science, the NRA and affiliated groups remain vigilant in their desire to maintain the use of lead ammunition while continuing to preserve America's "traditional hunting heritage." To learn more about the NRA's viewpoint on the use of traditional ammunition and the campaign to ban lead ammunition visit <http://www.nrahuntersrights.org/LeadIssues.aspx>.

Environmental organizations claim that they help endangered species.

Environmental organizations consume vast amounts of federal and state agencies' funding required for maintaining conservation efforts necessary to preserve both species and habitat by filing frivolous lawsuits with the sole intent to further their singular agenda. Additionally, well-meaning but misguided environmental organizations present a significant threat to the California condor population. Overeager field biologists have endangered the fragile California condor population by practicing veterinary medicine without a license and misapplying in-field treatments.