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Conservation Notes

Current topics and issues affecting hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in our North Dakota.

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Hunt lead Free

Lead has no functional or beneficial role in biological systems and its toxicity to humans and wildlife is well-established in the scientific literature. We now know that lead in spent ammunition from hunting plays a role in killing non-target species like eagles and other scavenging birds.

The relative abundance, low cost, and physical properties of lead have made it common for use in ammunition resulting in untold tons of lead spread over the landscape and waterways. In 1991, a lead shot ban for hunting waterfowl brought the rapid development of steel and other non-toxic shot choices. As a result, hunters have highly effective alternatives to lead shot and bullets, including steel and bismuth shot, and copper bullets. If hunting is to remain supported by the public, hunters must ensure that they are not contributing to the poisoning and death of non-target species during their pursuit.

Hunters have always led the way in conservation and restoring wildlife. Now it is time for the North Dakota Game & Fish Department and conservation groups to encourage sportsman to replace lead in the field with effective non-lead alternatives to save wildlife from needless poisoning.

For more information on this message or other conservation topics, contact: John Bradley, Executive Director, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, (jbradley.ndwf@gmail.com), Mike McEnroe, Past President, North Dakota Wildlife Federation(memcenroe@midco.net) or Rick Nelson, Past President, North Dakota Chapter, The Wildlife Society, (bluebill@bis.midco.net). For a complete list of Conservation Notes visit (ndctws.org)-library