

From: [Michael Cantor](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Appeal to repeal the lead ammunition ban across California
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015 2:53:28 AM

Appeal to repeal the lead ammunition ban across California

Hello to: Governor Jerry Brown, Sonke Mastrup, Adrianna Shea, Michael Sutton, Jack Baylis, Jim Kellogg, Richard Rogers, Jacque Hostler-Carmesin:

My name is Michael Cantor, California sportsman and owner of Dynasty Ammo.

I have been trying to prepare for the impending ban of lead ammo across the state of California. I have been speaking with ammunition distributors and manufacturers across the country and around the world trying to find out what is available to the California hunter. I just spent three days at the SHOT show in Las Vegas where I have been able to speak to all of the major manufacturers and dozens of more smaller manufacturers and the answers are astounding, disheartening and bleak. One after another, the manufacturers say that the demand for non-toxic ammo for mammal hunting is insignificant and it is cost prohibitive to manufacture. They have studied the demand in California and the demand is insignificant and when divided over the number of manufacturer there are the competition between companies would be too great versus the demand.

Yes, there is steel shot available, but this is too lightweight to be effective on mammals like Coyotes, Fox, Bobcats, Badgers, etc. The lightweight pellets greatly reduce the effective range and even at close range the effects are inconsistent. To increase the weight means a decrease in the number of pellets. This can lead to many wounded and escaped animals. As ethical sportsmen, this is not what we want to see.

There are basically only two manufacturers of non-toxic shotgun loads that are suitable for mammal hunting, Hevi-Metal and Winchester. The available ammo from both companies is exorbitant in price at about \$4 to \$5 per ROUND. And, the Winchester ammo has a more Marginal availability, only in B size shot which is not as effective as heavier size shot like #4 buck and T-shot.

Lead-free rifle ammo has similar challenges. The cost is also exorbitant.

The ammo is not always accurate in many rifles as loaded by a manufacturer. The velocity has to be decreased to accommodate the different characteristics of an all copper bullet and even a copper jacketed bullet with a core other than lead. The bullets are longer for caliber versus the weight, thus reducing the effective range and expansion characteristics relied upon to dispatch the animal humanely.

Longer bullets require faster spin rates built into the barrel's rifling so many hunters will not be able to find ammunition suitable to their guns. And, if they do, they will have to shoot lighter projectiles at slower speeds which again can lead to wounded animals.

I would like to appeal to your sense of fairness and your understanding of the physics here. This is a great hindrance on the California sportsman.

I do believe I have an alternate solution I have not heard discussed. I believe that the reasons the lead ban was brought to fruition was because scavengers, particularly the California Condor were believed to be ingesting lead from dead carcasses of Coyotes and gut piles of big game animals left in the field. My suggestion is, rather than limiting or restricting ammunition, why not make it a hunter's responsibility to either take the entire kill from the field or have to bury the remains to a specified depth in the field to make it inaccessible to the Condor? To the best of my knowledge the primary mammals of concern are the coyote and big game. Hunters do not generally leave game birds in the field and they take the entire bird with them; or you can make that a requirement. Coyotes, Fox, Badgers, etc. would need to be removed from the field or buried. Big game animals, basically deer and bear (Elk and Bighorn sheep take are insignificant) would have to have their gut piles buried or removed from the field.

I think my proposed requirements would be very acceptable to the California sportsmen versus the ban on lead ammunition.

I would appreciate a response from the Governor and the commission as to whether these ideas are feasible and if not, why.

I truly appreciate your consideration and I appreciate your efforts in working with the California hunters.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Michael Cantor