

**WAFWA Resolution #1**  
**Proposed by Lead and Wildlife Ad Hoc Work Group**  
**July 21, 2010**

Whereas, fish and wildlife agencies are facing the challenge of balancing the known and potential impacts to wildlife from lead in spent ammunition and sport fishing tackle with public perception of this issue; and

Whereas, ingested lead from spent ammunition or sport fishing tackle is currently known to have detrimental effects on some species of wildlife at the individual or population level; and

Whereas, public concerns about the potential impact of lead ammunition and sport fishing tackle on wildlife, the environment or public health have resulted in legislative, legal, regulatory and political actions to restrict or eliminate the use of lead in ammunition and fishing tackle on the national level and in some states; and

Whereas, fish and wildlife management decisions are best made by individual state fish and wildlife agencies relying on sound science; and

Whereas, hunters and anglers are some of the original and most active conservationists and can help reduce the amount of lead that is currently used in ammunition and sport fishing tackle; and

Whereas, public awareness and understanding of the potential effects of using lead ammunition and sport fishing tackle and the benefits of using non-lead alternatives is critical to successful efforts to manage this issue; and

Whereas, manufacturers and retailers of sporting goods and ammunition play a crucial role in the support of state Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Programs through the Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux federal excise taxes; and

Whereas, any proposed transition to non-lead ammunition or fishing tackle is likely to be difficult, costly and confusing for hunters, anglers, retailers and manufacturers; and

Whereas, the success of any proposed transition to non-lead ammunition or fishing tackle depends upon effective collaboration with industry, retailers, hunters, anglers, shooting sports interests and conservation organizations; and

Whereas, proactive steps by state fish and wildlife agencies will ensure greater latitude and flexibility to deal with the issue at a state level; and

Whereas, in recognition of the sensitive and often controversial nature of this issue, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) formed an ad hoc lead and wildlife work group to develop recommendations to WAFWA,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) take the following actions to minimize the impact on hunters, anglers, retailers and manufacturers and to provide appropriate tools for WAFWA members to use in addressing with this issue:

1. Continue the WAFWA Lead and Wildlife Ad Hoc Work Group for an additional year to coordinate with the Resource, Information and Education, Human Dimensions, Wildlife Health, Hunter, Angler and Shooting Sports, and State-Federal-Tribal Communications Committees and the Wildlife and Fish Chiefs on specific actions to address the lead and wildlife issue.
2. Direct the Resource Information and Education (RIE) Committee to develop strategic messages that could be used consistently across member agencies to better inform and educate the public on issues related to ingested lead and wildlife including Impacts to populations vs. individual animals, positive role of hunters, anglers and industry, sportsmen ethics, and public health agency concerns about game meat consumption. The committee shall update directors on its progress at the January 2011 business meeting.
3. Direct the Human Dimensions Committee to work with the RIE Committee to develop effective strategic messages using human dimensions studies and to identify the need for future human dimensions research on this issue.
4. Direct the Wildlife Health Committee to continue to collect and analyze current scientific literature regarding lead and wildlife and to keep WAFWA Directors informed of research developments. The committee shall provide an update to directors at the January 2011 business meeting.
5. Direct the Hunter, Angler & Shooting Sports Participation Committee to work with industry and retailers to maintain an open and collaborative approach to addressing the lead and wildlife issue. The committee shall update directors on its efforts at the January 2011 business meeting.
6. Direct the State-Federal-Tribal Communications Committee to work with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) to seek a consistent policy statement from federal agencies regarding the use of lead ammunition and tackle on federal lands. The committee shall provide an update to directors at the January 2011 business meeting.

7. Direct the Wildlife Chiefs and Inland and Marine Fisheries Committee to collect ongoing information on each state's efforts related to this issue over time and include a summary of this information in a report to the directors. A summary of this information shall be provided to directors at the January 2011 business meeting.
8. Direct WAFWA to work with AFWA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, industry, retailers and others to encourage efforts to provide incentives to manufacturers and others to adopt/develop non-lead products. An update on these efforts shall be provided to directors at the January 2011 business meeting.
9. Direct WAFWA to work with AFWA and the USFWS to provide states greater flexibility to use Federal Aid funds for voluntary programs to encourage the use of non-lead alternatives. Directors shall be updated on these efforts at the January 2011 business meeting.
10. Direct WAFWA to work with AFWA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, industry, retailers and other interested parties to identify needs for additional research and studies on the effects of lead on fish and wildlife. Directors shall be updated on these efforts at the January 2011 business meeting.