

California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento CA 95814

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2014 JUL 15 PM 2:10

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Subject: Lead free regulations and fire ignition

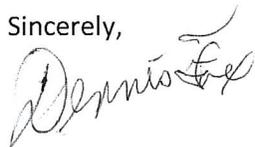
Mr. Chairman, Commission Members and Staff

I personally have endorsed lead free bullet use, but had problems with the legislative banning; for, while a single legislator carrying a bill for an organization (HSUS) convicted under the RICO statutes can reflect on his ethics and credibility, passage of the law does besmirch the entire legislative process. As the said organization's own mission statement implies total hunting ban, I also wonder what will replace the associated funding, and, speaking of bullets, is the bill a magic one itself that assumes the problem is over while lead remains a major hazard in the environment.

So, we see that wildlife is often used a tool for other agendas in this matter and nowhere better than in the quasi-religious belief that fire is always good. The poster child for this inanity was the National Park Service, which often places aesthetics and emotion over common sense, at its Yellow stone fire. The end result was loss of habitat, edge effect and diversity to be replaced by same stage vegetation. Any concept of what the fuel loads or habitat, or even reality, will be in a century is far beyond this agency's paradigm.

Thus, lead bullets have been banned but not steel ones. When steel bullets strike rocks, they become ignition sources, a reason not only why they are banned at many ranges, but also in some forests. The Commission should ban steel bullets at those properties under its jurisdiction prior to seeking a State wide ban on steel bullets concurrent with the lead ban. Failure to do so will definitely validate the previously stated observation concerning lead banner's environmental cynicism.

Sincerely,



Dennis Fox

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