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California Fish and Wildlife Commission
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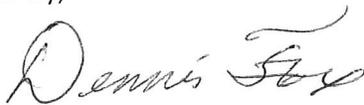
Subject: Agenda item 5 and Habitat Loss

Mr. Chairman, Commission Members and Staff

I have had reservations concerning the current lead bullet ban for two main reasons: First it was promoted by the Humane Society of the United States, not to be confused with the benevolent American Humane Society, which HSUS hopes it is. HSUS has been found to be a corrupt organization under the RICO statutes in Feld v HSUS, and not the type of organization to be setting State policy. Second, consider the fall of ancient Rome and its galloping insanity following installation of lead pipes. This shows lead to be a negative environmental factor, but the prohibition on lead ammo is apt to be the "magic bullet"; vectors, such as legacy mine tailings, will continue to not receive enough attention.

There is another factor that can be corrected, and should be considered in your deliberations on setting regulations on bullet type and appropriate use. An alternate to lead bullets is copper clad steel bullets which cost about a fifth of all copper bullets and are both legal and used. When striking a rock at high speed they cause a shower of sparks and are a wildfire ignition source. This causes not only a loss of habitat in the immediate area, but also a loss of water holding capacity for State wide benefit. Your counsel can inform you how far you can go to ban steel core, called bimetal, bullets from hunting use throughout the State. The Forest Service, of course, has no objections. You definitely can ban these bullets from State lands, such as State Forests and Wildlife Areas. These bullets do not expand and are inhumane in that aspect, and so a ban by the Commission is appropriate and doable.

Sincerely,



Dennis Fox



Ps, Regarding habitat, a visit to the Forest Service habitat/erosion plantation in Central Point and the US Fish And Wildlife Forensic Lab, also nearby, would be instructive and not merely a junket in conjunction with your October meeting.