Reducing Impacts of Lead Ammunition:
Challenges and Solutions

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Sacramento, CA
September 17, 2014

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Ranching and hunting operations are a critical part of wildlife conservation

Education and Outreach

Tables and Presentations

Shooting Clinics

Non-lead Ammo Programs

Institute for Wildlife Studies
www.iws.org

VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Hunting

Challenges

- Disconnect
- Economics
- Lack of a measuring stick
- Limited availability and access

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Challenges

- Disconnect
  - Abundance of misinformation
  - Doubt about the impacts of lead
  - Poaching
  - Missed connection between the beneficial role of hunting and endangered species conservation

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Challenges

- Disconnect
- Economics
  - Cost to Manufacturers
  - Cost to Retailer
  - Cost to Hunters/Ranchers

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Challenges

- Disconnect
- Economics
- Lack of a measuring stick
  - Awareness of issue
  - Success in reducing impacts to wildlife

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Challenges

- Disconnect
- Economics
- Lack of a measuring stick
- Limited availability and access

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Non-Lead “Availability”

- 332 cartridges available from the largest 28 manufactures as loaded ammunition
- 61 calibers offered as components
- Custom loaders offered the most variety
  - 227 offerings from Superior Ammunition

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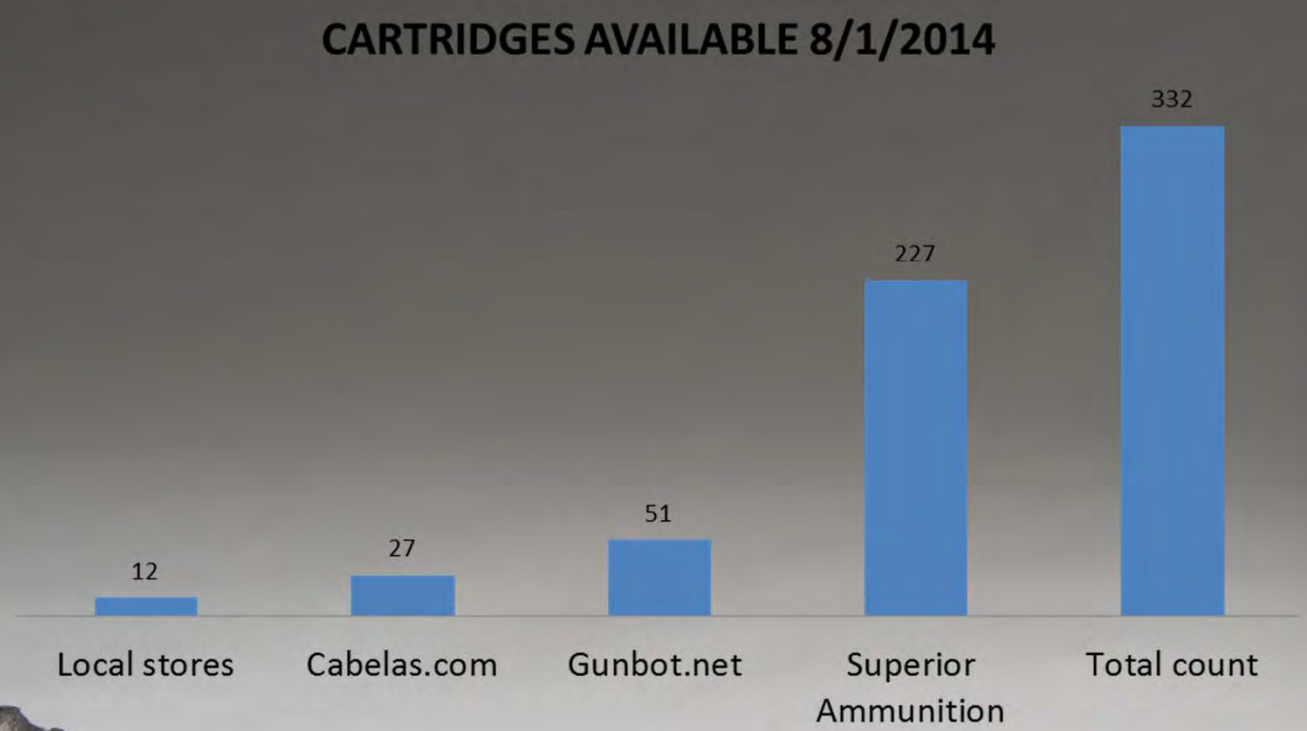
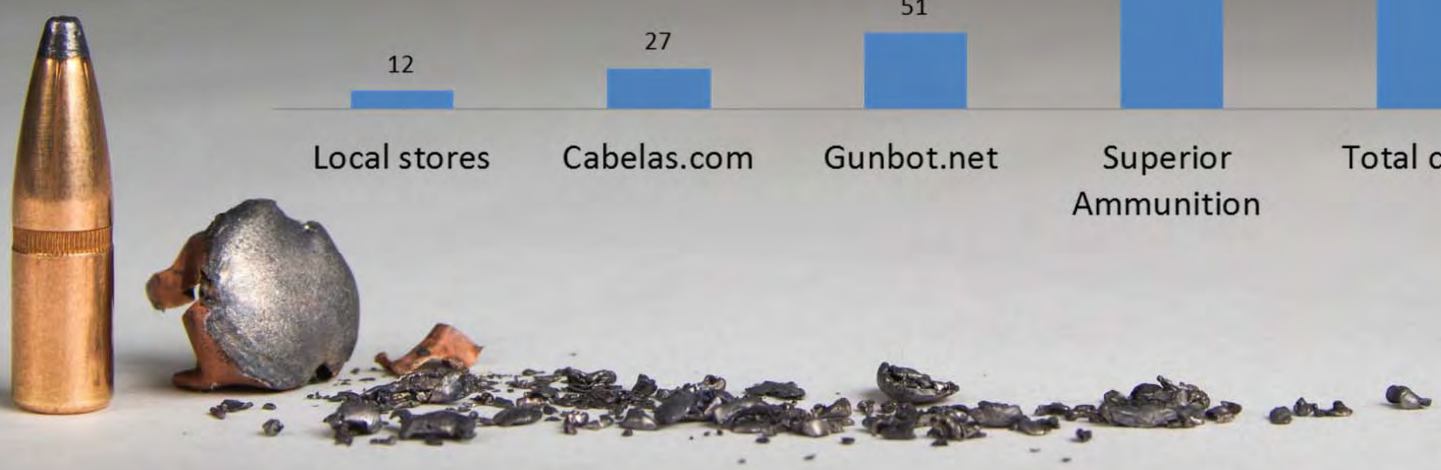
Non-Lead "Availability"





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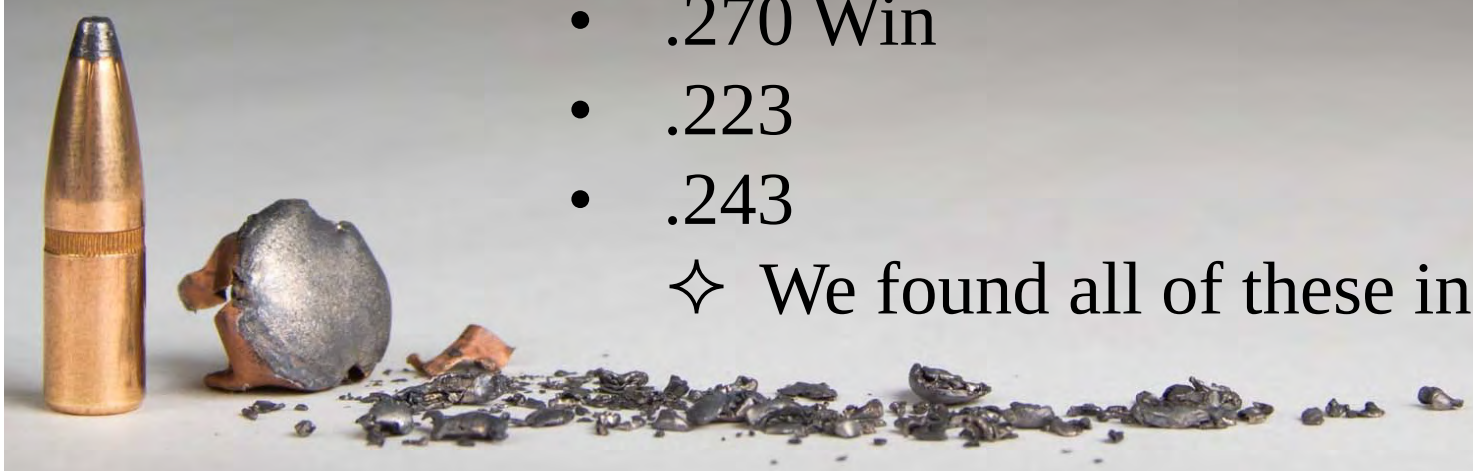
Locating Ammunition

- IWS Surveys show
  - 50% buy from local stores
  - 37% buy online
- Most common centerfire cartridges are
  - 30-06
  - .270 Win
  - .223
  - .243
    - ✧ We found all of these in local stores



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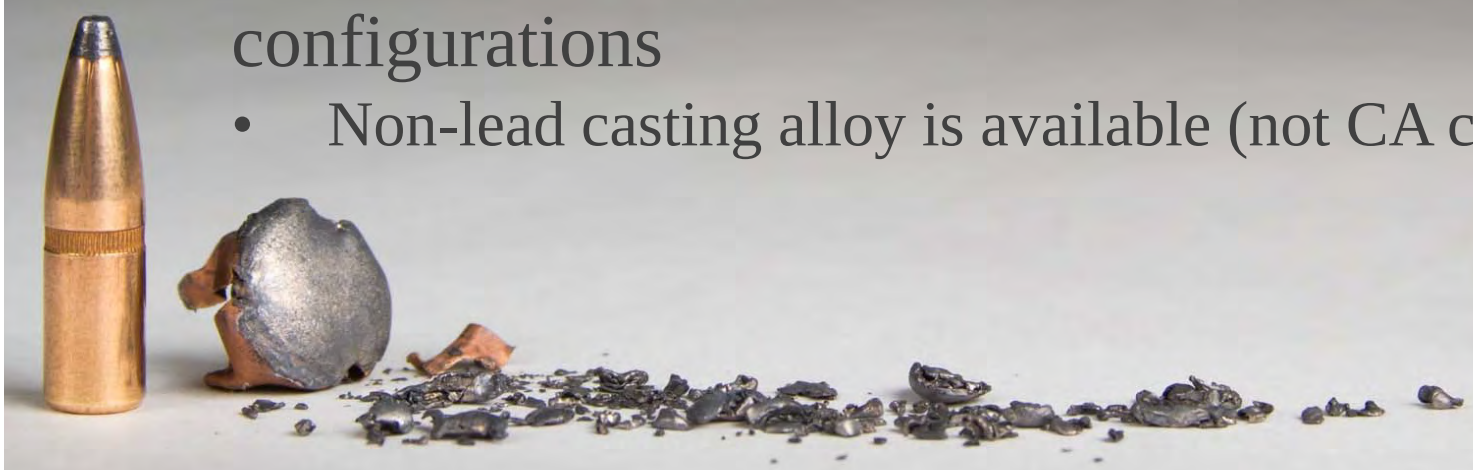
Non-Lead "Availability"

- Manufacturers make most calibers and grain weights
  - Rimfire available in .22LR, .22 MAG, .17 HMR, .17 Mach2
  - Small steel pellets (#6, #7) are loaded in 12, 20, 28 gauge
  - Shotgun slugs for 12 and 20gauge for smooth and rifled barrels
- Muzzleloader bullets widely available in many configurations
  - Non-lead casting alloy is available (not CA certified)



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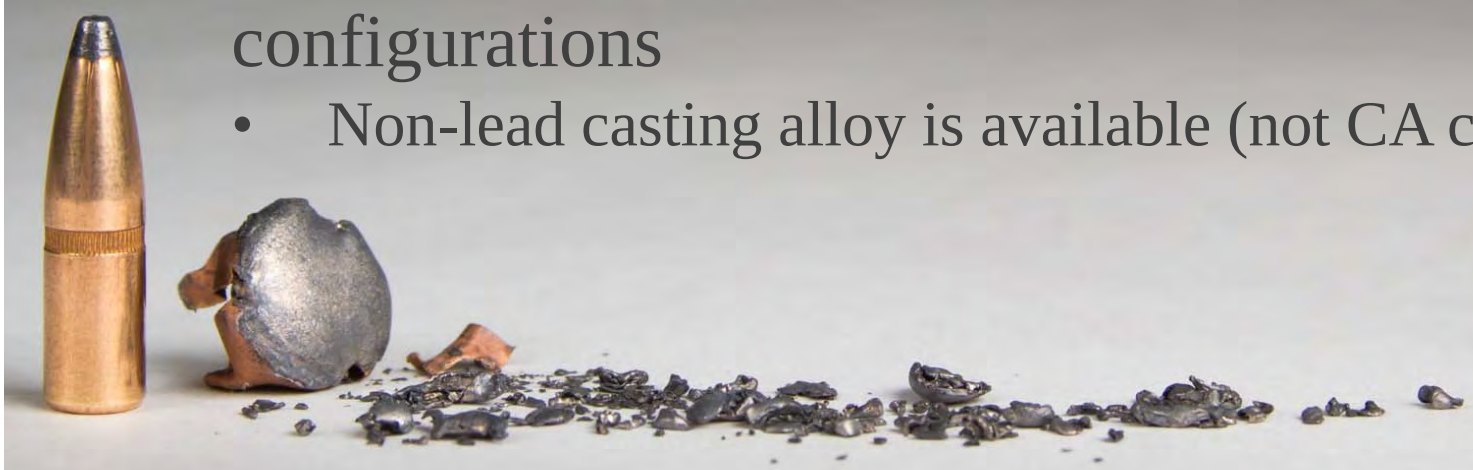

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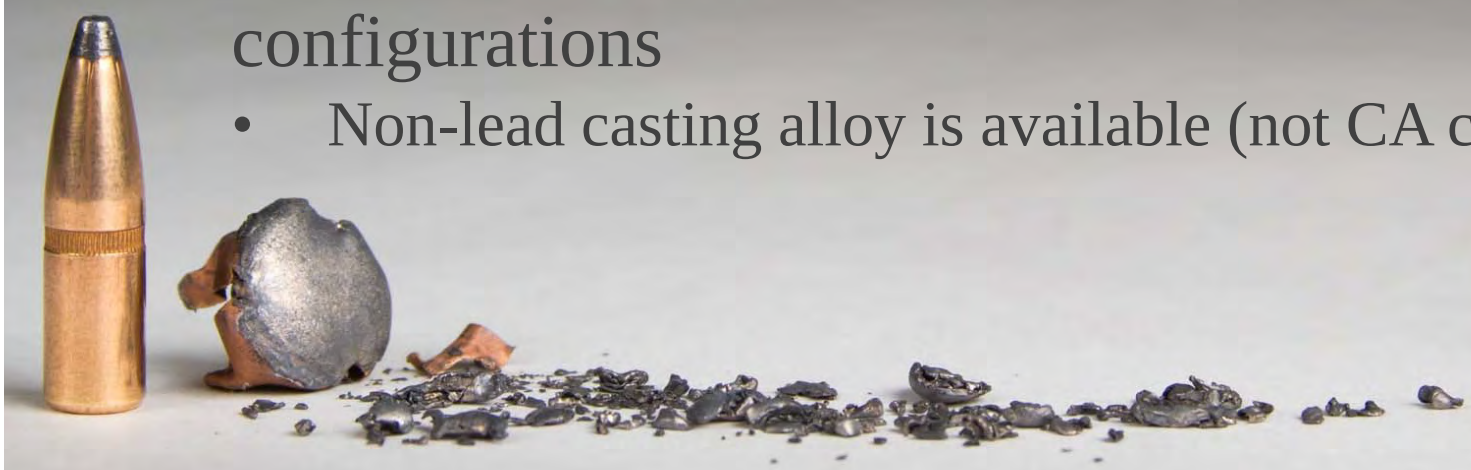

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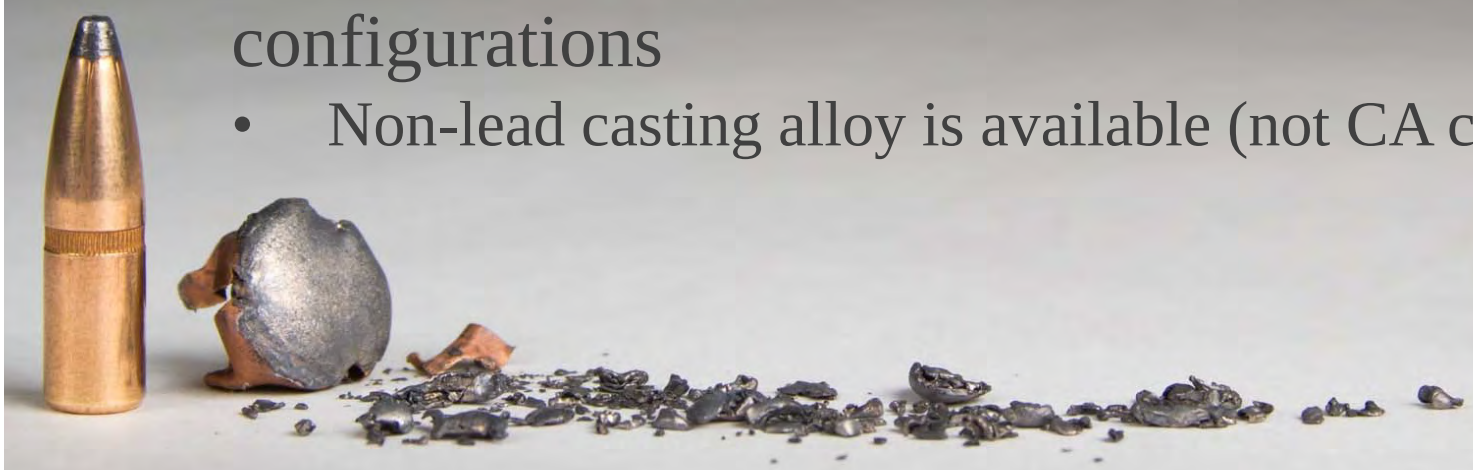

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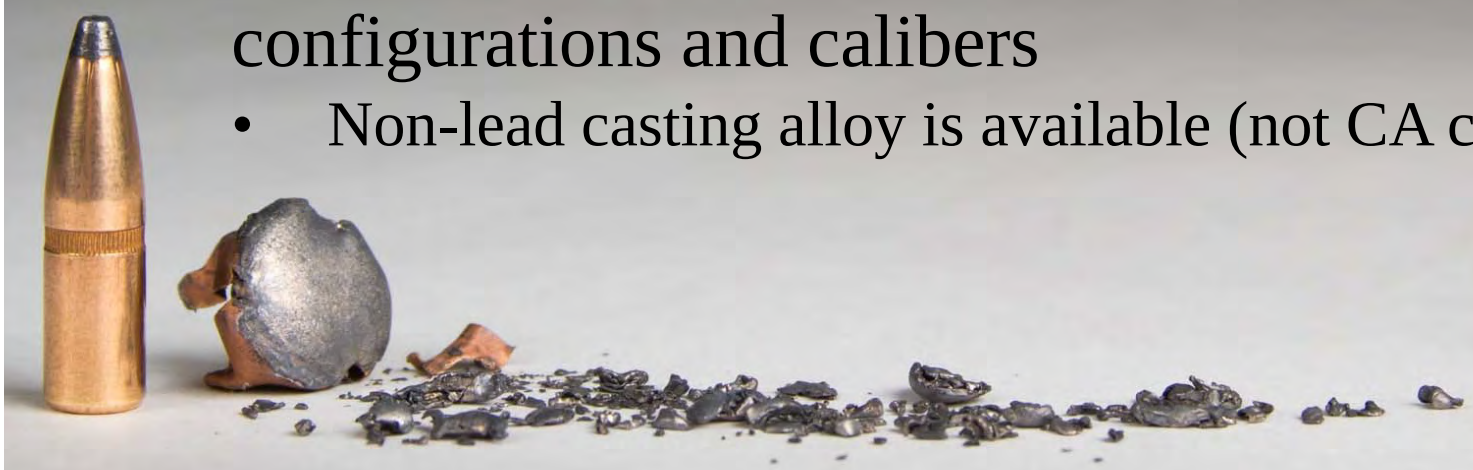

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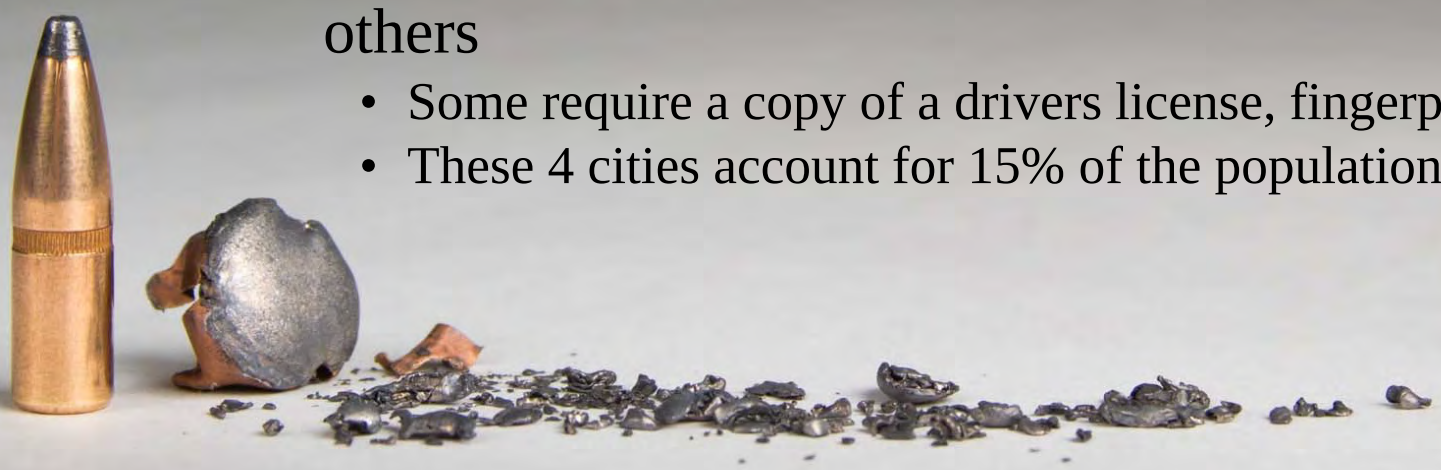
Challenges “Availability”

- Availability can be limited by the ability to purchase online.
- Some areas have restrictions on mail-ordering ammunition.
  - Los Angeles City, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco and others
    - Some require a copy of a drivers license, fingerprint, or signature.
    - These 4 cities account for 15% of the population of California.



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Challenges to Locating Ammunition

- Limited stock
- Difficulty identifying non-lead ammo
- Back order delays
- Special order delays
  - If someone needs ammunition for a hunt they may have to plan months ahead or purchase online

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SHORT RANGE GREEN
22 LR
21 GR • LEAD-FREE HP
1650 FPS
FEDERAL PREMIUM
P22250D
22-250 REM.
43 GRAIN SPEER® TNT GREEN™
WINCHESTER
Ballistic Silvertip
LEAD FREE
22-250 REM
35 GR. BALLISTIC SILVERTIP®
HORNADY
LEVER REVOLUTION
#82731
30-30 WIN
140 gr MONOFLEX®
WINCHESTER
SUPER X
LEAD FREE PROJECTILE
30-30 WIN
150 GRAIN
POWER-CORE 95/5™
BARNES
VOR-TX
30-06 SPRG
180 GR. TIPPED TSX
WINCHESTER
RAZOR BACK XT
LEAD FREE PROJECTILE
223 REM
64 GRAIN
BEVELED PROFILE
PROTECTED
HOLLOW POINT
WINCHESTER
270 WINCHESTER
130 GR.
E-TIP
TIP
FEDERAL PREMIUM
P308V
LEAD FREE BULLET
308 WIN.
150 GRAIN BARNES TRIPLE-SHOCK®
FEDERAL PREMIUM
P6D
6mm REM.
85 GRAIN BARNES TRIPLE-SHOCK®

SHORT RANGE GREEN
22 LR
LEAD-FREE HP
FEDERAL PREMIUM
P22250D
22-250 REM.
43 GRAIN SPEER® TNT GREEN™
WINCHESTER
Ballistic Silvertip
LEAD FREE
22-250 REM
35 GR. BALLISTIC SILVERTIP®
HORNADY
LEVERevolution
#82731
30-30 WIN
140 gr MONOFLEX®
WINCHESTER
SUPER X
LEAD FREE PROJECTILE
30-30 WIN
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Solutions

- Support Hunting and Local Producers
- Science
- Technology
- Partnerships

Solutions

- Support Hunting and Local Producers
  - Acknowledge individuals and local operations who use non-lead ammo
  - Support wardens

Solutions

- Support Hunting and Local Producers
- Science
  - Identify threats to wildlife
  - Guide management

Solutions

- Support Hunting and Local Producers
- Science
- Technology
  - New bullet designs and manufacturers

Solutions

- Support Hunting and Local Producers
- Science
- Technology
- Partnerships

Thank you.

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