

Email sent to Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
Via the Department of Interior Website
April 4, 2016

Name: Kay Mitchell, President, Flathead Audubon Society
E-mail Address: kbmitch@centurytel.net
Subject: Lead Ammunition and Fishing Tackle

Dear Mr. Zinke:

Your recent decision to reverse a phase-out of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on national wildlife refuges was very disappointing. The adverse toxic effects of lead bullets and fishing tackle on multiple species of wildlife have long been known. Use of lead shotshells for waterfowl hunting was banned decades ago on all ownerships due to the demonstrated adverse effects. The adverse effects are just as bad on multiple other species.

Non-toxic ammunition and fishing tackle are available and have been shown to be effective substitutes. These alternatives to lead are rapidly becoming more widely distributed at retailers and prices are dropping as more people use them so they are viable alternatives.

The Wildlife Society, a national organization of wildlife professionals, adopted a position statement in 2009 endorsing precisely the sort of phase-out that you have just undone. Please avoid the politics, use the best available science, protect the wildlife that you are charged with doing, and reinstate the phase-out.

Kay Mitchell
President
Flathead Audubon Society