

ATTENTION

DEER AND SMALL GAME FIREARMS HUNTERS

POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF ANY LEAD OR OTHER TOXIC SHOT MUZZLE LOADER BULLETS, SHOTGUN SLUGS or .22 CALIBER AMMUNITION ON NEAL SMITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IS PROHIBITED!

This new regulation is in addition to the existing non-toxic shot requirement for upland game bird hunting.

Non-toxic, non-lead shotgun slugs and clad or non-toxic muzzleloader bullets for big game will be required on Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge beginning this 2009-2010 hunting season. Copper shotgun slugs are now available at sporting goods stores. A token box of five (5) copper or other non-toxic shotgun slugs will be given to a limited number of hunters this fall to demonstrate their effectiveness and to highlight this change in regulations. Clad, solid copper, or other non-toxic muzzleloader bullets have been available for several years locally and should not be difficult to find.

In addition, non-toxic .22 caliber rimfire rifle ammunition is now required for small game hunting, and is also available from several sources.

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is restricting possession and use of lead hunting ammunition for the following reasons:

1. To reduce or eliminate health risks associated with human consumption of wild game containing lead fragments, and
2. To protect raptors, mammalian predators, and other avian scavengers that commonly dine on big-game carcasses on the refuge.

Recent studies have shown that lead poisoning in humans who have consumed wild game is a real threat. One study in Iowa documented that 20 percent of the samples of venison taken from an Iowa food pantry contained trace amounts of lead. Even at low levels, lead can cause health problems in children and pregnant women.

Regarding wildlife, we have long known that lead shot consumed by waterfowl is deadly, even in small amounts. Now, wildlife rehabilitators across Iowa have been documenting an alarming number of bald eagles and other raptors becoming sick or dying from ingesting lead. Over half of all the eagles admitted have lead in their systems.

Here are a few manufacturers marketing non-toxic rifle and shotgun ammunition*:

Remington Ammunition
Barnes Bullets
Federal Ammunition
Winchester Ammunition

* Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is not endorsing these brands but is merely listing some of the ammunition available.