

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Department initiatives to reduce lead in the environment

FOR: OCTOBER, 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Sean Strom, Wildlife Toxicologist

SUMMARY:

Lead is one of the most toxic metals known and adverse impacts due to lead exposure have been documented in numerous wildlife species. In Wisconsin, lead poisoning has been reported in 15 different species and has been identified as a major mortality factor for bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and common loons.

The Department is dedicated to exploring all opportunities to reduce its own use of lead and to educating the public on the benefits of non-lead alternatives for fishing tackle and ammunition with the goal of reducing the amount of lead in the environment. The overall goal of the Lead Action Plan is to reduce the amount of lead discharged into the environment. The plan calls for a comprehensive set of outreach and demonstration efforts, including reducing the use of lead in department work activities and partnering with interested groups in voluntary efforts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is informational and no action is needed.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

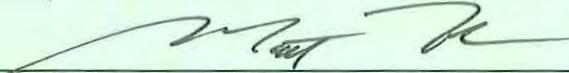
APPROVED:

Bureau Director,

Date

Administrator,

Date



Secretary, Matt Frank

Date
10-14-10

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

Tom Hauge - WM/6

Sean Strom - WM/6

**Action Plan for
Reducing Lead Impacts in Wisconsin**

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
September 2010**

Lead is one of the most toxic metals known and adverse impacts due to lead exposure have been documented in numerous wildlife species. In Wisconsin, lead poisoning has been reported in 15 different species and has been identified as a major mortality factor for bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and common loons. The development of a public outreach/public education program that illustrates the negative impact of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on wildlife and the environment will help reduce the amount of lead discharged into the environment.

Goal

As described in the goal statement “A healthy environment is vital to the people and the fish and wildlife populations of Wisconsin. The harmful effects of lead to people are well known and lead is a known environmental pollutant harmful to fish and wildlife. The Department is dedicated to exploring all opportunities to reduce its own use of lead and to educating the public on the benefits of non-lead alternatives for fishing tackle and ammunition with the goal of reducing the amount of lead in the environment.” We acknowledge that there are other sources of lead in the environment other than lead ammunition and tackle including, but not limited to, waste oil and solid waste incineration, iron and steel production, lead smelting, battery and lead alkyl manufacturing, lead content of motor vehicle emissions, lead based paint, lead in varnish, lead in electronics, lead in drinking water, lead wheel weights, and lead air emissions. These sources are addressed and/or regulated by other programs within the Department or other state and federal agencies (OSHA, Department of Health, EPA, Center for Disease Control, etc.). As such, this plan pertains only to lead ammunition and tackle as sources of lead in the environment. The overall goal of the Department is not an outright ban on lead ammunition and fishing tackle, but rather an expansive outreach effort (with the DNR being a leader by example) which will help reduce the amount of lead discharged into the environment.

Actions

The action plan outlines goals with associated action items, and steps to meet those actions, to reduce the amount of lead in the environment in present day as well as both short and long-term future. Some action items can be implemented with current levels of funding whereas others will require supplemental funding. Examples of activities where the Department is “leading by example” include utilizing non-toxic shot for mute swan control; recycling and proper disposal of seized lead evidence; purchase and distribution of non-lead sinkers and tackle via tackle loaner program, free fishing weekends, and governor’s fishing opener; providing educational materials and recommendations for non-lead ammunition and fishing tackle via regulation pamphlets, magazine articles, web pages, etc; and continuing to examine the harmful impacts of lead on Wisconsin’s wildlife.

The Department is dedicated to exploring all opportunities to continue to reduce its own use of lead as well as educating the public on the benefits of non-lead alternatives for fishing tackle and ammunition and encourage voluntary use of non-lead products when participating in outdoor activities.

Reducing the Impacts of Lead in Wisconsin – 2010 and Beyond (rev. Sept. 21, 2010)

Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Team Members: Loren Ayers, Jeff Bode (pending), Jason Fritz, Julie Langenberg, Bob Manwell, Mike Meyer, Jordan, Petchenik, John Robinson, Tami Ryan, Todd Schaller, Candy Schrank, Theresa Stabo, Sean Strom, Tom Van Haren

Program Representation: Endangered Resources (ER), Water Resources (PR) [pending], Wildlife Management (WM), Information and Education (IE), Science Services (SS), Law Enforcement (LE), Fisheries Management (FM), Parks (PK)

Goal Statement: A healthy environment is vital to the people and the fish and wildlife populations of Wisconsin. The harmful effects of lead to people are well known and lead is a known environmental pollutant harmful to fish and wildlife. The Department is dedicated to exploring all opportunities to reduce its own use of lead and to educating the public on the benefits of non-lead alternatives for fishing tackle and ammunition with the goal of reducing the amount of lead in the environment.

Goal 1: DNR Leadership Exemplified by Reducing and/or Eliminating Use of Lead:

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Eliminate use of lead for nuisance/damage control	1)Non-toxic shot for mute swan control is currently required per policy	Internal: Wildlife Management and Law Enforcement External: N/A	Policy implemented in 2006.		Policy implemented in 2006. Ongoing efforts.
	2)Require DNR staff to use non-toxic shot or non-lead bullets while responding to sick/injured wildlife	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE), Jason Fritz (Parks) External: N/A	1-3 years		
	3)Require use of non-lead bullets during CWD sharpshooting operations; phase-out current inventory of lead bullets & purchase copper bullets for sharpshooting and/or sick deer response protocol	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE), Jason Fritz (Parks) External: N/A	4-10 years		To be determined pending future status of sharpshooting per CWD Management Plan approval and implementation

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Phase out use of lead in LE programmatic activities	1) Recycle lead evidence seized and periodically collect from the field for proper disposal	Internal: Tom Van Haren (LE), Todd Schaller (LE), John Robinson (RR), Jason Fritz (Parks) External: N/A	Ongoing efforts.		Ongoing efforts.
	2) Conversion to non-lead ammunition for law enforcement firearms training	Internal: Tom Van Haren (LE), Todd Schaller (LE), Jason Fritz (Parks) External: N/A	Parks program: December 31, 2010 Law Enforcement: 25% conversion in FY 11; 100% conversion in FY 12	FY10 – \$42,000 Submitted FY11-\$42,000 FY11 needs to meeting 25% Goal - \$48,000 FY12 meeting 100% goal - \$73,500	Currently waiting 6 months for ammo delivery, expect to experience an increase in delivery time with non-toxic ammo. Budget # calculated on 75% increase in cost based on current pricing
Continue to reduce amount of lead in angler education and tackle loaner programs dependent on availability of funds	Purchase of non-lead sinkers for tackle loaner program	Internal: Theresa Stabo (FM) External: N/A	Initiated in 1999.	FY10: \$12,000	Initiated in 1999. Ongoing efforts.
	Include educational messages about non-lead alternatives in Angler Education materials	Internal: Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Loon Watch	Initiated in 2002.	FY10: \$2500 LoonWatch (\$1250 for “Lead Alert” signs to be placed at boat landings; \$1,250 for non-lead tackle packs)	Initiated in 2002. Ongoing efforts.
	Distribute non-lead samples to teachers at training workshops	Theresa Stabo (FM) External: K12 teachers @ public and private schools	Initiated in 2008.		Initiated in 2008. Ongoing efforts.
	Distribute non-lead sample packets during Free Fishing Weekend	Internal: Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Fishing clubs, Parks programs, civic organizations and other	Initiated in 2008.		Initiated in 2008. Ongoing efforts.

		event hosts			
Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
	Distribute non-lead sample packets at the Governor's fishing opener including "higher end" tackle items	Internal: Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Department of Tourism	Initiated in 2009.		Initiated in 2009. Ongoing efforts.
	Continue to develop speaking points for Secretary and/or Governor at Governor's Fishing Opener	Candy Schrank (FM) Sean Strom (WM) Theresa Stabo (FM)	Initiated in 2010.		Initiated in 2010. Ongoing efforts.
	Pending funding, make classroom quantities of non-lead blister packs available to teachers to distribute to students in the angler education program	Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Teachers	1-3 years		To be initiated in 2011
	Pending funding, expand offerings of high-end non-lead tackle samples at Governor's Opener	Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Department of Tourism	1-3 years		To be initiated in 2011
	Pending funding, distribute non-lead sample packets to anglers through our creel clerks	Internal: Theresa Stabo (FM) External: N/A	4-10 years		

Goal 2 - Range of Pilot Projects:

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Wildlife/LE phase out use of lead in Learn to Hunt (LTH) events	1)Pilot project in NOR providing non-toxic shot education in LTH turkey programs	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: LTH Instructors	1-3 years	FY10: \$18,000	Spring 2010: Pilot courses identified, Power point presentation developed. Non-toxic shot ammunition purchased.
	2)After assessment of the LTH turkey program, pilot LTH pheasant programs in NOR	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: LTH Instructors	1-3 years		Fall 2010
	3)After further assessment and refinement, implement LTH non-toxic education into all turkey and pheasant LTE in entire Northern Region	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: LTH Instructors, Conservation organizations (Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation)	1-3 years		Spring 2011
	4)Statewide implementation of non-toxic shot education into all LTH programs	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: LTH Instructors	1-3 years	FY10: \$13,300 for statewide educational material	Spring 2012
Impacts of lead on common loon populations	1)Necropsy all common loons in WI – examine role of lead as mortality factor	Internal: Mike Meyer (SS), Sean Strom (WM), Julie Langenberg (WM) External: N/A	Initiated in 2006.		Initiated in 2006. Ongoing efforts.
	2)Update population model for common loons – examine lead as mortality factor and potential effects on loon populations in northern WI	Internal: Mike Meyer (SS), Sean Strom (WM), Julie Langenberg (WM) External: N/A	1-3 years		Original model published in the Journal of Wildlife Management; Vol. 73, No. 7, 2009.

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Non-toxic shot education effort for shooting ranges on state-owned property	1) Develop materials encouraging the use of non-toxic shot for hunting and shooting sports	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: N/A	1-3 years	FY10: \$7,500 for McMiller pilot FY11: \$27,000 for material for the other 8 ranges on state property; \$3,000 for traveling displays (1/Region)	Graphic artist hired. Ongoing consultation. Educational kiosk and brochure deadline of June 1, 2010.
	2) Implement Cooperative North American Shotgunning Education Program (CONSEP) style shooting clinics a) Pilot in SER (train the trainer) b) Host one per Region (focus on external partner group VIPs)	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: Select dignitaries from partner groups (WWF, Conservation Congress, etc.)	Pilot in SER FY 11 Host one clinic per Region for select partners/VIPs only (to facilitate development of ambassadors to their membership & general public) within the 1-3 years following	FY10: \$2200 SER pilot: travel & supply costs for instructors and staff) FY11: \$43K for (\$3K for CONSEP membership;\$15,000 /employee instructor training (\$1500 each);\$25,000 for clinics in each region (\$5K each for travel & supply costs)	Communication and coordination with Iowa DNR employee with CONSEP training to teach the pilot clinic in SER
Identify shooting ranges (on state-owned property) for lead remediation pilot project	1) Encourage BMPs on private shooting ranges	Internal: John Robinson (RR), Tami Ryan (WM), Sean Strom (WM) External: N/A	Ongoing efforts.		Ongoing efforts.
	2) Site visits to ranges on state lands and select pilot project location.	Internal: John Robinson (RR), Tami Ryan (WM), Sean Strom (WM) External: N/A	1-3 years		Summer 2010

Goal 3 – Increase Public Education Effort:

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Expand information on agency's Website and include statements in publications as well as links to outside agency web pages promoting use of lead alternatives	1) Statements included in deer regulation book	Internal: Sean Strom (WM) External: N/A	Ongoing efforts.		Continue to include statements in deer regulation booklet. Ongoing efforts.
	2) Articles on on-lead fishing tackle included in fisheries publications	Internal: Candy Schrank (FM) External: N/A	Included in fishing regs since 2008 & fishing report since 2009.		Included in fishing regs since 2008 & fishing report since 2009. Ongoing efforts.
	3) Update Fisheries "Get the Lead Out" webpage including coordination with other programs (e.g. recycling, wildlife, human health, etc.)	Internal: Candy Schrank (FM) External: N/A	Initiated in 2007.		Initiated in 2007. Ongoing efforts.
	4) Revision of "lead in venison" page on DNR website to focus on "lead in the environment"	Internal: Sean Strom (WM) External: N/A	1-3 years		Fall 2010
Educational outreach regarding lead exposure in common loons	1) Display at the Escanaba Research Station	Internal: Science Services staff	On display at the Escanaba Lake Research Station beginning in May, 2010. Research to follow in 2011 and beyond.		On display at the Escanaba Lake Research Station beginning in May, 2010. Research to follow in 2011 and beyond. Ongoing efforts.
Educate DNR staff, LTH organizers and hunter education instructors on lead issues, the impacts, and the choices they have in terms of ammunition and behaviors	1) LTH activities, see Goal 2, step 1.	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: LTH and Hunter Ed Instructors			

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
	3) Hunter education instructor newsletter outreach and education	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Todd Schaller (LE) External: N/A	1-3 years		Fall 2011
Promote voluntary use of non-lead ammunition at managed hunts on state property (Sandhill WA and Bong)	1) Display educational kiosk, provide brochures, and distribute free non-toxic ammunition	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM) External: N/A	1-3 years	FY10: \$4,000 (\$2K for each location - Bong and Sandhill) FY11: \$8,000 (\$4K for each location - Bong and Sandhill)	Fall 2010
Work with various clubs that operate shooting ranges to encourage the development and implementation of environmental stewardship plans which incorporate best management practices	See Goal 2, Action Item 4	For assignments see Action Item 4, Steps 1 & 2	For timeline, see Action Item 4, Steps 1 & 2		
Work with the Conservation Congress	1) Incorporate involvement of WCC members in outreach efforts	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM) External: WI Conservation Congress	Initiated Fall 2009		Initiated Fall 2009 Consultation with WCC's Air, Waster and Water committee on spring hearing questions regarding a ban on lead fishing tackle Presentation at WCC's Big Game Committee meeting regarding proposed CDC study examining blood lead levels in wild game consumers Ongoing efforts.

Action	Steps	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline	Budget	Progress
Promote recycling and reclamation of lead	1) Update and enhance current materials and methods	Internal: Candy Schrank (FM), John Robinson (RR) External: N/A	4-10 years		
Outreach with Lake Associations/Districts/Fishing Tournaments	TBD [<i>placeholder</i>]	Internal: Jeff Bode External: N/A	4-10 years		
Educate consumers of wild game on potential risks of consuming game harvested with lead ammunition	1) Provide information on website and regulation books	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM)	Statements included in our deer hunting regs since 2008.		Statements included in our deer hunting regs since 2008. Ongoing efforts.
	2) Testing of urban geese for potential food pantry distribution	Internal: Sean Strom (WM) External: USDA-Wildlife Services	Program initiated in 1999 with testing conducted every year at participating locations.		Program initiated in 1999 with testing conducted every year at participating locations. Ongoing efforts.
	3) Statewide testing of resident Canada geese	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM), Kent Van Horn (WM)	4-10 years		Funding for chemical analysis and ammunition for sample collection would need to be secured
Lead Tackle Exchange Program	1) Cooperators could prepare, print, distribute education materials	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Tami Ryan (WM); Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Northland College (LoonWatch), Lake Associations, UW Extension, WI Conservation Congress	1-3 years	FY 10: \$1500 FY 11: \$1500	
	2) Local lake associations and clubs could set up <i>Toxic Tackle Exchange Days</i>	Internal: Sean Strom (WM), Theresa Stabo (FM) External: Northland College (LoonWatch), Lake Associations	1-3 years	FY 10: \$4325 FY 11: \$4325	
	3) Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegates promote the program to local sports clubs, community groups and lake associations, etc	Internal: Sean Strom (WM); Theresa Stabo (FM) External: WI Conservation Congress	1-3 years	FY 10: \$4325 FY 11: \$4325	