



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington D.C. 20240



Mr. Collin O'Mara, Chair
Mr. John Devney, Vice Chair
Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council
c/o Doug Hobbs, Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: OC
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

Dear Mr. O'Mara and Mr. Devney:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is providing an update to the Service's response to the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council (Council) letter dated December 15, 2023, transmitting the Council's recommendations pertaining to the future use and management of lead and lead-free ammunition on federal lands.

Since the Service's initial response on March 6, 2024, we have continued efforts to further consider the Council's recommendations on this matter. The issue of lead ammunition use on federal public lands continues to be challenging for fish and wildlife management agencies at the federal and state levels, as well as for the hunting and recreational shooting public, industry, and conservation organizations. Based on the concepts identified in the Council's recommendations, the Service drafted the attached concept paper highlighting our initial planning for the creation of pilot programs on a select group of National Wildlife Refuges to attempt the kinds of voluntary, incentive-based initiatives recommended by the Council to increase use of lead-free ammunition by the hunting public, especially use by participants in Refuge-based hunting opportunities.

The Service would like to continue to work with the Council to hone these concepts and requests your thoughts and input on the concept paper attached to this correspondence. In particular, we appreciate your thoughts on: how the Service can leverage partnerships to implement these types of programs, potential methods to fund such pilot projects, types of messaging and communications resources that may increase public awareness of the availability of lead-free ammunition, and types of incentive programs that may be useful in increasing hunter use of lead-free ammunition.

Thank you for the Council's continued efforts to collaborate with the Service regarding implementation of its thoughtful recommendations and to help shape America's conservation future. If you have questions or need more information regarding this matter please contact Cynthia Martinez, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, at Cynthia_Martinez@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Martha Williams
Director

Enclosure