



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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## Memorandum

To: Regional Directors  
Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection  
Assistant Director, Business Services

From: Acting Director *David M. White*

Subject: Get the Lead Out! An Initiative to Address Lead Reduction in National Park Service Natural Resource Activities

In order to improve healthy environments and ecosystems in the National Park System, I have tasked Associate Director of Natural Resource Stewardship and Science and his team to work across directorates to provide a feasible and sound, scientific approach to reducing lead in activities related to natural resource management in parks.

Lead is an environmental contaminant in many areas of the world, and in many habitat types, both urban and rural, including our national parks. Lead is banned in gasoline, children's toys and paint because of its effects on human health. Removal of lead as a source of contamination in natural resource related activities in national parks will benefit humans, wildlife and ecosystems within and outside of national park boundaries.

The National Park Service, as a land management leader:

- Will require the use of non-lead based ammunition and fishing tackle in NPS units where those activities are authorized;
- Recognizes that long-term elimination of lead from outdoor recreational activities will require collaboration among affected stakeholders, in addition to policy modifications and/or Special Regulations;
- Will develop materials to provide explicit and targeted educational strategies that encourage efforts leading to greater public awareness of the consequences of lead exposure and emphasize the realized gains in environmental quality from the use of lead-free ammunition and fishing tackle.

Consistent with the NPS mission, I have instructed the Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, to:

- Establish and disseminate standard operating procedures for properly dispatching animals within parks, whether for culling operations or dispatching of wounded or sick animals;

- Review policy to ensure that these changes are appropriately articulated;
- Work with parks and regions to develop Servicewide educational materials on this issue;
- Draft Special Regulation language as necessary, prohibiting the use of lead in hunting and fishing activities for those parks that authorize such activities;
- Collaborate with Concessions Management to replace lead fishing tackle with non-lead alternatives where sold within park units.

The NPS will achieve these goals by, December 31, 2010, or sooner.