

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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McGarvey 202/343-5634

STEEL SHOT PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED

The proposal to require steel shotgun ammunition for waterfowl hunting will be discussed at public hearings in four cities in late October and early November.

Hearings will be held in each of the four migratory bird flyways at the following locations:

ATLANTIC FLYWAY	WASHINGTON, D.C. October 22, 1974 9:00 a.m. Interior Department Auditorium 18th and C Streets, N.W.
PACIFIC FLYWAY	SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA October 31, 1974 9:00 a.m. Room 1194, California State Bldg. 455 Golden Gate Avenue
MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY	ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI November 4, 1974 9:00 a.m. St. Louis County Library Auditorium 1640 South Lindberg Blvd.
CENTRAL FLYWAY	DENVER, COLORADO November 6, 1974 9:00 a.m. Auditorium, Room 269, Denver Post Office 1823 Stout Street

Thousands of ducks and geese die each year from lead poisoning contracted by eating spent lead pellets from marsh bottoms and fields where hunting has taken place. On July 23rd the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a proposed rulemaking that would require non-toxic steel shotgun ammunition in the Atlantic Flyway in 1976, in the Mississippi Flyway in 1977, and in certain "hot spot" areas of the Central and Pacific Flyways in 1978.

A notice of availability of the draft Environmental Impact Statement was also published in the Federal Register on July 23rd. Copies may be obtained by writing to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Environmental Coordination, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Persons wishing to comment at the public hearing are asked to notify the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, at least five days before the meeting date. A 10 minute time limit for oral presentations is imposed, although additional time may be granted in advance if requested in writing.