



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release November 2, 1984

Megan Durham (202) 343-5634

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES NONTOXIC SHOT ZONES FOR 1985-86 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

Portions of 32 States, including 65 national wildlife refuges, have been proposed for designation as nontoxic (steel) shot zones for the 1985-86 waterfowl hunting season, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The proposal, published in the October 30, 1984, Federal Register, describes the geographic boundaries of the proposed nontoxic shot zones and also lists the refuges where nontoxic shot requirements are proposed. In previous years, nontoxic shot requirements for national wildlife refuges were published separately. The refuge requirements are now being combined with State zone descriptions to make it easier for the public to determine where nontoxic shot is required.

The proposal includes five national wildlife refuges that are being proposed for nontoxic shot for the first time in 1985 as a result of recent lead poisoning monitoring studies. The five refuges are Missisquoi (VT); Stillwater (NV); Benton Lake (MT); Tule Lake and Lower Klamath (CA).

The proposal also includes minor changes, corrections, or boundary adjustments for zones in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Florida, Indiana, and New York.

In addition, the Service lists and requests comments on 95 counties where the National Wildlife Federation has petitioned the Service to implement nontoxic shot zones to reduce the risk of lead poisoning in bald eagles. The Service is requesting public comments on this list but is not now proposing nontoxic shot regulations for these counties. After reviewing the public comments on the list of counties and an analysis of available information relating to lead poisoning in bald eagles that feed on crippled or sick waterfowl, the Service will consider the need for proposing additional nontoxic shot requirements for 1985.

(over)

Under the current proposal, nontoxic shot zones would be designated in the following States:

ATLANTIC FLYWAY: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Nontoxic shot zones are not being proposed for Virginia and South Carolina for 1985. These States did not approve enforcement of nontoxic shot regulations in 1984.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY: Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin.

CENTRAL FLYWAY: Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas.

PACIFIC FLYWAY: California, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington.

National wildlife refuges for which nontoxic shot requirements are proposed for 1985 are as follows:

ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Delaware: Bombay Hook, Prime Hook.

Florida: Chassahowitzka, Loxahatchee, Merritt Island, Lower Suwannee.

Georgia: Eufaula, Savannah.

Massachusetts: Parker River, Plum Island.

New Jersey: Barnegat and Brigantine (now called Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge).

New York: Iroquois, Montezuma.

North Carolina: Cedar Island, Mattamuskeet, Swanquarter.

Pennsylvania: Erie.

Vermont: Missisquoi.

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

Alabama: Eufaula.

Illinois: Crab Orchard.

Iowa: Upper Mississippi River, De Soto.

Louisiana: Lacassine, Sabine.

Michigan: Shiawassee.

(more)

Mississippi: Hillside, Mathews Brake, Morgan Brake, Noxubee, Panther Swamp.

Minnesota: Tamarac, Sherburne, Upper Mississippi River, Minnesota Valley.

Missouri: Swan Lake, Mingo.

Ohio: Ottawa.

Tennessee: Hatchie, Lower Hatchie, Cross Creeks.

Wisconsin: Trempealeau, Necedah, Upper Mississippi River, Horicon.

CENTRAL FLYWAY

Kansas: Quivira.

New Mexico: Sevilleta, Bosque del Apache, Bitter Lake, Las Vegas.

Oklahoma: Washita, Sequoyah.

Texas: Anahuac, Big Boggy, Brazoria, McFaddin, San Bernard, Texas Point, Matagorda Island.

PACIFIC FLYWAY

California: Tule Lake, Lower Klamath.

Montana: Benton Lake.

Nevada: Stillwater.

Oregon: Ankeny, Baskett Slough, William L. Finley.

Utah: Bear River.

Washington: Ridgefield.

In addition to these national wildlife refuges, many units of the Refuge System known as waterfowl production areas are also proposed for designation as nontoxic shot zones.

Public comments on the proposed nontoxic shot zone designations are requested and should be addressed to the Director (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.