



THE CONSERVANCY

— VICTORY RANCH —

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Environmental Hazards of Lead Shot and Tackle

Did You Know...

A [recent study](#) found that around 30 percent of bald eagles in the U.S. have high levels of lead poisoning.

The use of lead ammunition and lead tackle in hunting and fishing has been a topic of concern for many years due to the potential environmental impacts. Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to humans and wildlife, and its use in hunting and fishing gear has been linked to a variety of negative environmental and health effects.

One of the primary concerns about the use of lead ammunition in hunting is that lead fragments from bullets can remain in the carcasses of animals that are shot, leading to contamination of the meat. This can be a potential health hazard for humans who consume the meat, as lead can accumulate in the body over time and cause serious health problems. Additionally, lead fragments can be ingested by scavengers such as vultures and eagles, which can lead to lead poisoning and death.

Lead tackle, such as lead sinkers and jigs, is also a concern due to the potential for it to be ingested by fish and other aquatic animals. Lead can accumulate in the tissues of these animals and can have harmful effects on their health. In addition, lead can leach into the water and sediments of rivers and lakes, potentially contaminating these environments and affecting the overall health of aquatic ecosystems.

There are alternatives to lead ammunition and tackle that are available, such as copper and other non-toxic materials. These alternatives are not only safer for the environment, but they can also be just as effective for hunting and fishing.

To protect the environment and reduce the negative impacts of lead, it is important for hunters and anglers to consider using alternative materials whenever possible. By making these choices, we can help protect wildlife and the environment, and ensure that hunting and fishing remain sustainable and enjoyable activities for future generations.