

A scenic landscape featuring a calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding mountains and sky. The mountains are covered in dense green forests. The entire scene is overlaid with a soft, teal-to-blue gradient, creating a serene and natural atmosphere. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

Protecting Tompkins County From Lead Ammunition Contamination

Lead Toxic For Humans

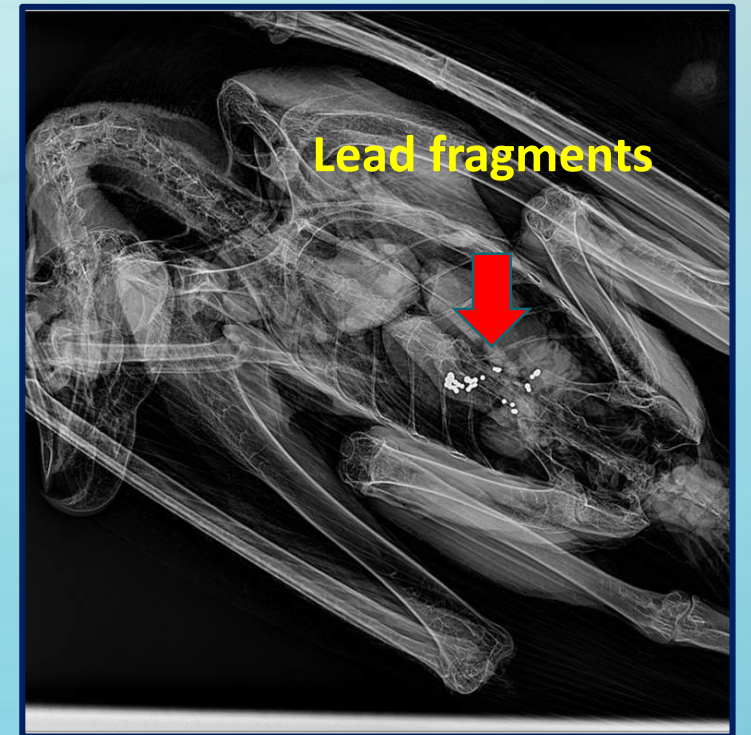
Effects are well known:

- **Permanent** damage to children's developing bodies
 - Lower IQs, neurological.
- High lead blood levels linked to loss of emotional control.
- Cardiovascular disease and death.
- No safe lead blood levels!



Lead ammo kills most wildlife that ingest it

- Lead bullets shot into game animals breaks into fragments.
- Wildlife like eagles, hawks, waterfowl & mammals accidentally consume lead while feeding.
- **Most die.**



Tons Of Lead Shot At Outdoor Ranges Present Multiple Dangers

- Poisoning of wildlife, especially waterfowl, fish and amphibians that ingest lead pellets and are then consumed by other species (including humans).
- Contamination of groundwater and nearby wells, as well as surface waters and wetlands.
- Drift of lead dust and vapor onto other properties.
- Unwitting hazardous exposure to shooters.

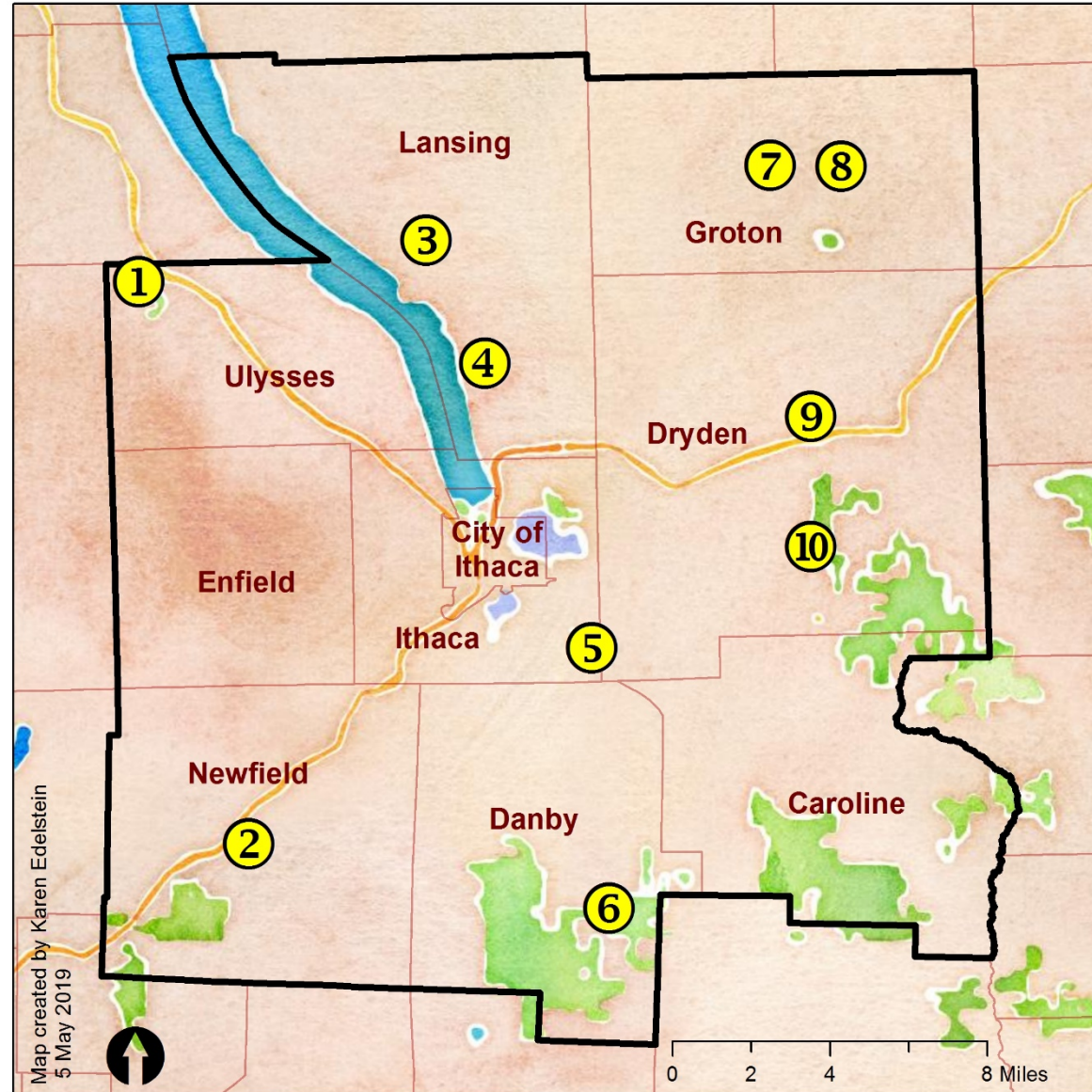
Movement to Ban Lead Ammo At Gun Clubs

- Growing national coverage of lead ammo hazards.
- Municipalities vs. gun clubs backed by the NRA.
- Taxpayers usually stuck with clean-up costs.
- Precedents for a ban on lead ammunition:
 - Federal ban on lead shot for hunting waterfowl in 1992.
 - California state hunting law – total ban phased in by 2019.
 - Bill in 2018 NYS Assembly shows growing statewide concern.
 - Lead sinkers for fishing banned in NYS.
 - Successful move to steel shot at Naperville, IL club with NPDES permit.

Lansing Gun Club Battle

- 3.5+ tons of lead per year shot into Salmon Creek and its environs since mid 50s. Host to multiple trap shooting meets.
- EPA consent order to stop shooting into waterway or switch to steel shot. Not required to clean up existing mess (likely that clean-up costs created by this private club borne by taxpayers).
- Refusal to stop shooting lead: new trap ranges aimed at steep hill in floodplain.
- Local government unable/unwilling to stop gun hobbyists. Hundreds of residents oppose the club's relocation plans.

Gun clubs & Shooting ranges Tompkins County



Gun clubs and shooting ranges, Tompkins County

- ① Trumansburg Fish & Game, Inc
- ② Newfield Rod & Gun Club
- ③ Lansing Rod & Gun Club
- ④ Tompkins Co Fish & Game Club
- ⑤ Ithaca Police Shooting Range
- ⑥ Top Gun Hunting Club Inc
- ⑦ Cortland Pistol Gun Range
- ⑧ Groton Rod & Gun Club
- ⑨ Dryden Fish and Game Club
- ⑩ Dusenberry Sportsmen's Club

Watersheds / Gun Clubs & Shooting Ranges

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 Cayuga Lake/ Trumansburg Creek: | Trumansburg Fish & Game, Inc. |
| 2 Upper Cayuga Inlet: | Newfield Rod & Gun Club |
| 3 Salmon Creek: | Lansing Rod & Gun Club |
| 4 Cayuga Lake/ Willow Creek: | Tompkins Co. Fish & Game Club |
| 5 Cayuga Inlet/ Six Mile Creek: | Ithaca Police Shooting Range |
| 6 Catatonk Creek: | Top Gun Hunting Club, Inc. |
| 7 Headwaters Owasco Inlet: | Cortland Pistol Gun Range |
| 8 Headwaters Owasco Inlet: | Groton Rod & Gun Club |
| 9 Fall Creek: | Dryden Fish & Game Club |
| 10 Cayuga Inlet/Headwaters Six Mile Creek: | Dusenberry Sportsmen's Club |

Sample Clean-up Costs

Alternative costs* for clean-up at shooting range used 1947-2009:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 – No Action = | \$0 |
| 2 – Excavation & on-site treatment = | \$2,827,000 |
| 3 – Excavation & off-Site disposal = | \$1,701,000 |
| 4 – On-Site Soil Capping = | \$842,000 |

**** Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis***

**For Index, Washington Shooting Range,
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Nov. 2011**

Remember Ithaca Gun Company!

Despite having moved 6000 tons of lead-contaminated material between 2002 and 2004 at a cost of \$4.8 million...

...it was still necessary to perform even more clean up at the superfund site in 2015.



Why Regulate Lead Ammunition?

Impacts on humans using shooting ranges:

- Lead vapor inhaled while shooting many rounds per day.
- Lead dust on clothing and shoes spreads offsite.
- Eating and smoking at clubs results in lead ingestion.
- Sponsored campaigns by NRA and gun manufacturers to recruit kids to “shooting sports.”



Why Regulate Lead Ammunition?

- Real, proven environmental and human hazards.
- Expensive lawsuits. Expensive clean up.
- Lead in water can solubilize and leach into groundwater and household wells. Interacts in waterways with road salt and cyanobacteria causing greater bioavailability.
- Horrible toxic effects on wildlife:
 - Birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish.
 - Food chain effects.



Lucky Lansing Hawk

Adult Red Tailed Hawk

Found dazed & unable to fly or walk 2017.

Cornell Wildlife Clinic diagnosed:

- Ingested lead bullet from carcass feeding.
- Extremely high blood levels of lead.
- Grave prognosis for survival.

After months of medical treatment, physical therapy, & rehabilitation, this lucky hawk was released near its Lansing territory.

Most wildlife that ingest lead ammo are not so fortunate & die undiscovered.



© Cornell University

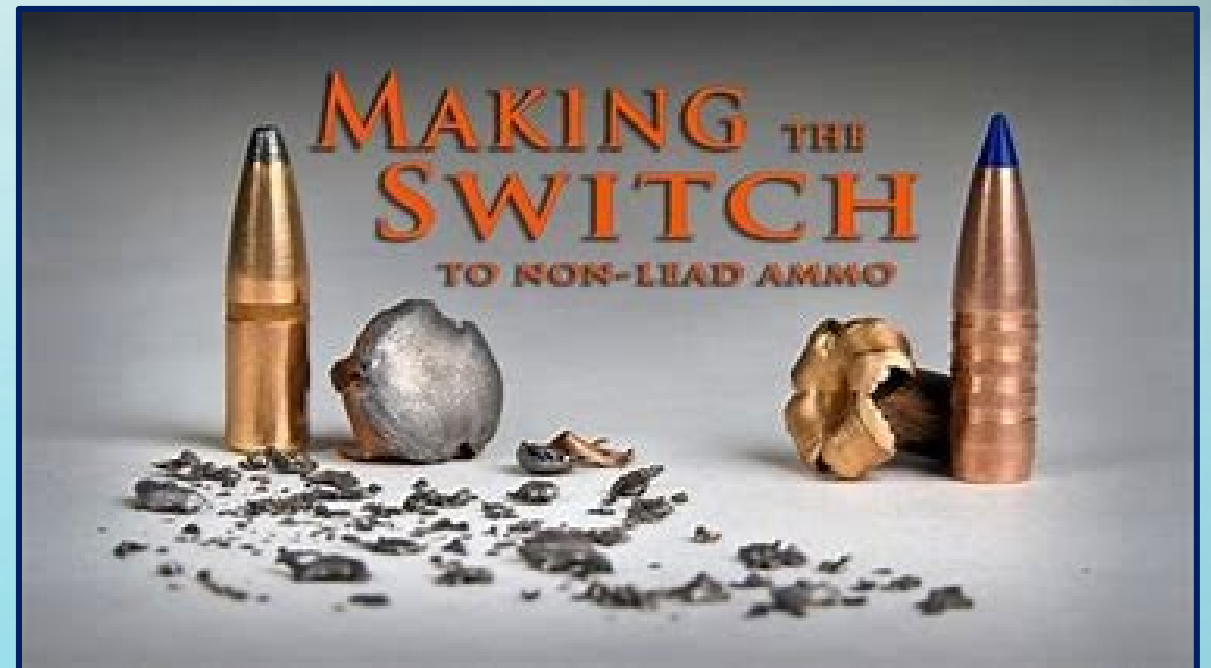
County Ban On Lead Ammo At Shooting Ranges

Because of:

- Known and persistent toxicity.
- High expense of clean up.

We should stop adding lead to the environment.

Suggest county ban as part of local Health regulations.



Easy Available Alternatives

- Steel, copper, other metals
- Affordable
- Effective

From one ammo company:

“These 100% lead-free ammunition components function reliably and show no unusual wear on the weapon in long-range testing.”



Enforcement?

- Since ban would be at shooting ranges only, need only inspect 10 locales in Tompkins County.
- Sheriff's Department or Environmental Health staff could inspect local ranges annually and collect samples of spent ammo for analysis.



A serene landscape featuring a calm lake that perfectly reflects the surrounding environment. In the background, there are misty, layered mountains under a bright, hazy sky where the sun is visible. The foreground shows the dark, still water of the lake, which acts as a mirror for the sky and the distant peaks. The overall color palette is soft and natural, dominated by blues, greys, and the warm tones of the sun.

Questions And Discussion