
Compensatory Mitigation for Land-based Wind Energy

Webinar 4: Thinking Outside the Box

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AUDIENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: What is the cost difference between the lead abatement or carcass removal over the life of the project vs the pole retrofit one-time payment?

Answer: I'm sorry, but I don't know the cost difference of the different options for offsetting take. (Taber Allison)

Question: Matt, have you considered instead giving away ammunition to applicants as the Sporting Lead Free program in Wyoming has done? Wondering how many hunters will actually follow through on the rebate paperwork and surveys post-season.

Answer: We did consider giving away ammunition, but there are challenges to distributing ammunition in New York state. I'm not familiar with the sporting lead-free program, but I'd be interested to learn more about it. matthew.palumbo@dec.ny.gov. (Matt Palumbo)

Question: For Matt P: How do you combat hunters who are unwilling to participate in study because they fear NYS is going to ban lead ammo?

Answer: Our lead ammo working group has generated a report in which trying to educate hunters for voluntary use is our recommended approach. We try to make that front and center, that we are researching ways for voluntary change and increase people's awareness. (Matt Palumbo)

Question: Is it difficult to obtain lead-free ammo? Would it be different in the US vs Canada?

Answer: In NY it can be challenging to find lead free ammo. It has gotten better but can still be challenging and we work with people to try to connect them with nonlead ammo. I'm not sure if there are differences between the US and Canada. (Matt Palumbo)

Same in Canada. You can find them but it can be a challenge. (Jerome Lemaitre)

Question: Taber, you mention there is no room for a Wind Energy Project to mitigate the eagle take at a project. Wouldn't that be the easiest way to reduce the eagle mortality? (i.e. reduce the amount of eagles that die at the wind facility) What are the roadblocks to have this conversation?

Answer: I wouldn't say "no room for minimization", rather although BMPs and technologies, such as IdentiFlight are applied to minimize the collision risk of eagles, I'm not aware that the Service provides credit against predicted take. That could change with the new Rule. (Taber Allison)

Question: How do we get suppliers to improve access to non-lead ammunition? Why is there pushback against this transition?

Answer: That's a great question. There are others that may have better insight, but I'd presume if a large enough demand was demonstrated, then suppliers would respond. As far as pushback, I've heard a wide variety of reasons from people, but I think a common starting point is increasing awareness and education on the topic. (Matt Palumbo)