

Implementing AB 711



Requirements of the law

1. Maintain existing Condor zone restrictions
2. Maintain certification process
3. Establish regulations by July 2015 that phase-in requirements
4. Implement as soon as practicable
5. Exemption for potential ATF ban
6. Fully implement by July 2019
7. Maintains coupon (incentive) program



From the signing message

“I am directing the Department to work tirelessly with the Commission and its constituents to consider and act on any and all options for facilitating the least disruptive phase-in, including incentives for hunters to make this transition.”

http://gov.ca.gov/docs/AB_711_2013_Signing_Message.pdf



General considerations

1. Broad input needed
2. View least disruptive as availability
3. Current availability of alternatives is not fully known at this time
4. Meet statutory deadlines
5. Meet other administrative requirements
6. Regulations = simple and enforceable



DFW approach

1. Develop a starting point proposal that implements phases based on current understanding of availability (practicable)
2. Develop and implement an aggressive outreach program
3. Work with the WRC to develop regulation recommendation
4. Timing goal = one regulation recommendation by September 2014



Ideas considered but not included

1. By individual species
2. By individual zones
3. By areas (counties) of higher vs lower harvest
4. For big game, by caliber



Current uncertainties

1. True availability of existing nonlead ammunition – would it meet demand?
2. Potential availability – what would be the market response to regulation?
3. How much lead time does the market need?
4. Availability of field testing equipment for law enforcement

DFW starting point reflects these



Current understanding of availability

1. Ammunition in general in short supply
2. For some species, currently available
Ex: waterfowl sized shotgun shells
3. For some species, availability uncertain
Ex: smaller sized shot for some birds
4. For some gauges and calibers, nonlead will probably always be hard if not impossible to get



DFW starting point proposal

2015

Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves
Bighorn sheep

2016

Larger (most) game birds (waterfowl size
shot)

Small game mammals (by shotgun)

Non-game, depredation and furbearers
(by shotgun)



DFW starting point cont'd

2019

All big game

Dove, quail and snipe

Small game mammals (by rifle/handgun)

Non-game, depredation and furbearers
(by rifle/handgun)

Muzzle loaders



2015 - reasoning

WA and ER = 925,000 ac, high densities of hunters, other ecological values

Sheep hunting = small group of hunters



2016 - reasoning

Larger game birds; small game mammals (by shotgun), Nongame depredation and furbearers (by shotgun) = readily available nontoxic shot sizes used for waterfowl



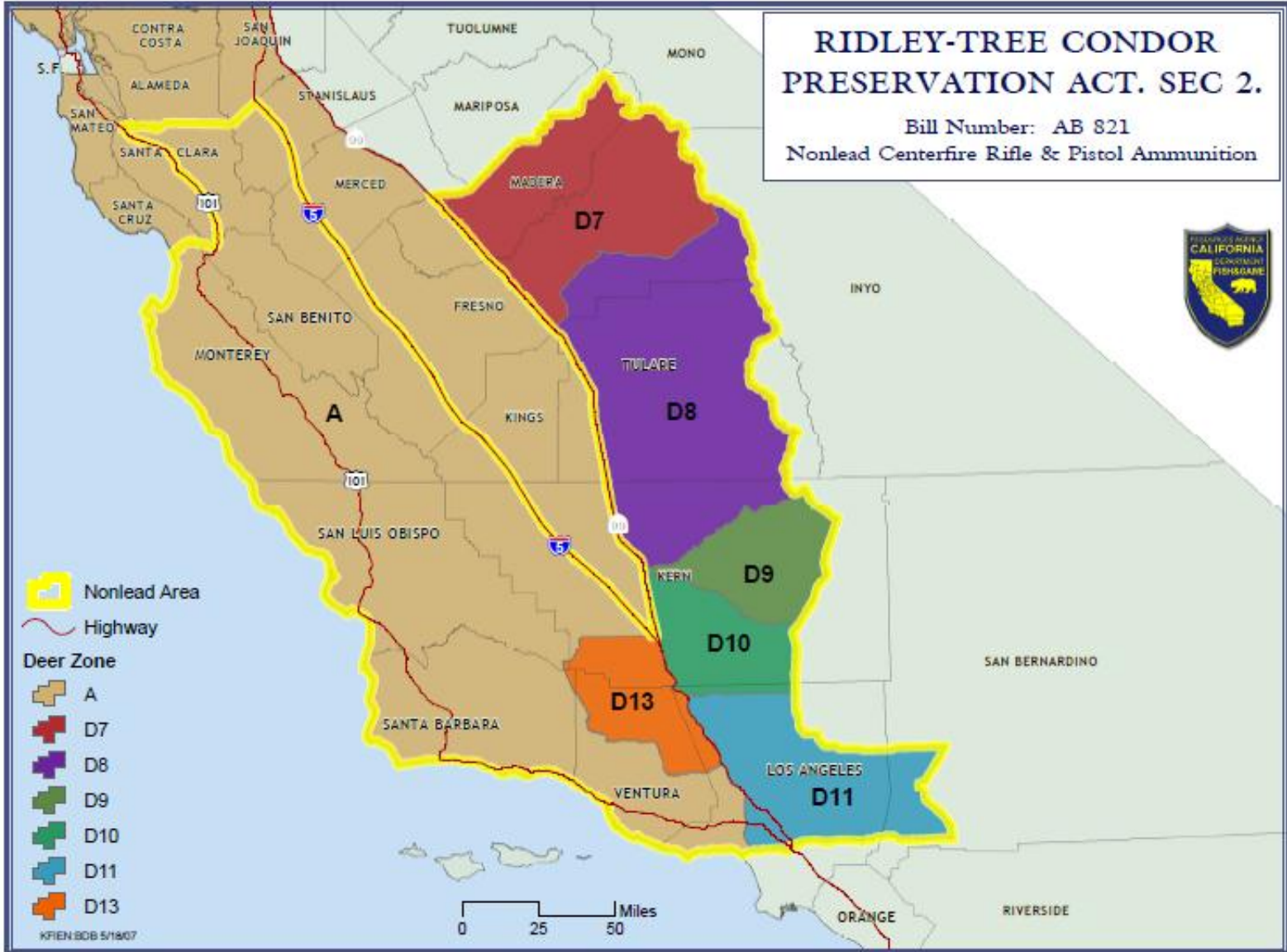
2019 - reasoning

1. Uncertainty about availability and market response
2. Uncertainty about field testing equipment (enforcement)



RIDLEY-TREE CONDOR PRESERVATION ACT. SEC 2.

Bill Number: AB 821
Nonlead Centerfire Rifle & Pistol Ammunition



(parts or all of 11 counties)



Quail and dove harvest in condor zone counties

1. Take of big game, nongame birds and mammals w/ lead currently prohibited
2. So that leaves relatively few species taken w/ lead
3. Take of quail and dove (e.g. hunting effort) in Condor range comprises a large part of the statewide harvest (based on DFW game take survey)
4. Shot sizes for these of uncertain availability



Thus, earlier implementation here could be disruptive to a large % of hunters

The Starting Point proposal does not include a specific recommendation for earlier phase-in of nonlead in the Condor range



Overview of outreach efforts

1. Series of meetings around the state
2. Specific contact to manufacturers, retailers
3. Check-in WRC meeting in May
4. One recommendation to WRC in September
5. DFW initiates rule-making process for adoption by July 2015



Comments received to date

1. Non-lead shooting clinics needed
2. Help hunters learn about availability of non-lead ammo
3. Are non-lead shotgun slugs available for deer on Wildlife Areas?
4. Is there non-lead for .177 caliber?
5. Defer dove/quail requirement on Dept. lands until 2019
6. Will there be a lead buy-back program?



Comments received (cont.)

7. Defer non-lead on public lands to 2016
8. Delay the ban for licensed game bird clubs
9. Are there lead-free alloys for people who cast their own bullets?
10. Allow muzzleloaders to continue to use lead
11. A longer phase-in period would be more fair



Comments received (cont.)

12. Allow an exception for older firearms
13. New choke tubes needed for non-lead turkey and upland game loads
14. Non-lead ammo for rimfire cartridges not available
15. Postpone implementation until manufacturers can develop available and affordable substitutes



Written and emailed comments

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or

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Questions and comments

