

BRIEFING STATEMENT

BUREAU: National Park Service

UNIT: Service-wide

DATE: August 2011

TITLE: NPS employee survey on the effects of lead from hunting and fishing activities

Issue

- A survey is being developed to understand the perspectives of NPS employees on the effects of lead from hunting and fishing activities. The survey will be distributed to employees in early September, 2011.

Background

- To protect health of humans, wildlife, and ecosystems, NPS has been reducing the amounts of lead released into the environment from internal operations (e.g., phasing out lead ammunition for firearms qualifications and practice since 2003, transitioning to use of non-lead ammunition in culling operations and the dispatching of wounded and sick animals since 2009).
- In 2009, a Task Agreement with Colorado State University's Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources was initiated to better understand potential audiences and inform approaches for communication and outreach that would most effectively reduce the amount of lead from hunting and fishing activities on NPS lands.
- As part of this agreement, a report synthesizing human dimensions literature and regulatory and outreach efforts by other agencies and organizations to mitigate effects of lead from hunting and fishing activities was recently published in a special issue of the [George Wright Forum \(2011 volume 28, number 1\)](#) and is also available as an NRSS Natural Resource Report: [2011/398](#) Ross-Winslow, D. J., and T. L. Teel. 2011. Understanding audiences to eliminate lead in NPS environments: Literature synthesis report (Updated May 2011). Natural Resource Report NPS/NRPC/BRMD/NRR—2011/398. National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado.
- As a next step, a survey is being developed to understand the perspectives of NPS employees on this topic, especially those individuals tasked with implementing internal policies and/or communicating with the public. Results from the survey will inform internal and external communication strategies, help adapt existing messaging, and identify future informational and research needs. Pinnacles NM has been involved in the research design so that findings complement their outreach efforts.

Status

- The survey will be distributed by early September to staff at a random sample of parks with significant Natural Resources (based on the list of 296 parks working with the Inventory and Monitoring Program). We will ensure that parks with hunting and fishing are included in the sample.
- Employees will receive invitations via e-mail to respond to an online questionnaire. Prior to distribution, an announcement will be posted on InsideNPS to let employees know they may be randomly chosen to participate, that participation is voluntary, and responses will be confidential.

Point of Contact

- For additional questions, contact Kirsten Leong, 970-267-2191.