

My name is Carrol Henderson.

I was the Nongame Wildlife Program supervisor in the Department of Natural Resources from 1977 through 2018. During that time I worked on management and restoration programs for Trumpeter Swans, Common Loons, Bald Eagles They are some of the most iconic and popular nongame wildlife species in Minnesota. Unfortunately, all three of these species continue to be poisoned by lead derived from small fishing jigs and sinkers and by lead bullet fragments. There is a serious disconnect between the conservation necessary for these species and by some people or organizations that are either unaware of the toxic environmental hazards posed by lead or don't care if there is an impact on nongame wildlife species. Effective state wildlife conservation programs require that wildlife species benefit from comprehensive wildlife management strategies that benefit both game and nongame species. That includes the reduction and eventual replacement of neurotoxic lead in fishing tackle and hunting ammunition with effective nontoxic alternatives.

Anything the State of Minnesota can do to reduce lead contamination and mortality in wildlife caused by small fishing jigs and sinkers and lead ammunition on our lakes, fields, and forests should be a high priority to improve the reputation of hunters and anglers as conservationists and promote sustainable, nontoxic fishing and hunting traditions. Taking action to stop the unnecessary lead poisoning of our wildlife populations is long overdue. For these reasons I endorse both HF 3220 and HF 3063 as important steps to create awareness and actions by our state's hunters and anglers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carrol Henderson,

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