

DRAFT — Non-Lead Hunting Ammo Related FAQs

Q: What's approved for the "condor zone?"

A: Most of our Orion product line, but not all of it. As we understand it... (DFG staff told us...)

Only these Barnes bullets types are approved for **HUNTING**:

- **TSX** Triple Shock X
- **TTSX** Tipped Triple Shock X (cost ~5% more than TSX)
- **MRX** Maximum Range X (cost ~35% more than TSX)
- **XPB** X Pistol Bullet

(and any remaining stocks of original X or XLC bullets)

For **VARMINTING** (coyotes, ground squirrels), you may use Barnes:

- **VG** Varmint Grenade
- **MPG** Multi-Purpose Green

You may also use our

- **SoftShot** rounds.

Q: Can I use any Barnes bullet for hunting in the condor zone? What about your frangible rounds?

A: No. You may *not* use Barnes Solids (S or FN-B) for hunting in CA. You may *not* use frangible bullets (Barnes VG or MPG or our SoftShot) for hunting. Frangible can only be used for varminting at this time.

Why?

Barnes did not request approval of their Solids for use in the CA condor range. They also have more than 1% lead, so wouldn't qualify.

Fish & Game staff was too pressed for time to evaluate frangible for hunting this year. They want to consider whether frangible bullets provide a quick and humane kill, and whether they are safe for hunting (since hunters will eat the meat, and it may contain fragments of the frangible rounds). We know from experience that our SoftShot frangible bullets provide a very quick and humane kill. Whether game meat would be safe to eat after being shot with a frangible bullet would depend on the bullet (there are numerous types of frangible bullets), the shot placement, and the common sense of the hunter.

Q: What about 22 rimfire [lead free] ammo [for use in the condor zone]? What about lead free shotgun ammo?

A: Paraphrasing DFG:

"You *may* use 22 caliber lead rimfire bullets in the condor zone for hunting small game (rabbits or gray tree squirrels) that you retrieve and eat. ***Other than that, leave the lead at home.***"

In other words, as we understand it, no one may shoot ground squirrels with 22 rimfires in the condor zone until some large ammunition manufacturer comes out with a lead free 22 rimfire cartridge. CCI/Speer (the big guys, not us) is rumored to be working on that. We have not seen it commercially available yet (as of 8/1/2008).

We make only center-fire rifle and pistol ammo at this time. We do *not* make any rimfire ammo. We do not presently make lead-free shotgun rounds in commercially available quantities. There is commercially made lead free shotgun ammo available. We do not carry it.

Q: I've never used the Barnes X bullets before. What should I expect?

A: For those who have not previously shot Barnes TSX bullets, they are a great hunting bullet. Many African and big game hunters have switched to using Barnes bullets in the last decade. Barnes bullets retain 100% of their weight, and provide a quick, humane kill with any well-placed shot. Barnes is our recommended hunting round for most purposes, which is why it is the primary round listed on our Orion (hunting product line) page on our web site. The photo on the Orion web page of the ballistic gelatin shows the performance of the Barnes TSX bullet. The wound channel is substantial; it resembles a spiral Christmas tree. Some early problems with X bullets have been resolved with the evolution to the TSX and related current Barnes rounds.

Weight difference: Copper is 70% of the weight of lead, therefore a similar grain weight bullet will be longer in copper than it would be in lead. However, because the Barnes bullets retain 100% of their weight, unlike most other hunting bullets, you can use a 30% lighter bullet.

Length considerations: Those guns with slower rifling twists (above 1:12) may have problems with stabilization of the bullet in flight for the longer copper rounds. Those hunters may need to either use a rifle with a faster twist (minimum 1:10, or better), or switch to the Barnes MRX bullet. The MRX has a "Silvex" (tungsten) core in the base, to increase the weight and reduce the length compared to the all copper TSX. (Tungsten is about 30% heavier than lead.) The MRX bullets are quite expensive, so our costs for ammo built using MRX bullets is about 35% higher than ammo using TSX. (They are priced per 20, not per 50 by Barnes.)

Also, for those who prefer a tipped bullet (similar to the Nosler ballistic tip), the Barnes Tipped Triple Shock X (TTSX) is available.

Q: What else do you make besides ammo using Barnes bullets?

A: Lots! We make ammunition using premium projectiles from Hornady, Nosler, Swift, Sierra, Speer, Woodleigh, and other manufacturers. We also make a fair amount of ammunition using premium cast lead bullets. (Hunters using old cowboy calibers love us.)

We list only about 1,500 loads on our web site, but have over 50,000 loads in house. If you don't see what you want, please ask. We make most center-fire rifle and pistol calibers (except for wildcats), and supply law enforcement, defense, various government agencies, serious hunters (including the safari caliber folks), and competitive shooters.

Our specialty is precision ultra-high performance ammunition. We hold patents on some of our ammo designs (and are the sole source for those products). Our President/CEO and lead ammo designer, Bill Jopson, doesn't believe in anything less than match quality ammo that gives sub-MOA results. We aren't cheap, but we're worth it.

We make some of the best ammo in the country, due to our decades of experience, exacting quality control, and precision design and building techniques. We consider types of shooting (hunting, defense, etc.); gun strengths, sizes, and rifling twists; expansion ratios; and other such factors when designing and building our ammo. This provides the shooter with the best of both worlds—the superior performance of top quality hand built rounds, with the assurance, speed, and production capacity of an ammunition factory.

Q: Are you just a big reloader?

A: No. We make new ammunition only, using new components for all our rounds.