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# Autumn 2009

## Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Inc.

### Bullets are speeding faster out of gun shops in U.S.

#### A SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION

Demand is up despite  
drop in crime rate

In a year of job losses, foreclosures and bag lunches, Americans have spent record-breaking amounts of money on guns and ammunition. The most obvious sign of their demand: empty ammunition shelves.

At points during the past year, bullets have been selling faster than factories could make them.

Gun owners have bought about 12 billion rounds of ammunition in the past year, industry officials estimate. That's up from 7 billion to 10 billion in a normal year.

It has happened, oddly, at a time when the two concerns that usually make people buy guns and bullets -- crime and increased gun control -- seem less threatening than usual.

The explanation for the run on bullets lies partly in economics: Once rounds were scarce, people hoarded them, which made them

scarcer.

But the rush for bullets, like this year's increase in gun sales, also says something about how suspicious the two sides in the gun-control debate are of each other, even at a time when the issue is on Washington's back burner.

The run started, observers say, as people heeded warnings from the gun-rights lobby that a new Democratic administration would make bullets more expensive or harder to get.

(continued on page 4)

### Fish and Wildlife Service Awards \$800,000 in Grants to Explore Cause, Control of White-Nose Syndrome in Bats

At an event held in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo in Washington, DC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced 6 grant awards totaling

\$800,000 going toward research efforts to explore the cause and control of white-nose syndrome, a wildlife health crisis of unprecedented proportions that has now killed more than a mil-

lion bats in the Northeast and remains unchecked.

"These grants will provide critical funding to help the Service and our (continued on page 2)

## Fish and Wildlife Service Awards (continued)

partners find the cause, find a cure and stop the spread of this deadly disease,” said Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Jane Lyder. “Bats are an incredibly important component of our nation’s ecosystem, and the loss of even one species could be disas-

trous for wildlife, agriculture and people.”

One of the bat species currently affected by white-nose syndrome is the endangered Indiana bat. White-nose syndrome has been documented in six counties in Virginia and West Virginia and is now within the range of two

additional endangered bat species, the Virginia big-eared bat and gray bat. The Endangered Species Act protects six bat species in the contiguous United States.

Federal and state biologists, academia, researchers and non-governmental partners have been over-

whelmed by the unanticipated effects of this wildlife health crisis, but are committed to finding answers before species are lost forever.

The Fish and Wildlife Service provided the grants through the Preventing Extinction

program. The Service selected recipients from among 41 grant proposals totaling \$4.8 million for research into WNS. “We are very pleased and hopeful about the work funded by these 6 research grants. Our only regret is that we were unable to fund many more of the pro-

ject proposals that could lead us to answers about what is killing our bats and how to control this devastating problem,” said the Service’s Jeremy Coleman, Ph.D., national white-nose syndrome coordinator.

One of the grants was

awarded to the Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park to establish a captive population of the Virginia big-eared bat at the Conservation & Research Center near Front Royal, Virginia. There are only 15,000 Virginia big-eared bats remaining in a few caves in West Virginia,

Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. White-nose syndrome has already infected some of the caves in this area, and if it continues, this bat subspecies could likely become extinct. The Conservation & Research Center to the Na-

tional Zoo has developed a multidisciplinary team of scientists, veterinarians, nutritionists and curators who are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and West Virginia Division of Natural Resource to establish this insurance population of Virginia

big-eared bats, thereby buying time to determine the cause of, and cure for, this disease. Bats in this population may eventually be needed to re-establish the subspecies in the wild. Virginia big-eared bats have never been kept or bred before in captivity, so

lessons learned from this project will be of broad interest to agencies and organizations if white-nose syndrome in wild bat populations makes it necessary to consider captive breeding of other bat species.

The other recipients of (continued on page 3)

## Fish and Wildlife Service Awards (continued)

the white-nose syndrome funding include the following:

Analyzing Indiana bats to determine their susceptibility.

Sybill K. Amelon, Ph.D., USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station; Guy Knudsen, Ph.D., University of Idaho; Sara Oyler-McCance, Ph.D., U.S. Geological Survey, Rocky Mountain Center for Conservation Genetics and Systematics; and Lori Eggert, Ph.D., University of Missouri. This project focuses on assessing the impact of white-nose syndrome on the genetic viability of Indiana bats.

Identifying compounds to stop the fungus associated with white-nose syndrome.

Hazel A. Barton, Ph.D., Northern Kentucky University, and Kevin Keel, DVM, Ph.D., University of Georgia. This research is on the propagation and decontamination of white-nose syndrome in the environment.

Examining immunity and body composition in white-nose syndrome affected bats versus bats unaffected.

Thomas H. Kunz, Ph.D., and Michael D. Sorenson, Ph.D.; Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology, Boston University, Massachusetts. This project will focus on Immune function, body composition and genetic correlates of bat white-nose syndrome.

Developing a rapid WNS diagnostic test.

Alison Robbins, MS, DVM, and Donna E. Akiyoshi, Ph.D.; Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Massachusetts. This funding will support the generation of *Geomyces destructans* specific monoclonal antibodies.

Identifying the genetics of white-nose syndrome affected little brown bats to predict at-risk populations before white-nose syndrome hits.

(continued on page 6)

## Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Mission Statement

**To promote and foster, by all lawful means, the protection and conservation of our renewable wildlife resources through hunting and fishing, together with all pertinent natural resources and to promote the improvement of hunting, fishing, and competitive shooting. The ACSL shall make every effort to work in cooperation with the respective federal and state wildlife agencies, competitive shooting organizations and our member clubs to comply with this article and policies as defined by the delegates of the member clubs. To encourage among its' members and among organizations with like or kindred objectives good fellowship and cordial cooperation toward achieving these ends. To defend and protect, by means of educating public officials and the general public, the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, especially the Second Amendment and Article 1, section 21, respectively.**

**All efforts, activities and objectives of the officers and Delegates of the ACSL shall be for altruistic purposes towards these goals and shall not be performed for the private gain of any one person or club.**

## **Bullets are speeding faster out of gun shops in U.S. (continued)**

Now that the shortage is starting to ease, gun-control groups are voicing their own dark worries about stockpiled ammunition.

In between, in the 12 months since last October, gun shops sold enough bullets to give every American 38 of them.

"We've had people buy ammunition for calibers they don't even have the gun for: 'Oh, I want to get this gun eventually. And when I get it, ammunition may be hard to get,' " said Michael Tenny, who runs a Fort Worth-based Internet sporting goods store called Cheaper Than Dirt.

Tenny said some of his ammunition tripled in price, but he still sold it: "It's just like playoff tickets."

### **The Obama factor**

It was already a political truism that Democrats prompt sales of both guns and ammo. The U.S. government taxes both to support wildlife conservation, and those receipts jumped after Bill Clinton was elected in 1992 and after Democrats retook Congress in 2006.

But the spike under Obama seems to be on a different scale: The receipts are on pace to set a record in 2009, according to Treasury Department data, with tax revenue due from guns up 42 percent and revenue due from ammunition at 49 percent. Recently, analysts have said earnings reports from gunmakers seem to show demand for weapons slackening.

The increase in gun buying during the past year explains a large part of the increase in ammunition sales to the private market, experts on the industry say -- but probably not all of it.

They say that bullets were bought not just by new gun owners but also by those who already owned weapons. And they say bullet sales might have increased even faster if supply had kept up with demand.

Bullet makers say the reasons for these shortages include the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which have made bullet components such as copper and brass more expensive.

For gun owners in the Washington area and elsewhere, the run on ammunition has created shortages and price increases on everything from cheap .22-caliber bullets used for target shooting to the expensive hollow-point 9mm rounds bought for home defense.

In Maryland and Virginia, as in many states, anyone over 21 can buy an unlimited amount of ammunition without a special license or background check. The District has tighter rules for its one licensed ammunition dealer: Gun owners can buy bullets only in the same caliber as their registered guns.

### **Reason for alarm?**

The high sales have alarmed some anti-gun groups. Josh Sugarmann of the Violence Policy Center said he worries about a revival of the anti-government militia movement of the Clinton era.

"This is a pattern that is repeating itself, and it is a pattern that has tremendous risk attached to it," Sugarmann said.

But gun-rights groups say the buyers are law-abiding, and responding to legitimate concerns.

I think it's Katrina. I think it's terrorism. I think it's crime. And I also think that it's people worrying about

(continued on page 5)

## **Bullets are speeding faster out of gun shops in U.S. (continued)**

[whether] they'll be attacked by politicians," said Wayne LaPierre, executive vice president of the National Rifle Association. "They're suspicious, and justifiably so."

But the most recent FBI crime statistics, from 2008, showed that rates of violent crime were the lowest since 1989. The numbers for this year have not been assembled yet, but police groups say violent crime still appears to be down, although there may have been an uptick in property crimes.

As for gun control, experts say that far from being under attack, groups opposed to it have won a remarkable string of victories. Clinton's ban on assault weapons expired in 2004. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the District's restrictions on handguns, ruling that the Second Amendment creates an individual right to gun ownership.

Under Obama, the White House has said it wants to stop the illegal flow of U.S. guns to Mexican drug cartels, and it directed Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. to review the way current gun laws are being enforced.

But a spokesman said that, "the president respects and supports the Second Amendment and the tradition of gun ownership in this country." In the biggest gun-related debate of his tenure, Obama sided with gun groups, signing a bill to loosen the rules on firearms in national parks.

Still, in interviews with gun owners and ammunition dealers, many said the run on bullets was sparked by worries about what Obama *might* do.

"It was just logical, based on his record as a state senator and his record in the U.S. Senate," Dave Sugg, 37, a consultant in Ashburn, said after taking target practice with a .22-caliber semi-automatic Ruger rifle at a shooting range.

Source: By David A. Fahrenthold and Fredrick Kunkle

Washington Post Staff Writer

Deborah D. Iwanowicz, Ph.D., and Tim King, Ph.D.; U.S. Geological Survey, Leetown Science Center, West Virginia. This project will expand our understanding of white-nose syndrome in the Northeastern Vespertilionidae with emphasis on the little brown bat.

Additional information about WNS may be found at [http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white\\_nose.html](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and a trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information about our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**The process of retrofitting returned LCP pistols is ongoing. We have completely worked through the backlog of pistols awaiting the retrofit and are consistently returning pistols within one week of receipt, provided they have been returned solely for the retrofit. Pistols requiring work in addition to the retrofit will take longer.**

Ruger has received a small number of reports from the field indicating that LCP pistols can discharge when dropped onto a hard surface with a round in the chamber. We are firmly committed to safety and would like to retrofit all older LCP Pistols. The retrofit involves installation of an upgraded hammer mechanism at no charge to the customer.

We want to remind gun users that, for maximum safety when carrying any pistol with a loaded magazine in place, the chamber should be empty, and the slide should be closed. Any gun may fire if dropped or struck.

**How to determine if your pistol needs the retrofit:** All LCP pistols bearing prefix “370” (that is, serial number 370-xxxxx) may be affected. Newly manufactured and retrofitted “370” prefix LCP pistols with the new hammer mechanism installed have been marked with a diamond in the flat portion of the slot just behind and below the hammer as shown to the right. Going forward, new pistols will be marked with the serial number prefix “371” (serial number 371-xxxxx) **or higher**. Pistols with the “371” prefix **or higher** (for example, 372, 373, etc.) are **not** affected.

**Step 1** - Contact us and provide your name, address, telephone number and LCP serial number.

**To sign up for the FREE safety upgrade:**

Email: [LCPRecall@ruger.com](mailto:LCPRecall@ruger.com)

Fax: (928) 541-8873

Phone: LCP Recall Hotline 1-800-784-3701 (Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT)

**Step 2** - We are retrofitting LCP pistols on a first-come, first-served basis. When we are ready to retrofit your pistol, we will send you a shipping label and package with instructions so you can return your pistol to us FREE of charge.

**Step 3** - We will install the new hammer mechanism, plus some other functional upgrades that we added since the LCP's introduction, and return your LCP to you, all FREE of charge. When we do, we also will send you a FREE magazine as a “thank you” for your patience and cooperation. We will make every effort to return your pistol within one week of receipt.

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.

# Upcoming Events

Allegheny Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show returns to Monroeville  
At The  
Monroeville Convention Center

February 17 - 21, 2010

The Allegheny County Sportsmen's League will, once again, have Beef Jerky Booths set up throughout the Show, manned by Member Clubs of the ACSL. Profits from Jerky sales goes to Youth Education.

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Allegheny County Sportsmen's League Annual

Sportsmen of the Year Awards Banquet

March 20, 2010

Futule's Harmar House  
1321 Freeport Road, Cheswick, PA 15024

Appetizers and Social hour is at 4 p.m.,  
Program and Entertainment at 5 p.m.,  
Beef and Chicken buffet and Awards presentation at 6 p.m.

**Tickets will be available at the December League meeting**

## Corporate Sponsors



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