

## **Lead exposure of birds: Nationwide trends and implications for the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem**

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Lead poisoning is documented throughout North America in multiple bird populations. Studies show that ingestion is the most common route of lead poisoning for birds and the source of this metallic lead is often from fragmented ammunition and fishing tackle. I will discuss foundational studies on lead exposure of birds from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE), emphasize a recent set of studies that document species experiencing population level consequences from lead, and discuss the potential implications for those same species in the GYE. Additionally, I will discuss and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation methods that have been recently employed to limit the availability of lead to scavenging wildlife in the GYE and the potential to expand upon these programs. Finally, I will identify information gaps in the GYE and provide recommendations for future research to address this problem.