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**COOPERATIVE NORTH AMERICAN SHOTGUNNING EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
c/o South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E. Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota 57501

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**CONSEP WINTER 2007 NEWSLETTER**

January 15, 2008

To: All CONSEP Members

From Tom Roster, Consultant

**Subject: SUMMARY OF CONSEP ACTIVITIES AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007**

Greetings Colleagues. Following is a document entitled "Summary of CONSEP Activities and Accomplishments for Calendar Year 2007." As you can see CONSEP has completed another extremely busy year of services.

Of major interest to many CONSEP members is the commencement of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's dove test to compare the performance of lead and nontoxic shot loads for taking doves. The pilot phase was completed during late August/early September 2007. The formal phase expected to last two seasons is scheduled to commence in late August 2008 after I have completed training the observers for the test.

Please note that there have been significant changes in the makeup of CONSEP's Executive Board:

*Tom Remington*, Director- Colorado Division of Wildlife has replaced Don Childress, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks as the *Pacific Flyway* representative to CONSEP.

*Vernon Bevill*, Small Game and Habitat Assessment Director – Migratory Game Bird Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. has replaced Bill Wichers, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. as the *Central Flyway* representative to CONSEP.

*Mike Brooks*, Outdoor Education Center Supervisor, Missouri Dept. of Conservation has replaced Steve Wilson, Missouri DOC as *Mississippi Flyway* representative.

It should also be noted that *Bob Blohm*, Chief – Division of Migratory Bird Management, USFWS, has replaced Brian Milsap – MBMO as the FWS representative to CONSEP.

A big thank you to Don, Bill, Steve and Brian for all the volunteer time over many years which they generously gave to serve CONSEP members. And, a big welcome and thank you to CONSEP's new Board members.

Finally, *Gary Berlin*, Executive Director, IHEA has replaced Eric Nuse as the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) representative to the CONSEP Board.

Here's wishing all CONSEP members a constructive and productive 2008.

# **SUMMARY OF CONSEP ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007**

1. During calendar year 2007 at the invitation of the Bacon Ranch Duck Club, Butte Sink Area and Wheeler Island Duck Club, Suisun Marshes north San Francisco Bay area, in January and December Consultant traveled to California to make presentations on nontoxic shot alternatives and collect waterfowl for HEVI-Shot data base.
2. Starting in December 2006 Consultant designed and worked up the specs for all of the 12 gauge ammunition to be tested in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) lead versus nontoxic shot dove lethality test. Continuing through all of January solicited every commercial shotshell manufacturer in the U.S. (as did TPWD) to find one willing to assemble the specially marked and masked lead and nontoxic loads for the TPWD dove test. Helped (TPWD) do same. We were turned down by every single manufacturer. Consultant finally convinced and enlisted the aid of personal friend Jay Menefee of Polywad (a specialty shotshell loader in Macon, Georgia), to undertake the project. Save for Polywad, there would be no Texas dove test.
3. Consultant prepared announcement and advertised for a new research assistant to serve CONSEP Consultant. Completed receiving applications and interview process during June.
4. In March an MOA was finalized between TPWD and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks for the three-year dove test detailed in 2. above. SDGF&P is subcontracting with CONSEP and Consultant Tom Roster to: assist with designing the test; training all the observers; training the shell decoder, encoder and distribution personnel; pattern testing all the ammunition; x-raying and necropsying all the one-shot kills taken during the test, and co-authoring the peer-reviewed scientific report.
5. In April Consultant conducted a 3.5-day CONSEP Crash Awareness and 6.5-day CONSEP Enablement Training Session at Krull Lodge in South Dakota for personnel of the following agencies: Alaska Dept. Fish and Game; Iowa Dept. Natural Resources; Missouri Dept. of Conservation; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Dept.; North Dakota Game and Fish Dept.; Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Dept.; and one individual from Northern Territory, Australia.
6. For four weeks in May/June Consultant traveled to AUSTRALIA. The first activities involved conducting a CONSEP Awareness Training Session in Melbourne in the state of Victoria for trainees representing Australian international CONSEP members: Victoria Dept. of Sustainability and Environment, Sporting Shooter Association of Australia, and Field and Game-Australia. While there also conducted a Wounding Loss Reduction/Shotgunning Education Seminar followed by an outdoor workshop for hunter constituents of the state of Victoria. Note: While conducting the workshop, witnessed one of the few ever tornadoes recorded in Australia which passed within a few miles of the Eagle Park Range where the activities were being conducted! Completed Australian trip by traveling to Darwin, Northern Territory, to conduct a Wounding Loss Reduction/Shotgunning Education Seminar and Workshop for hunter constituents and personnel of wildlife agency staffers in Northern Territory. Also in attendance and sponsors of the event were personnel of Winchester Australia Corporation.
7. During June CONSEP held its annual Board meeting in Pierre, SD. The Board communicated with Consultant via conference call.

8. In late August through early September Consultant traveled to Texas and completed training of the observers and shell decoder/encoder/distributors serving in the pilot phase of the TPWD nontoxic shot lethality dove test as per MOA between TPWD and SD GF&P. Consultant discovered potential wad problem in one of the loads. All one-shot kill doves and field tags were shipped to Consultant for x-ray/necropsy.
9. In September Consultant commenced training of CONSEP's new research assistant, Ted Torgerson in Klamath Falls, Oregon area.
10. September-December commenced x-ray and necropsy of stored waterfowl and pheasant carcasses taken during the 2005/06 and 2006/07 season sans research assistant. By end 2007 completed x-ray and necropsy on approximately 139 stored duck and goose carcasses from 2005-06 and 2006-07 waterfowl collection seasons, plus approx. 30 more collected during 2007/08 collection season. Commenced x-ray/necropsy on pheasants collected during 2005 and 2006 research trips to South Dakota.
11. In mid October Consultant traveled to Missouri and met with Board member Mike Brooks to solidify on-ground details and logistics for Missouri hosting the CONSEP 2008 Awareness Training Session in March 2008.
12. During September/October Consultant sent out the Call-For-Interest for CONSEP's 2008 Awareness Training Session and received/evaluated the response from CONSEP members. The response indicated a sufficiency of interest. During November and continuing through December Consultant's office completed registration details with CONSEP member agencies Missouri Dept. of Conservation; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., and Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. desiring to send trainees to the 2008 CONSEP Awareness Training Session to be held during March at the Andy Dalton Range near Springfield, MO to be hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation.
13. In late October/November Consultant and assistant undertook a 14-day wad recovery and examination plus pattern testing regime to resolve the potential wad problem discovered during the pilot phase concerning one of the loads in the Texas dove test. Wrote and supplied test results report to TPWD with copy to CONSEP Chair. This entire effort and time expenditure was over and beyond MOA requirements and initiated an MOA Amendment for additional monies to be transferred from TPWD to SD GF&P.
14. Responded to an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission inquiry to my office re. Arkansas joining CONSEP in 2008 and sending trainee(s) to 4. above.
15. October/November/December conducted very limited lethality testing/field collections of waterfowl on the in-progress HEVI-Shot loads for which CONSEP is endeavoring to complete the data base. Funding has been provided for this project by Remington Arms Company (loaded ammunition) and Environ-Metal, Sweet Home, Oregon, the manufacturer of HEVI-Shot pellets.
16. Late November through early December 2007 Consultant met with Niels Kanstrup, former president of CONSEP member The Danish Hunters Association, at Consultant's office/lab in Klamath Falls, Oregon, to consult, help design, and implement a cooperative nontoxic shot education program in Europe and Russia.
17. Early December Consultant's office prepared and mailed out invoices to current CONSEP members for their 2008 calendar year CONSEP membership dues
18. By December 31, 2007, Consultant pioneered the x-ray and necropsy protocol for doves re. the TPWD dove lethality test. Consultant and assistant commenced x-ray/necropsy of the 75 doves needed from the pilot phase to fulfill the TPWD/SDGF&P/CONSEP MOA.

19. Throughout 2007 Consultant provided shotgunning technical consulting services in the form of shot fall-out calculations for Alaska F&G and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), clean kill/lethality considerations re. turkeys for Oklahoma Dept. of Conservation, doubling problems when firing steel loads in Winchester 101 shotguns for North Dakota Game and Fish Dept, and interviews with the *Oregonian* newspaper re. Oregon Fish and Wildlife running CONSEP-type shotgunning workshops.
20. During late 2006/early 2007 consulted with Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. FWS personnel of Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges concerning a lead poisoning die-off of principally mallard ducks which occurred in a farming area south of Midland, Oregon co-leased by CONSEP for waterfowl collection purposes. Initial indications are that the small No. 7½ and 8 lead shot pellets found ingested in those waterfowl carcasses definitively analyzed as having succumbed to lead poisoning by the FWS National Health Lab most likely derived from lead shot dove/target-type loads fired at blackbirds in the Lower Klamath NWR area and immediate surrounding environs before the regular waterfowl season by agricultural interests to haze/disperse depredated blackbirds.

Submitted January 15, 2008  
Tom Roster, CONSEP Consultant

CONSEP WINTER 2007 NEWSLETTER/ActivitiesSummary2007