



Steel shot is rule of the day for bird hunters

By Jeff Herbert
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

For Montana waterfowl hunters, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 marked the opening days for geese and ducks statewide. The seasons renewed a tradition of early mornings spent in blinds, of checking guns and rearranging decoys, of calming anxious retrievers. It is a time of waiting and watching, a time for remembering past seasons and anticipating the whisper of wings that will begin the new one.

But one thing that won't be new for waterfowl hunters in Montana is that steel shot will again be required for all waterfowl hunting, both in the field and on the marsh.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has supported the

conversion to non-toxic (steel) shot for waterfowl hunting because it believes that continued deposition of toxic lead into our environment, when a suitable non-toxic substitute is available, is not in the best interests of the wildlife resource.

For waterfowl hunters, an understanding of steel shot's effectiveness and how it differs ballistically from lead shot is essential. A #6 lead pellet is the same diameter as a steel #6 pellet, although the steel pellet is much harder and rounder than the lead pellet and it weighs about one-third less. Because steel pellets weigh less, they lose energy faster downrange. To compensate for this loss of energy, steel shot shells are loaded to produce higher muzzle velocities.

As a rule of thumb, hunters should use steel shot two sizes larger than their customary lead pellet choice to

HUNTERS...
We're Ready
For You!!



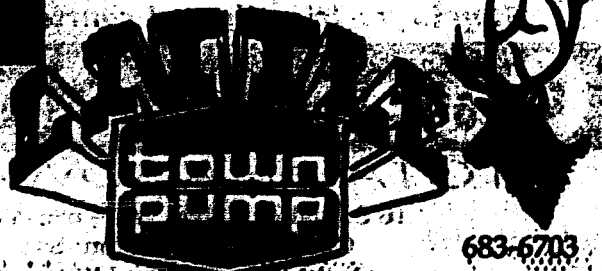
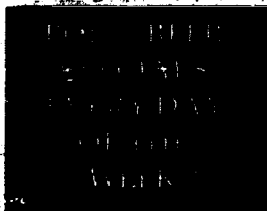
Open 5 AM thru Hunting Season

Start your hunt with a warm belly!
Piping Hot Coffee, Hot Chocolate and
BIG 25¢ Donuts

Hunters Lunch On The Run

Homemade Deli Sandwiches
Ham, Pastrami **\$1.69** Beef, Turkey
& Nalley's
7 oz. Chips

99¢



101 E. Helena

683-6703

DILL HOTEL, BAR & CAFE

Rooms, Good Food & Drink

Poker Games
Poker Machines

ATTENTION
HUNTERS
We'll be open
5 AM thru
Hunting Season



MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND

Dell, Montana

276-9980

PAUL'S MOTOR COMPANY INC.

CHEVROLET • PONTIAC • BUICK • OLDSMOBILE • CADILLAC
Sales • Leasing • Rentals • Service • Parts
• Body Repair •



675 N. Montana
Dillon, Montana 59725
(406) 683-2371
TOLL-FREE
1-800-423-5428