



## New non-lead ammunition coming

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Hornady Manufacturing has announced a new line of "expanding solid" bullets and loaded ammunition that will meet California's non-lead requirements in the range of the California condor for hunting ammunition.

The new bullet is made from solid gilding metal, a copper-based alloy that has no lead in its construction, similar to the three other non-lead products currently on the market, the Barnes X-line of bullets, the Nosler E-Tip line, and Lapua Naturalis bullet. The new Hornady GMX bullets will be available in .270, 7mm, and .308 diameters for 2009. Hunters will be able to buy bullets for reloading or loaded ammunition in popular cartridges for those three calibers, and the first loaded ammunition should be available on dealer's shelves soon after the first of the year.

"It should be ubiquitous by August next year when your deer seasons start opening," said Steve Johnson, a spokesman for Hornady.

And as it has done with its other products, the new Hornady bullets will also be priced about 20 percent below similar competitors' products.

The Hornady GMX bullet is a polymer tipped

solid bullet with an expansion hollowpoint below the tip. It also has grooves in the bearing surface along the side of the bullet to reduce drag and pressure. Reloaders can use the same data they use with lead-based bullets. Bullets will be made in 130-grain 270 caliber, 139-grain 7mm caliber, 150 and 165-grain 30 caliber, and 225-grain 338 caliber in 2009. Loaded ammunition will be produced in .270 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, .308 Winchester, .30-06, .300 Winchester Magnum, and .300 Ruger Compact Magnum (RCM) initially with other bullet diameters and cartridges to follow in 2010.

The new bullets are designed to expand to 1½ times their original diameter across a wide range of impact velocities. Since they also retain over 95 percent of their weight, they also penetrate very well. But this has become the norm with the copper-based bullets currently on the market, all which perform well in the field.

Sportsmen interested in learning more about the new bullet and ammunition line can visit the Hornady web site at this address: [www.hornady.com/story.php?s=792](http://www.hornady.com/story.php?s=792).

Hunters in California often had a difficult time finding non-lead ammunition for deer and hog hunting this summer and fall, but this was more a problem of stores stocking the ammunition than it not being available. With Hornady's entry into the marketplace, there are now four major companies making bullets and offering loaded ammunition featuring non-lead bullets that are legal for hunting in the state's non-lead hunting zone. Federal, Black Hills, and many custom

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loaders are offering Barnes Triple Shock X-bullets in loaded ammunition. The new Nosler E-Tip is currently only being offered in Winchester ammunition, and Remington has some loadings in their "Green" line that feature the Lapua Naturalis solid copper bullet. Now Hornady will be offering its new GMX bullet, which stands for Gilding Metal expanding both to reloaders and in loaded ammunition. Hopefully, with so many options now available, perhaps retailers in the region will have more product available next hunting season.

And please no more whining about how these copper/gilding metal bullets perform on game. Game shot through the vitals with these slugs die just as quickly as with any other bullet, and they actually perform better than standard lead bullets if you happen to hit large bones or need penetration to reach vitals if you poke at game angling away from you.

Game running off after being shot is almost always a factor of poor shooting than poor bullet performance.

#### SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PARK TROUT DERBIES

The first of the San Bernardino County Regional Parks trout derbies will be held beginning 7 a.m. Saturday at Yucaipa Regional Park. The lake is getting a bonus plant of Mt. Lassen Trout Farm rainbows for this event, including some trophy fish, today.

Entry fee is \$15 per angler plus the \$7 per car parking fee, but there will be 50 prizes awarded valued at \$35 to \$500 for the biggest fish landed.

The Yucaipa event will be followed by the second derby on Jan. 10 at Glen Helen in San Bernardino, Feb. 21 at Prado Park in Chino, March 14 at Mojave Narrows in Victorville, and April 4 at Cucamonga- Guasti in Ontario.

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