# What is a Best Management Practice and How Does It Apply to Shooting Ranges?

A Best Management Practice (BMP) is usually based on an approach or technology that has been shown to work and to be effective for the purpose intended. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses BMPs to specify standards of practice where a regulation may not be descriptive enough to do so. A BMP should also be as inexpensive as possible and the equipment or technology should be readily available. A BMP may be adopted based on a survey of practices (shooting ranges in this case) that have had successful experiences with an approach or technology.

BMPs for outdoor shooting ranges are actions that range owners/operators can take to minimize the impact of lead on the environment. Lead at outdoor shooting ranges may pose, in certain situations, a threat to the environment if BMPs, including reclamation and recycling, are not implemented in a timely manner.

### What is the EPA Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges manual?

The Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges manual provides owners and operators of outdoor rifle, pistol, trap, skeet and sporting clay ranges with information on lead management at their ranges. The manual explains how environmental laws are applicable to lead management and presents successful BMPs available to the shooting range community. These practices have been proven to effectively reduce lead contamination. Since each range is unique in both the type of shooting activity and its environmental setting, site-specific solutions are not provided in the manual. Rather, range owners or operators may use the manual to identify and select the most appropriate BMP(s) for a range. The manual does not address range layout or design to meet range safety or competition requirements. It is also not intended for closing ranges. Range owners/operators are directed to other comprehensive reference materials available on that subject, from the National Rifle Association of America, National Shooting Sports Foundation and other shooting associations.

Owners/operators of ranges may want to assign the implementation of this BMP Manual to a specific team or committee if possible. Delegating this responsibility to a specific team or committee helps to assure that the work gets accomplished.

The manual is organized as follows:

Chapter I provides the background on why lead is of concern to human health and the environment. It includes a discussion of how environmental laws impact shooting ranges and the importance of an integrated BMP program to manage lead;

Chapter II discusses range physical and operational characteristics to be considered when selecting a successful BMP program;

Chapter III addresses BMPs for rifle/pistol ranges, trap and skeet ranges, and sporting clay ranges. In this chapter, the manual explores possible solutions to prevent, reduce and/or remove lead contamination for each type of range;

The Appendix provides current (as of May 2000) contacts for lead reclamation and recycling companies, other sources of information on lead management, bullet trap manufacturers and key RCRA regulatory interpretations.

#### How Is Lead Shot Regulated Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)?

Lead shot is not considered a hazardous waste subject to RCRA at the time it is discharged from a firearm because it is used for its intended purpose. As such, a RCRA permit is not required to operate a shooting range. However, spent lead shot (or bullets) are subject to the broader definition of solid waste written by Congress and contained in the statute itself. As such, spent shot and bullets are potentially subject to RCRA statutory authority including section 7002 and 7003.

In general, the following points should serve as guidance in understanding RCRA and how it applies to your range.

- The lead, if recycled, is considered a scrap metal pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 261.6(a)(3)(ii) and is therefore exempt from RCRA regulation.
- 2. After the removal contractor or reclaimer applies standard BMPs to separate the lead from soil, the soil may be placed back on the range without further treatment.
- 3. The collected lead shot or bullets are excluded from RCRA regulation, and need not be manifested, nor

does the range need to obtain a RCRA generator number (i.e., the range is not a hazardous waste "generator"), provided that the leadshot is recycled or re-used. The transporter does not need to have a RCRA I.D. number . However, ranges should retain records of shipments of lead from the range, and the facilities to which they were sent, in order to demonstrate that the lead was recycled.

4. Sections 7002 and 7003 of the RCRA statute allow the USEPA, states or citizens, using a civil lawsuit, to compel cleanup of "solid waste" (e.g., leadshot) posing actual or potential imminent and substantial endangerment. Such action can be sought whether the range is in operation or closed, and is based solely on a determination that real or potential harm is being posed by the range to public health and/or the environment. Since the risk of lead migrating increases with time, ranges that have not removed leadshot are more likely candidates for government action or citizen lawsuits under RCRA Section 7003. Therefore, ranges are advised to maintain a schedule of regular lead removal.

#### Benefits of Lead Management

Lead removal and implementation of other BMPs will allow the range to: minimize contamination of the range and potential impacts to human health and the environment; reduce liability with regard to potential agency or citizen lawsuits; possibly benefit economically from the recycling of lead; enhance its role as a good steward of the environment; and increase customer satisfaction.

## Want More Information?

For a copy of the USEPA *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges*, please complete the information below and fax or mail to:

> Leadshot Coordinator RCRA Compliance Branch U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 290 Broadway - 22nd Fl. New York, NY 10007-1866 Fax: (212)637-4949 E-Mail: Leadshot.Region2@epa.gov

The manual will also be placed on the world wide web at www.epa.gov/region2/waste/ leadshot.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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United States Environmental <u>Protection Agency - Region 2</u> EPA-902-F-00-001

Do You Use Best Management Practices for Lead at Your Outdoor Shooting Range?

