

Government purchases of Small Arms Ammunition discussed

By Johnny Kirby

Jake McGuigan, Director of State Affairs and Government Relations for the National Shooting Sports Foundation, recently said that widely reported federal ammunition purchases have sparked conspiracy-type fears among gun owners. They are worried that the federal government is trying to crack down on second amendment rights via the back door by limiting the ammo available to gun owners. These fears are likely justified when we examine the government purchases.

A little more than a year ago, the Social Security Administration put in a request for 174,000 rounds of .357 SIG 125 grain hollow-point bullets. Before that, the Department of Agriculture requested 320,000 rounds. Even stranger than these is one from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration requesting 46,000 rounds of small arms ammo. Really? Do the meteorologists need ammunition? Does NOAA feel the need to defend themselves from an irate public for bad weather forecasts?

The US Postal Service has also put in a request for assorted small arms ammunition

The Department of Homeland Security has requested 450 million rounds at the same time the FBI separately asked for an additional purchase of 100 million hollow-point rounds. Since the Department of Homeland Security is responsible for many of our enforcement agencies such as Border Patrol, Customs, I.N.S. etc., I can see the need for these purchases.

One thing that we should all be concerned with is the expansion of Police Forces throughout all levels of our government. Apparently every department has their own SWAT team or enforcement division. These purchases seem to be excessive to most of us in the general public. Does the amount of ammo they are buying far exceed their needs?

This is what fuels the conspiracy-theory folks. However the amount of ammo purchased by individuals has probably contributed more to "shortages" than government purchases. We are all guilty of hoarding ammo to avoid another "shortage". When Obama took office was the first time these "shortages" occurred and then again when he was reelected. The only way that I can see this happening again is if Hillary gets voted into office. Heaven help us all if that happens!



New Business in Robert Lee! Members of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose joined Ty Corley and his family and friends for a ribbon cutting ceremony at Big Rack Taxidermy earlier this year. Big Rack Taxidermy is located on Austin Street in downtown Robert Lee.

ROBERT LEE STATE BANK

Welcomes All
Hunters & Fishermen
to Coke County!



We at Robert Lee State Bank
want to stress our strong support
for the hunting & fishing
industries, which are so
important to our area's economy.



621 Austin
Robert Lee, Texas 76945
(325) 453-2545 • 1-800-453-0017
TeleBank • (325) 453-2585
Member FDIC
Equal Housing Lender

Supporting Coke County's Landowners & Businesses since 1936!

Louisiana Black Bear numbers increase

By Johnny Kirby

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, recently announced that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to remove the Louisiana Black Bear from the endangered species list. The Louisiana black bear is found in East Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

After more than 20 years of recovery efforts, the black bear has shown a substantial increase in population in its home range. Today these bears show stable-to-increasing growth rates that provide a healthy long-term outlook. This resurgence is due basically to protection and habitat restoration. I'm not really sure what this means. Will we have an open season on black bears sometime in the near future? I do know that when animals are taken off of the endangered list there is a 5 year monitoring period required by the ESA (Endangered Species Act). I'm not interested in shooting a black bear, but this is certainly a great success story for the efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service.