

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Virgil Moore, Director

Project F11AF00310 Amendment #1

Basic Hunter Education and Safety

Final Performance Report



July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

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Chief, Bureau of Communications

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Boise, Idaho



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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ANNUAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Idaho

Grant Number: F11AF00310 Amendment #1

Grant Name: Basic Hunter Education and Safety

Report Period: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Report Due Date: September 28, 2013

Location of work: Statewide

Objectives:

The overall objective of this project is to provide and manage legislatively mandated programs: basic hunter education, bowhunter education, and wolf trapper education. Hunter education and bowhunter education programs will be in accordance with the current Five-Year Plan for Hunter Education in Idaho. The hunter, bowhunter, and wolf trapper education programs will be made available throughout the state.

State and Regional Hunter Education responsibilities include planning, coordinating and evaluating the regional program and regional needs; and reviewing, modifying, and implementing course curriculums to achieve State hunter education program goals and objectives. Other responsibilities include: instructor recruitment and training; evaluating instructor performance; maintaining programs records and documentation; conducting research/surveys to determine future program needs; and providing technical direction to instructors and agency personnel.

Additional regional objectives include: Conducting training for new instructors and in-service training for active instructors; conducting hunting workshops for students and the disabled; and conducting the newly implemented wolf trapper education course.

The basic hunter education, bowhunter education, and wolf trapper education programs for the state of Idaho is described in Appendix A.

Approach:

1. Volunteer instructors and Volunteer Services/Hunter Education Coordinators (VSCs) will conduct hunter, bowhunter, and wolf trapper education classes in all regions within the state.

Accomplishment: Records entry into the data base for FY13 is not yet complete. Records entered thus far for the period 1 July, 2010 thru 30 June, 2013 (FY10-FY13) indicate that a minimum of 1,464 hunter education, 406 bowhunter education, and 5 trapper education classes were conducted statewide during this agreement period. These classes produced 22,356 hunter education, 5,231 bowhunter education and 55 trapper education course graduates. We anticipate that these numbers will increase when all class records for FY13 are entered into the database.

In FY12 and FY13, 67 wolf trapper education classes were taught, providing instruction to 1,539 students.

2. VSCs will provide comprehensive standardized in-service training to all instructors throughout all regions, statewide.

Accomplishment: All seven Regional VSCs provided guidance, formal or informal instructor training and program coordination support for active instructors in their regions. Forty nine in-service training seminars at the regional level were conducted with over 640 instructors attending.

3. VSCs will provide new instructors with new instructor training and all materials necessary to teach the course and those provided to students.

Accomplishment: At least 109 new-instructor training workshops were conducted. One hundred thirteen new instructors were recruited and trained during FY13. Training has been provided to 558 new hunter, bowhunter, and trapper education instructor candidates since FY09. Some instructor candidates received training on an individual basis. Each candidate received approximately 8 hours of training and a copy of all student materials in addition to instructor material and training aids necessary to aid in teaching the courses.

4. VSCs will continue to identify and prioritize potential shooting range improvement projects around the state to increase shooting range availability to the Hunter Education and Safety Program and 4-H Shooting Programs. The prioritized list will assist in evaluating any future enhancements around the state.

Accomplishment: Several Shooting Range Development Grant requests for range improvements to ranges which support our hunter education program were submitted to Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) and prioritized. State funds will be used to provide shooting range improvements.

5. A Customer Service Representative at the Hunter Education Distribution Center (HEDC) in Boise will distribute hunter education resource materials and support to all instructors statewide as instructors request materials and supplies.

Accomplishment: All hunter education class supplies and resource materials for instructors are distributed from a central distribution center located in Boise by a customer service representative. Instructors may order class supplies by several means; a 24/7 toll-free supply request phone line, an online order form available through our hunter education web page, or by direct email. The toll-free line through a call center for requesting supplies has proven to be very efficient and reduced errors and is preferred by the instructors.

6. VSCs will assure that incentive and length of service awards are provided to actively participating instructors. Instructor performance will be recognized at the regional level as Instructor of the Year. An Instructor of the Year will also be selected at the state level.

Accomplishment: Incentive and service awards are available to all active program instructors via an established statewide Volunteer Instructor Recognition Program. The Department purchased awards for the volunteer instructors to support this program. One outstanding

instructor from each region was selected as the Regional Instructor-of-the-Year and one as the State Instructor-of-the-Year. Each year the State Instructor-of-the-Year was nominated for the National Federal Ammunition/ATK Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor-of-the-Year Award that is presented at the IHEA National Conference.

7. The Department periodically will send all active instructors newsletters and/or the IDFG News and the *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal*, the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA). Students and instructors will receive the *Hunter's Handbook*, which is published by Focus Group, Inc.

Accomplishment: Each year the quarterly issue of the IHEA *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal* was distributed to all active instructors. A free annual publication, *The Hunter's Handbook*, was distributed to all students and active instructors. As they became available, regional newsletters were sent to all active instructors.

8. VSCs will provide advanced youth hunter education with adult mentored youth hunts for both upland game and waterfowl. Youth hunts for various other game will also continue to be provided. Emphasis will be on first-time hunters with controlled supervision by adults.

Accomplishment: At least 195 pheasant, waterfowl, and turkey hunts were held for over 700 youth during the reporting period. Additionally, 2 mentored coyote hunts were conducted for 18 youth. Also, 4 shotgun shooting clinics for 88 participants, a muzzleloader clinic for 6 adults, and a rifle shooting clinic were conducted.

9. The Department will provide 2 independent study options to the public as an alternative to the traditional Hunter Education Course. One option is a workbook for the "Today's Hunter in Idaho" course and the other is an Internet based online option. Both options require the successful completion of an additional 4-6 hour field day for certification.

Accomplishment: A second Internet course option was introduced in FY10 to provide an additional choice for students learning preferences. Currently 2 Internet hunter education course options and a Workbook option are available to the public as independent study options. Information on these options is provided on the Department website. Successful completion of an additional 4-6 hour field day is required for certification. The number of students using the Internet course option continues to increase each year.

10. The Department will offer the public an Internet based independent study option provided by the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) as an alternative to the traditional Bowhunter Education Course.

Accomplishment: An Internet based NBEF independent study option is currently available. Information on this option is provided on the Department website. The successful completion of an additional 4-6 hour field day is required for certification.

11. The Department will review the Hunter Education Course to eliminate extraneous material, streamline the curriculum and assure the course meets the certification standards recommended by the International Hunter Education Association. The goal is to increase student interest and enrollment by providing a more efficient and attractive course for the public.

Accomplishment: A major review of the Hunter Education and Safety Course Curriculum was completed in FY10. The new modified curriculum facilitates shortened classroom time and meets the IHEA recommended certification standards. The curriculum was reviewed in FY11 and FY12 with some minor adjustments made. It will be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary to continue to meet the IHEA standards for hunter education courses.

12. The State Hunter Education Program Coordinator (SHEPC) will maintain a comprehensive, hunter education database software program to accurately track hunter education student, instructor, and class statistical information.

Accomplishment: A comprehensive database program is continuously maintained to provide accurate and current hunter education student, instructor and class statistical information.

13. The Department will continue to provide an Internet based online class registration process for the public to enroll in hunter and bowhunter education classes.

Accomplishment: An online class registration process is continuously maintained to simplify the class registration process for the public. During the project period over 27,000 students used the new improved process to register for 2,750 hunter, bowhunter or trapper education classes. During FY12 an enhancement was added in which the public could be placed on a 'wait list' for new class announcements.

14. The SHEPC will obtain information from Regional Volunteer Services Coordinators regarding what they need to enhance the effectiveness of the Hunter Education and Safety Program in their regions.

Accomplishment: Input from the Regional Volunteer Services Coordinators on Hunter Education and Safety Program needs was solicited and received throughout the reporting period. A number of curriculum, procedural and registration recommendations resulted in improvements which enhanced the program's effectiveness.

15. The Department will maintain a separate cost center and coding under the current activity based cost accounting system to track all expenditures from the Section 4 funds.

Accomplishment: A separate cost-center tracking accounting system is being maintained to track all hunter education expenditures.

16. The SHEPC will manage the fiscal aspects of the Hunter Education and Safety Program to ensure efficient and proper use of federal funds and resources; and comply with other state and federal rules, regulations, and acts.

Accomplishment: Using a cost center tracking accounting system, we closely monitor expenditures to assure compliance with federal and state requirements.

17. The VSCs will conduct instructor in-service training sessions around the state to increase the competency of the volunteer instructors.

Accomplishment: Forty nine in-service training seminars were conducted at the regional level with over 640 instructors attending.

18. The SHEPC will review and enhance the hunter education administrative and statistical information management system/process.

Accomplishment: This system and process is reviewed continuously and improved as necessary. Several reporting enhancements were added to the system during this grant period.

19. All Hunter Education and Safety Program staff and volunteer instructors will recruit additional hunter and bowhunter education instructors.

Accomplishment: During the reporting period 558 new hunter education, bowhunter, and trapper education instructors were recruited.

20. The SHEPC will provide the Region 4 Indoor Shooting Range with complete air rifle equipment to enhance the live-fire capability of the Hunter Education Program.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY11.

21. The Department will expand the hunter education classroom facilities at the Snake River Regional Office to increase the capacity for hunter education classes.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY10.

23. The SHEPC will provide hunter and bowhunter instructors with appropriate vests to identify them as program instructors.

Accomplishment: Purchased 1,054 hunter orange vests that were distributed to hunter education instructors and 262 camouflage vests for our bowhunter education instructors. All vests included a Department patch and a program instructor patch.

24. The Department will purchase laptop computers, projectors, and additional videos to be used as loaners for hunter education classes conducted by volunteer instructors.

Accomplishment: Purchased 8 LCD projectors and 5 laptop computers for the regional hunter education programs. Four desktop computers were purchased to replace aging computers in the Region 3 classrooms. Purchased additional audio visual equipment and videos/DVDs for all regions and the Hunter Education Center.

25. The SHEPC will collaborate with local shooting ranges used in the hunter education program and will provide for range facility improvements as needed.

Accomplishment: Shooting Range Development Grants were awarded to 4 ranges in FY10, 3 ranges in FY11, 12 ranges in FY12 and 8 ranges in FY13. All ranges actively support the hunter education program. Only state funds were used to provide these grants.

26. The SHEPC will provide a Laser Shot System for four IDFG Regions. These systems are a valuable tool when used to promote hunter education at public affairs.

Accomplishment: Purchased a Laser Shot system for 2 regions. The other 2 regions did not need another system.

27. The Department will conduct a survey of hunter education program graduates to determine how many graduates actually purchase a hunting license and for other related data. This would assist the Department to better understand the impact of hunter education on license purchases and on hunter recruitment.

Accomplishment: This project was superseded by higher priority projects. It still is in the conceptual stage and will be developed and implemented in FY14 as part of an expanded Hunter Recruitment and Retention effort.

28. The SHEPC will purchase 8 Remington IHEA Training Gun Sets for use in Department hunter education classrooms.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY11.

29. The Department will purchase a trailer equipped with trapping equipment for use in trapper education classes statewide.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY11.

30. The SHEPC will purchase additional Remington IHEA Training Gun Sets for use by instructors in the more remote areas of the state.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY11.

31. The Department will construct a handicapped accessible ramp and entrance for the new hunter education facility room in the Southeast Region.

Accomplishment: The handicapped accessible ramp and entrance for the new hunter education facility room was completed in FY12.

32. The Department will upgrade the Chester Wildlife Building hunter education classroom facility to include a badly needed bathroom. This will provide increased opportunity for hunter education classes in the Upper Snake Region.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in FY12.

34. The SHEPC will purchase a trailer equipped with all trapping equipment needed for use in trapper education classes statewide.

Accomplishment: This was to be an additional trailer but the purchase was postponed due to a budgetary spending authority limitation imposed by the Department of Administration.

35. The SHEPC will purchase several trailers to be used in the hunter and bowhunter education programs to transport course equipment and to use as mobile classrooms and pellet gun ranges to promote hunter education at sportsman's shows, fairs, etc.

Accomplishment: The purchase of these trailers was postponed due to a budgetary spending authority limitation imposed by the Department of Administration.

36. The SHEPC will collaborate with the Meridian, Idaho Police Department and the local Optimist Club in the development of a shooting range and classroom facility for use in the hunter education program.

Accomplishment: The Department intended to partner with the Optimist Club on this project but was not able to do so. Although additional federal funds were available the Department did not receive the budgetary spending authority from the Department of Administration for these funds.

37. The Department will purchase a tractor with attachments to be used for routine maintenance of the department owned Black's Creek Shooting Range. The range provides shooting opportunities for hunter education students and the public.

Accomplishment: The tractor with mower and bucket attachments was purchased and is being used for range maintenance.

38. The Department will construct a Hunter Education Classroom facility adjacent to the Panhandle Regional office in Coeur d'Alene approximately 3500 square feet in size.

Accomplishment: The Legislature approved spending authority for this project, which is currently in design phase. Construction is expected to be completed in 2014.

Cost:

Actual financial information for the grant period will be provided on Form SF 425.

In-Kind Match Valuation

1. In-kind match is based on volunteer instructor hours expended during the grant period at a rate of \$28.20 per hour. This hourly rate is the average salary and benefits of a Wildlife Educator, who typically performs educational functions very similar to the Hunter Education Program volunteer instructors. The rate was mutually agreed to by the USFWS federal aid coordinator.
2. Using the Department's updated Hunter Education database records application, information from hunter education class record sheets, which contain lead and assistant instructor volunteer hours, is entered into the database. The completed record sheets are signed by the lead instructor. Once all class information is entered, the total number of volunteer instructor hours for a specified time period can be determined by a simple query of the database.
3. All hunter and bowhunter class records for FY13 records have not yet been entered into the database. Currently, a total of 48,416 volunteer hours are reflected in the database based on actual FY10 – FY13 records entered for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013. The total available volunteer instructor hours exceeds the number hours needed for our in-kind match for this grant.

Project Personnel:

Victoria Runnoe: Conservation Education Supervisor

Ron Fritz, State Hunter Education Coordinator

Colleen Cade, Hunter Education Records Technician

Jaime Creson: IDFG Hunter Education Distribution Center, Garden City

Pete Gardner, Volunteer / Hunter Education Coordinator, IDFG Panhandle Region

Jen Bruns, Volunteer / Hunter Education Coordinator, IDFG Clearwater Region

Don Sturtevant, Wildlife Educator, IDFG Southwest Region

Clayton Nielson, Volunteer / Hunter Education Coordinator, IDFG Magic Valley Region

Tessa Atwood, Volunteer / Hunter Education Coordinator, IDFG Southeast Region

James Brower, Volunteer / Hunter Education Coordinator, IDFG Upper Snake Region

Viki Harbor, Administrative Assistant, IDFG Salmon Region

Appendix A

The Basic Hunter Education Program:

1. Student manuals and supplies will be provided to an estimated 9,000 hunter education students.
2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all current and new hunter education instructors prior to training.
3. All hunter education students will be required to participate in a live-fire practice exercise.
4. Rifles and ammunition will be provided.
5. The minimum length of an International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) approved hunter education class will be 12 hours.
6. Hunter education classes will include, as a minimum, the following subjects:
 - a. Firearm safety
 - b. Landowner/Sportsman relations
 - c. Responsible hunter behavior
 - d. Selection of equipment/preparedness
 - e. Wildlife laws
 - f. Wildlife management
 - g. Wildlife identification
 - h. Field care and transport of game
 - i. First aid and survival skills
 - j. Introductory muzzleloader education (optional)
 - k. Introductory bowhunter education (optional)
 - l. Live-firing exercise
7. Maintain an online Internet based optional hunter education course and a workbook based independent study course.

The Basic Bowhunter Education Program:

1. Student manuals and supplies will be provided to an estimated 2,000 bowhunter education students.
2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all current and new bowhunter education instructors prior to training.
3. The minimum length of an approved International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) bowhunter education class will be 8 hours.
4. Bowhunter education classes will include, as a minimum, the following subjects:
 - a. Safety
 - b. Bowhunter responsibilities
 - c. Selection of equipment/preparedness
 - d. Wildlife law and bowhunters
 - e. Wildlife management
 - f. Bowhunting techniques
 - g. Bowhunting practice
 - h. First aid and survival skills
 - i. Shot placement, recovery, and care of game
5. Maintain an online Internet based optional bowhunter education course.

Hunter and Bowhunter Education Program:

1. A standardized written final examination is given in both programs.
2. The bowhunter education program final examination was updated and revised in FY07.
3. An optional hunter education workbook based independent study and an online Internet course is available for persons unable to attend the traditional course.
4. An optional online Internet bowhunter education course is available for persons unable to attend the traditional course.
5. Instructors will provide the needed in-kind match at the average hourly rate of \$28.20 per hour. This is the average salary and benefits of a Wildlife Educator, who typically performs educational functions very similar to the Hunter and Bowhunter Education Program volunteer instructors.
6. Seven Regional Hunter Education Technicians coordinate hunter education activities; recruit and train volunteer instructors in their respective local regions.
7. A Hunter Education Distribution Center provides logistical and class material support for volunteer instructors.
8. An administrative clerk maintains hunter education database, class and instructor records.
9. Idaho has over 1000 active hunter and bowhunter education volunteer instructors.

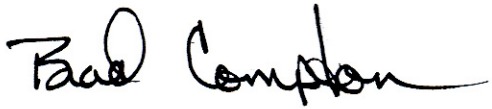
The Basic Wolf Trapper Education Program:

1. Student manuals and supplies will be provided to an estimated 1,000 wolf trapping education students.
2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all current and new instructors prior to training.
3. The minimum length of the training program is 8 hours.
4. Wolf trapper education classes will include the following subject matter:
 - a. Wolf history in Idaho
 - b. Wolf Biology, Ecology, and Behavior
 - c. Wolf Status and Management
 - d. Statutes, Rules, and Regulations
 - e. Ethics
 - f. Humane Methods of trapping and Snaring
 - g. Techniques for Avoiding Non-Target Species
 - h. Human Safety
 - i. Trapper Responsibilities

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Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



Jeff Gould, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife

FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sale of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

