

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Steven M. Huffaker, Director**

**Project W-159-HS-32**

**Progress Report**



**HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003

Prepared By:

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Boise, Idaho

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**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**GRANT NUMBER:** W-159-HS

**SEGMENT NUMBER:** 32

**GRANT TITLE:** Hunter Education Program

**AGREEMENT PERIOD:** July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

NEED:

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission are charged with the preservation, protection, perpetuation, and management of all wildlife in Idaho. They are also charged with the regulation and method-of-take of those species. Safe and responsible hunting is the key to both the mission of the Department and the methods whereby people are able to have a safe and enjoyable hunting experience.

OBJECTIVES:

Idaho will continue to provide and manage two legislatively mandated programs: basic hunter education and bowhunter education. Both programs will be in accordance with the Five-Year Plan for Hunter Education in Idaho.

Project 1: The Basic Hunter Education Program

1. Student manual and supplies will be provided to an estimated 8,500 Hunter Education students.

*Accomplishment:* Student manuals and supplies were distributed to approximately 13,000 Hunter Education students. The increase was due largely to an influx of ten and 11-year-old students into the hunter education classes. The State Legislature lowered the minimum hunting age in Idaho to ten-years-old effective January 1, 2003.

2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all new Hunter Education instructors prior to training.

*Accomplishment:* Approximately 94 new Hunter Education instructors, statewide, received Instructor Training Guides and other instructor training materials.

3. All Hunter Education students will be required to participate in a live-fire practice exercise. Rifles and ammunition will be provided.

*Accomplishment:* All hunter education students are required to successfully complete a live-fire and field exercise to receive their certification. Rifles and ammunition for the exercise

were provided to the students at no cost to them. Of the approximate 13,000 students, over 12,000 students completed this exercise and the course.

4. The minimum length of an International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) approved Hunter Education class will be 12 hours.

*Accomplishment:* The average class length for courses conducted during the agreement period was 20.5 hours.

5. 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. Live-firing exercise
  - k. Introductory muzzleloader education (optional)
  - l. Introductory bowhunter education (optional)

*Accomplishment:* Topics a. through j. were included in the core curriculum. Topics k. and l. were included as optional topics.

#### Project 2: The Basic Bowhunter Education Program

1. Student manuals and supplies will be provided to an estimated 2,000 Bowhunter Education students.

*Accomplishment:* NBEF student manuals and other student supplies were provided to approximately 1,200 Bowhunter Education students during the agreement period.

2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all new Bowhunter Education instructors prior to training.

*Accomplishment:* Training materials were furnished to 29 new Bowhunter Education instructors.

3. The minimum length of an approved International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) Bowhunter Education class will be eight hours.

*Accomplishment:* Bowhunter Education classes averaged 14 hours in length.

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

*Accomplishment:* These subjects were included in the Bowhunter Education courses.

### Project 3: HE Program Incentives and Course Examinations

1. A written final examination will be given in both programs.

*Accomplishment:* Both programs now require students to successfully complete a written examination as a requirement for certification. The Hunter Education final examination is currently being updated.

2. Regional and statewide incentive awards, length of service awards, and Instructor-of-the-Year awards will be provided to instructors who actively participate in either program.

*Accomplishment:* These awards were available to all active program instructors via an established statewide Volunteer Instructor Incentive Awards Program.

3. Instructors will provide the needed in-kind match at the average teacher hourly rate of \$16.44 per hour.

*Accomplishment:* Over 1,050 active instructors provided an in-kind match at the stipulated hourly rate.

4. Seven Region Hunter Education Technicians will coordinate HE activities, recruit, and train volunteer instructors in their respective local regions.

*Accomplishment:* Each of the seven Idaho Fish and Game regions has an active Hunter Education Technician who provides regional coordination, guidance, and support for the program.

### Project 4: Section 10 Hunter Education Enhancement

1. Evaluate current hunter education instructor and student materials and upgrade as necessary.

*Accomplishment:* The upgraded student and instructor manuals, which were contracted for last year, continue to meet our needs and continue to be used. The “*OUTsmart in the*

*OUTback*” survival and first aid booklets were reevaluated this year and they also continue to meet our needs.

2. Purchase additional hunter education materials and supplies, such as training aids, wildlife identification guides, appropriate videos, first aid and survival guides, bowhunter classroom training aid targets, etc.

*Accomplishment:* Over 100 videos, 10,000 student and instructor manuals, 10,000 survival and first aid booklets, and many other supplies were purchased and distributed to students and instructors. Additional hunter education videos were purchased to expand the hunter education Distribution Center video library. The Department produced a ten-minute class introduction video focused on the stewardship of Idaho’s game animals.

3. Identify, replace, and/or purchase needed hunter education equipment, such as classroom projection items, VCRs, TV monitors, training rifles, bowhunting training equipment, gun and equipment storage cabinets, etc.

*Accomplishment:* Purchased various items of classroom equipment identified by instructors and Regional Hunter Education Technicians. Also purchased a Liquid Crystal Display projector to project PowerPoint presentations for the hunter education program.

4. Identify and prioritize potential shooting range improvement projects around the state to increase shooting range availability to the Hunter Education Program and 4-H Shooting Programs.

*Accomplishment:* A statewide program to identify and prioritize potential shooting range improvement projects was established.

5. Conduct instructor training sessions around the state to increase the competency of the volunteer instructors.

*Accomplishment:* Instructor training sessions were conducted for over 300 instructors in various locations throughout the state.

6. Review and enhance the hunter education and related administrative and statistical information management system/process.

*Accomplishment:* A new enhanced Hunter Education PC software data tracking system and database is currently under development by the IDFG Information Technology Department programmers. The target implementation timeframe is March 2004.

7. Recruit additional hunter and bowhunter education instructors to provide a larger instructor base.

*Accomplishment:* During this reporting period 94 new hunter education and bowhunter education instructors were recruited and trained.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS:

1. Hunting accidents throughout the state will be minimal.
2. Expanded communication and coordination with hunter education coordinators and instructors; increased coordination of regional hunter education program needs.
3. Participation in hunting and recreational shooting will continue to be equal to or greater than in the past.
4. Enhanced quality of the hunter education program.
5. Improved hunter/landowner relations resulting in more land open to hunting.

## APPROACH AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Hunter Education Technicians will provide comprehensive standardized training courses to all instructors throughout all regions, statewide.

*Accomplishment:* Each of the Hunter Education Technicians provided coordination, guidance, program support, and instructor training for active instructors in their regions.

2. New instructors will receive new instructor training and all materials provided to students and materials necessary to teach the course.

*Accomplishment:* New instructors received approximately eight hours of training and a copy of all student materials in addition to considerable instructor material and training aids necessary to aid in teaching the courses.

3. The Hunter Education Association will continue to be promoted. As an incentive, \$100.00 will continue to be deposited in an operating account for each new local chapter started.

*Accomplishment:* Although no new Hunter Education Association local chapters were established within the state, discussions and preliminary planning has begun to establish another local chapter in the north-central part of the state.

4. Hunter Education Technicians will conduct in-service training to all instructors.

*Accomplishment:* Hunter Education Technicians in all regions conducted in-service training sessions for instructors. The number of sessions in each region varied depending on the region's instructor population.

5. The 4-H shooting sports program will continue to be promoted and supported throughout the state.

Accomplishment: This is an on-going process through cooperative efforts with the State 4-H organization and the Hunter Education Association. A 4-H shooting clinic was conducted for over 200 people.

6. Resource center materials will be distributed by a shipping and receiving clerk through a central distribution center located in Boise. Distribution of materials will be made to instructors who make material and supply requests via the toll-free number.

Accomplishment: All hunter education class supplies and resource materials for instructors were distributed from a central distribution center located in Boise by a shipping and receiving clerk. A toll-free supply request phone line was available to instructors.

7. Incentive and length of service awards will be provided to actively participating instructors. Instructor performance will be recognized at the regional level as Instructor of the Year. One regional instructor will be chosen as Idaho's Instructor of the Year.

Accomplishment: Incentive and service awards were available to all active program instructors via an established statewide Volunteer Instructor Incentive Awards 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. The State Instructor of the Year was also nominated for the national Winchester Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor-of-the-Year Award.

8. All active instructors will receive periodical regional newsletters and a regular statewide newsletter called *Sighting-In*. Instructors will also receive the quarterly *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal*, the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association. Students will receive the *Hunter's Handbook*, as published by Focus Group, Inc.

Accomplishment: Regional newsletters were mailed out periodically in the more populated regions. The *Hunter Ed Journal* was distributed to all active instructors. The goal is to provide regional and statewide newsletters on a regular basis as soon as practical. The *Hunter's Handbook*, published by Focus Group, Inc., was distributed to all students.

9. A new video will replace the outdated "*Sweet Sunday's Gone*."

Accomplishment: A new video "*Shattered Lives*", produced by the Department, is presently under review for its final production format. The video "*The Last Shot*" is currently in use to replace "*Sweet Sunday's Gone*".

10. Advanced youth hunter education will continue throughout the year coupled with adult mentored youth hunts for both upland game and waterfowl. Youth hunts for both deer and antelope will also continue to be provided. Emphasis will be on first-time hunters with controlled supervision by adults.

*Accomplishment:* Four advanced youth clinics were conducted for waterfowl and pheasant hunting for a total of 131 youth. Adult mentored youth hunts were conducted at various locations throughout the state for 90 youth. In addition, four Women’s Clinics were conducted for over 200 women; waterfowl clinics for over 700 people; a big game clinic for over 200 people; and several safety clinics for over 730 people.

11. Independent Home Study will be offered to the public as an option to the traditional Hunter Education course using either of two options: (1) The CD-ROM material produced by Top Hook, or (2) the Independent Home Study Workbook and Field Guide produced by Outdoor Empire, Inc.

*Accomplishment:* The “*Hunter Education Independent Study Guide*” and accompanying workbook published by Outdoor Empire Publishing, Inc., was provided to students as an alternative course option. The Top Hook produced CD-ROM “*Responsible Hunting*” is now out of production and we are currently not aware of any substitute.

12. Solicit input from Regional Hunter Education Technicians as to what they need to enhance their effectiveness in the Hunter Education Program.

*Accomplishment:* A special meeting was held to gain this input. Constant open two-way communication via email and telephone was encouraged to assure open dialogue.

13. Develop a prioritized list of needs and capital improvements to ranges based on input from the Regional Hunter Education Coordinators. This list will be useful in planning where future Section 10 Hunter Education Enhancement funds may be used.

*Accomplishment:* Regional Conservation Educators and Regional Hunter Education Technicians have provided input regarding hunter education shooting range needs and improvements. These are submitted annually and are prioritized according to the most immediate needs.

14. A separate cost-center and coding will be maintained under the current Activity Based Cost Accounting System to track all expenditures from the Section 10 funds.

*Accomplishment:* A separate cost-center tracking accounting system is being maintained to track all Section 10 hunter education expenditures.

LOCATION: Statewide.

COST:

PR Funding Source	Personnel	Operating Expenses	Capital	Overhead	Total	Federal Share	State Share <sup>a</sup>	Project Total
Section 4	\$142,200.91	\$169,390.86	\$18,000.00	\$67,927.01	\$397,518.76	\$378,250.16	\$126,083.39	\$504,333.55
Section 10	\$32,020.44	\$22,369.01	\$510.00	\$11,856.90	\$66,756.35	\$75,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$174,221.35</b>	<b>\$191,759.87</b>	<b>\$18,510.00</b>	<b>\$79,783.91</b>	<b>\$464,275.11</b>	<b>\$453,250.16</b>	<b>\$151,083.39</b>	<b>\$604,333.55</b>

<sup>a</sup> In-kind match includes 16,507 hours at a rate of \$16.44 per hour (\$271,375).

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Headquarters: Kevin Frailey, Project Leader  
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Colleen Cade, HE Records Technician  
Hunter Education Center: Richard Koepplin  
Panhandle Region: Phil Cooper  
Clearwater Region: Mike Demick  
Southwest Region: Evin Oneale, Dan Papp  
Magic Valley Region: Kelton Hatch  
Southeast Region: Harry Morse  
Upper Snake Region: Gregg Losinski  
Salmon Region: Victoria Runnoe

Submitted by:

*Ron Fritz*

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State Hunter Education Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Dale E. Toweill  
Wildlife Program Coordinator  
Federal Aid Coordinator

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James W. Unsworth, 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.

