

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

**Steven M. Huffaker, Director**

**Project W-159-HS-33**

**Annual Performance Report**



**HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

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:** 33  
**GRANT TITLE:** Hunter Education Program  
**AGREEMENT PERIOD:** July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

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 10,000 Hunter Education students.

*Accomplishment:* Student manuals and supplies were distributed to over 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. Since the minimum hunting age in Idaho was lowered from 12 to ten years old on January 1, 2003, the program experienced over a 33% increase in the number of students.

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

*Accomplishment:* Instructor Training Guides and other instructor training materials were distributed to 87 new Hunter Education instructors.

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 are provided to students at no cost to them.

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 19.5 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:* The core curriculum for Hunter Education classes includes subjects a. through j. Subjects k. and l. are optional.

#### 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 over 2,300 Bowhunter Education students during the agreement period.

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

*Accomplishment:* Twenty-seven new Bowhunter Education instructors received an instructor training materials package.

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 are 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 require students to successfully complete a written examination as a requirement for certification. The Hunter Education final examination was reviewed and revised. It will be distributed to instructors for use by the end of October 2004.

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 are presented 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 1,100 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 a Hunter Education Technician (HET) who provides regional coordination, guidance, and support for the program. They are supervised by their respective Regional Conservation Educator (RCE).

5. Additional funds of \$60,000 to \$100,000 in fine monies are earmarked for Hunter Education.

*Accomplishment:* \$60,000 of state Fine and Forfeiture Funds was used for Shooting Range Development grants.

## Project 4: Section 10 Hunter Education Enhancement

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

*Accomplishment:* The student manual, “*Today’s Hunter in Idaho*”, the related instructor manual, and the “*Today’s Wildlife*” guide were reviewed. A resulting upgraded version is currently in use. A survival and first aid booklet, “*OUTsmart in the OUTback*” was also reviewed and it continues to be used in the hunter and bowhunter education programs. The Independent Study was also reevaluated and revised. An online Internet course, “*Today’s Hunter in Idaho*,” with an accompanying field day was developed and implemented. Thus far, over 100 persons have completed the online course.

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:* During the reporting period, the department purchased over 13,000 hunter and bowhunter education student manuals, wildlife guides, targets, and 14,000 survival and first aid booklets. Other materials, such as hunter education PowerPoint presentations and IHEA Course CD-ROMs, Independent Study manuals and workbooks, and many other supplies were purchased to expand the Hunter Education Distribution Center materials available to instructors

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:* Additional classroom equipment was purchased to fill needs identified by instructors and Regional Hunter Education Technicians. Worn-out rifles were identified and 105 new rifles (.22 caliber) were purchased to replace those used in the live-fire exercise. Additional pellet rifles were also purchased for use in indoor facilities.

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:* Statewide feedback to identify potential shooting range improvement projects was solicited. Feedback was evaluated and prioritized for future reference.

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

*Accomplishment:* Eleven instructor training sessions were conducted for over 150 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 in the final stages of development by the IDFG Information Technology Department programmers. Due to development problems, the original target implementation date of March 2004 was moved to December 2004.

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

*Accomplishment:* During this reporting period, 117 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:* All seven Regional 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:* Twelve new instructor-training workshops were conducted. Training was provided to 117 new hunter and bowhunter education instructors. They received approximately eight 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.

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: No new Hunter Education Association local chapters were established within the state. Interest in forming an association chapter in the north-central part of the state is weak at this time. Active chapters are located in the SW and SE portions 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. Instructors are encouraged to attend to maintain their active instructor status.

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

Accomplishment: Cooperative efforts with the State 4-H organization and the Hunter Education Association continued during FY04. Regions supported local 4-H shooting sports at the regional level.

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 customer service representative. A toll-free supply request phone line is 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 are 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: Several regional newsletters were mailed out in the more populated regions. Three different issues of the *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal* were distributed to all active instructors. A free annual publication, *The Hunter's Handbook*, was distributed to

all students and active instructors. Another free annual publication, *Broadhead*, published for the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, was distributed to all bowhunter education instructors and students.

9. 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:* Two advanced youth hunting clinics were conducted for 56 youth. Separate mentored youth pheasant; deer, and goose hunts were held for over 105 youth. Clinics conducted throughout the state include two women's clinics for over 60 women, three waterfowl clinics for 100 people, one turkey clinic for 30 people, an archery clinic for 35 people, and an outdoor rendezvous for over 300 people.

10. 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 International Hunter's Education Association (IHEA) produced CD-ROM "*IHEA Internet Introduction to Hunter Education*" was purchased as a supplement to the workbook. An Idaho Fish and Game sponsored online Internet course option titled "*Today's Hunter in Idaho*" with an accompanying field day was developed and implemented in May 2004. This Internet course option is becoming increasingly popular.

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

*Accomplishment:* Input regarding the program needs of the Regional Hunter Education Technicians was discussed during a special meeting of the hunter education staff. Constant open two-way communication via email and telephone is encouraged to assure open dialogue between the state program coordinator and the regional technicians.

12. 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:* All Regional Conservation Educators and Regional Hunter Education Technicians provide input regarding hunter education shooting range needs and improvements. These are submitted annually and are prioritized according to the most immediate needs. Improvements are made as funds permit.

13. A separate cost-center 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 4 & 10 hunter education expenditures.

LOCATION: Statewide.

ACTUAL COST:

PR Funding Source	Personnel	Operating Expenses	Capital	Overhead (23.3%)	Total	Federal Share	State Share*	Project Total
Section 4	\$173,751.00	\$38,154.50	\$65,000.00	\$49,373.98	\$326,279.48	\$326,279.48	\$108,759.83	\$435,039.31
Section 10	38,154.50	26,203.40	0	15,117.60	80,000.00	80,000.00	26,666.67	106,666.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$212,430.00</b>	<b>\$64,357.90</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>	<b>\$64,491.58</b>	<b>\$406,279.48</b>	<b>\$406,279.48</b>	<b>\$135,426.49</b>	<b>\$541,705.98</b>

\* In-kind match includes 14,500 hours at a rate of \$16.44 per hour (\$238,380).

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Headquarters: Kevin Frailey, Project Leader

Ron Fritz, State Hunter Education Coordinator

Colleen Cade, HE Records Technician

Hunter Education Center: Richard Koeplin

Panhandle Region: Phil Cooper (RCE), David Nelson (HET)

Clearwater Region: Mike Demick (RCE), Kent Henderson (HET).

Southwest Region: Evin Oneale (RCE), Dan Papp (Wildlife Educator)

Magic Valley Region: Kelton Hatch (RCE), Clayton Nielson (HET)

Southeast Region: Harry Morse (RCE), Terri Bergmeier (Volunteer Coordinator)

Upper Snake Region: Gregg Losinski (RCE), Sammie Hendricks (HET)

Salmon Region: Victoria Runnoe (RCE/HET)

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.

