

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-159-HS-34

Annual Performance Report



HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

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September 2005
Boise, Idaho

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

GRANT NUMBER: W-159-HS

SEGMENT NUMBER: 34

GRANT TITLE: Hunter Education Program

AGREEMENT PERIOD: July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005

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 2 legislatively mandated programs: basic hunter education and bowhunter education. Both programs will be in accordance with the current Five-Year Plan for Hunter Education in Idaho.

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 10,500 hunter education students during the grant period.

2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all new hunter education instructors prior to training.

Accomplishment: Instructor training guides and other training materials were distributed to 79 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 were required to successfully complete a live-fire and field exercise to receive their certification. Rifles, targets, and ammunition for the exercise are provided to students.

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 18.5 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.

The Basic Bowhunter Education Program

1. Student manuals and supplies will be provided to an estimated 1,800 bowhunter education students.

Accomplishment: National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF) student manuals and other student supplies were provided to over 2,400 bowhunter education students during this agreement period.

2. Instructor training materials will be furnished to all new bowhunter education instructors prior to training.

Accomplishment: Forty-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 8 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.

5. Implement an online bowhunter education course.

Accomplishment: This course is ready to go online and the related field day curriculum is complete. The course will go “live” online in January 2006 when field day locations and instructors are available.

Hunter Education 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.

2. Both program final examinations will be updated and revised by the end of FY05.

Accomplishment: The hunter education final examination was reviewed and revised again this FY. The latest revision should be ready for distribution to instructors by the end of September 2005. The revision of the bowhunter course final examination was deferred until FY06, when the hunter education examination is fully operational. Feedback received during the hunter education exam revision process could then be applied to the bowhunter examination; thus, offering a potential cost savings.

3. 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 presented to all active program instructors via an established statewide Volunteer Instructor Incentive Awards Program.

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

Accomplishment: During FY05, over 1,100 active instructors provided a total of 14,283 hours of hunter and bowhunter education instruction at the stipulated hourly rate. These hours are more than adequate for the Department’s in-kind match for this grant.

5. Seven regional hunter education technicians will coordinate hunter education activities and recruit and train volunteer instructors in their respective local regions.

Accomplishment: Each of the 7 Idaho Fish and Game regions has a Hunter Education Technician who provides regional coordination, guidance, and support for the program. They are supervised by their respective Regional Conservation Educator.

Section 10 Hunter Education Enhancements and Cost Estimates

1. Employ part-time State Hunter Education Program Coordinator to coordinate the entire hunter education program statewide. May go to full-time position in FY05 (\$41,496 salary & benefits; \$13,884 administrative overhead).

Accomplishment: A part-time State Hunter Education Program Coordinator was employed for the grant period. The position will go full-time in FY06.

2. Upgrade hunter education course materials and supplies such as training aids, new videos, bowhunter classroom training aid targets, etc. (\$5,000).

Accomplishment: Purchased additional videos, numerous DVDs, several muzzleloader rifles, youth model "Cricket" .22 cal. rifles, several left-handed .22 cal. rifles, a front-sight adjuster, prone shooting pads, compass kits, rifle cleaning kits, numerous shooting glasses, and other supplies.

3. Upgrade hunter education equipment to include classroom projection items, VCRs, TV monitors, bowhunting training equipment, gun and equipment storage cabinets, etc. (\$7,000).

Accomplishment: Purchased a new Laser Shot Shooting Simulator, a gun safe for a regional office, a DVD/VCR combo player, a locking metal storage cabinet, several folding tables, 20 folding chairs, and other equipment.

4. Implement an annual inspection program and replacement cycles for rifles used in the hunter education live-fire exercises (\$7,620).

Accomplishment: Due to the complexity of identifying and aligning inspection facilities (gunsmiths, armorers, etc.) the project was begun but not completed. It will be continued in FY06.

5. Conduct instructor in-service training sessions around the state to increase the competency of the volunteer instructors (\$3,000).

Accomplishment: During the grant period, 14 in-service training sessions for hunter and bowhunter instructors were conducted at various locations around the state. These averaged 6-8 hours each and covered new instructional material, teaching techniques, and administrative items.

6. Review and enhance the hunter education and related administrative and statistical information management system/process (\$1,000).

Accomplishment: A new hunter education computer application to maintain class, instructor, and student information was implemented. This system will provide additional and more accurate information needed to monitor the hunter education program and for federal and state grant reports.

7. Recruit additional hunter and bowhunter education instructors to provide a larger instructor base (\$1,000).

Accomplishment: During FY05, 79 new hunter education instructors and 47 bowhunter instructors were recruited, trained, and certified. This is an 8% increase of new instructors over FY04.

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

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

Accomplishment: All 7 Regional Hunter Education Technicians provided coordination, guidance, program support, and instructor training for active instructors in their regions. A new technician was hired for Regions 2 and 5.

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

Accomplishment: Twelve formal new instructor-training workshops were conducted. Training was provided to 126 new hunter and bowhunter education instructors, many of them on an individual basis. Each 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.

3. The IHEA is an integral part of the program and it will continue to be promoted throughout the state. The association provides a valuable communications medium with instructors.

Accomplishment: No new local chapters of the IHEA were established within the state during this grant period. Active chapters are located in Regions 3 and 6. Other regions of the state indicated very little interest in forming a local chapter.

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: Requests for funding shooting range improvement projects statewide were submitted to the State Hunter Education Coordinator. Seven of 11 requests were approved for total or partial funding. When completed, these should improve the shooting range opportunities for hunter education.

5. A shipping and receiving clerk through a central distribution center located in Boise will distribute resource center materials. Distribution of materials will be made to instructors who request materials and supplies. A toll-free phone number will be provided.

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.

6. 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.

7. Implement an Internet-based online class registration process.

Accomplishment: We are currently in the early development phase of this complex project. It will involve the complete development of a computer application and most likely the purchase of some computer hardware to implement. It is estimated this project will not be completed until FY07.

8. All active instructors will periodically receive newsletters and the *Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal*, the official publication of the IHEA. Students and instructors 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. A new free IDFG quarterly publication, the *Idaho Fish and Game News*, is being sent regularly to all 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 youth hunting clinics were held for 70 youth with approximately 30 parents also attending. Four youth pheasant hunts were conducted for a total of 108 youth. Eleven youth participated in a mentored youth deer hunt and 16 in a youth goose hunt. Clinics conducted throughout the state included 3 women's outdoor clinics for over 157 women, 2 women's hunting clinics for 58 women, and a waterfowl clinic for 20 youth.

10. An independent study option will be offered to the public as an alternative to the traditional hunter education course using either of 2 options: (1) An online Internet course "Today's Hunter in Idaho" provided by Kalkomey Enterprises, 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 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 is available as an alternative course option. This Internet course option is becoming increasingly popular.

11. An independent study option provided by NBEF will be offered to the public as an alternative to the traditional bowhunter education course.

Accomplishment: The development of this course option with the accompanying field day is complete. It is scheduled to be launched after 1 January 2006 following the end of the archery hunting season.

12. Implement a comprehensive, hunter education database software program to accurately track hunter education student, instructor, and class statistical information.

Accomplishment: Following several years of development, this database software program is now online. Once all the class, instructor, and student data is entered, the program will provide the much needed report information,

13. Solicit input from Regional Hunter Education Technicians as to what they need to enhance the effectiveness of 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 2-way communication via email and telephone is encouraged to assure open dialogue between the state program coordinator and the regional technicians.

14. Develop a prioritized list of needs and capital improvements to ranges based on input from the Regional Hunter Education Technicians. The list is used to fund and implement shooting range development needs and capital improvements as identified and prioritized. It will be useful in planning where future Section 10 Hunter Education Enhancement funds may be used.

Accomplishment: This year, the Regional Conservation Educators provided input for the list of range development grant requests. These were prioritized according to need and value to the hunter education program. Those with a higher priority of development need received financial assistance for capital improvements according to the availability of funds.

15. A separate cost-center and coding will be maintained under the current activity-based cost accounting system to track all expenditures from 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.

COST

| PR funding source | Section 4 | Section 10 | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Personnel | \$215,509.92 | \$46,465.96 | \$261,975.88 |
| Operating expenses | \$32,133.64 | \$10,354.26 | \$42,487.90 |
| Capital | \$32,495.00 | \$0.00 | \$32,495.00 |
| Overhead (21.0%) | \$52,079.44 | \$11,780.97 | \$63,860.41 |
| Total* | \$332,218.00 | \$68,601.19 | \$400,819.19 |
| Federal share | \$332,218.00 | \$80,000.00 | \$412,218.00 |
| State share** | \$110,739.37 | \$26,666.67 | \$137,406.04 |
| Project Total | \$442,957.37 | \$106,666.67 | \$549,624.04 |

*An Amendment to this Grant Agreement (W-159-HS, Segment 34), dated and approved on 6/21/2005 extended the agreement period to 12/30/2006 to fully expend the funds.

**In-kind match includes 14,283 hours at a rate of \$16.44 per hour. (\$234,813)

PROJECT PERSONNEL

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

Submitted by:

Ron Fritz

State Hunter Education Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Dale E. Toweill
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Federal Aid Coordinator

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.

