

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Steven M. Huffaker, Director

Project W-159-HS-35

Annual Performance Report



HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

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State Hunter Education Coordinator

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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: 35

GRANT TITLE: Hunter Education Program

AGREEMENT PERIOD: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

NEED

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (Department) 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

The overall objective of this project is 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 hunter and bowhunter 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 recruiting, training, and evaluating instructor performance; maintaining program 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 handicapped; and conducting a trapper training course.

The basic hunter education and bowhunter education program for the state of Idaho is described in Appendix A.

EXPECTED RESULTS AND BENEFITS

We expect that by implementing this program, hunting accidents throughout the state will be minimized. We also anticipate that coordination between hunter education coordinators and instructors will be expanded. Another benefit of program implementation will be increased coordination of regional hunter education program needs. Participation in hunting and recreational shooting will contribute to increased hunter recruitment and the enhanced quality of

the hunter education program will support an increase in the number of hunters. Improved hunter/landowner relations, expected due to teaching respect for private lands, should contribute to more land being opened to hunting.

APPROACH

1. Volunteer instructors and Hunter Education Technicians (HETs) will conduct hunter and bowhunter education classes throughout the state.

Accomplishment: A total of 436 classes (322 hunter education and 114 bowhunter education classes) were conducted statewide during this agreement period. There were a total of 7,622 hunter education and 1,835 bowhunter education course graduates.

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

Accomplishment: All 7 regional HETs provided coordination, guidance, program support, and formal or informal instructor training for active instructors in their regions. Eleven in-service training seminars at the regional level were conducted with a total of 176 instructors attending.

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

Accomplishment: Eleven formal new instructor-training workshops were conducted. Training was provided to 136 new hunter and bowhunter education instructor candidates. Some instructor candidates received training 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.

4. A customer service representative at the hunter education distribution center in Boise will distribute hunter education resource materials 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. A toll-free supply-request phone line is available to instructors.

5. The HETs 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.

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.

6. 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*, 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. The IDFG publication, the *Idaho Fish and Game News*, is being sent periodically to all active instructors. Another annual publication, *Broadhead*, published for the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, was distributed to all bowhunter education instructors and students.

7. The HETs will provide advanced youth hunter education with adult mentored youth hunts for upland game, waterfowl, and other game. Emphasis will be on first-time hunters with controlled supervision by adults.

Accomplishment: Ten youth hunting clinics were held and attended by 199 youth and parents. Three youth deer hunts and 3 pheasant/upland game hunts were conducted for over 70 youth, 2 mentored youth hunts and 1 mentored waterfowl hunt for 38 youth were conducted. Three women's outdoor clinics were held throughout the state for approximately 130 women as well as a hunting clinic for persons with disabilities with 2 disabled persons attending.

8. The Department will maintain a separate cost center and coding under the Department's 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.

9. The HETs will research the feasibility of implementing a statewide trapper education program.

Accomplishment: A statewide trapper education program based on materials provided by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) is under development. The Department anticipates conducting a pilot class during FY07.

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

Accomplishment: During the agreement period, 78 new hunter education and bowhunter education instructors were recruited.

LOCATION

Statewide.

COST (as of June 30, 2006)

Hunter Education Enhancements and Costs:

1. We employed a part-time state hunter education customer service representative to manage the hunter education distribution center which provides logistical support to hunter education instructors; a hunter education records technician; 7 HETs to coordinate the program in the IDFG regions, and part-time regional help as necessitated (\$235,232 in salary & benefits*).
2. Administrative overhead (\$59,813*).
3. Hunter education course materials will be purchased and upgraded, as will supplies and other equipment (\$68,089*).
4. Capital expenses for the “Shooting Range Equipment Enhancement Grant Program” (\$15,513*).

PR funding source	Section 4
Personnel*	\$237,232
Operating expenses*	\$68,089
Capital*	\$15,513
Overhead*	\$59,813
Project agreement amount	
Federal share	\$382,777
State share**	\$127,592
Project Total	\$510,369

*Note: All costs are as of June 30, 2006.

**In-kind match includes 4,525 volunteer instructor hours at a rate of \$28.20 per hour. This hourly rate is based on the average salary and benefits for a Wildlife Educator, who typically performs educational teaching functions that correspond with those performed by hunter education program volunteer instructors. With 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 via a Scantron scanner. The completed record sheets are signed by the lead instructor. Once all class information, including available student information (name, address, phone number, social security number, etc.) is entered, the total number of volunteer instructor hours for a specified time period can be determined by a simple query of the database. During this grant agreement period, a total of 17,902 volunteer instructor hours were recorded. Of this total, 958 volunteer instructor hours will be

applied to the Section 10 Hunter Education Grant. An excess of 12,419 hunter education volunteer instructor hours remain available.

PROJECT PERSONNEL (as of June 30, 2006)

Headquarters: Ron Fritz, State Hunter Education Coordinator IDFG Headquarters
Colleen Cade, HE Records Technician, IDFG Headquarters

Regions: James Benson, IDFG Hunter Education Distribution Center, Garden City
David Nelson, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Panhandle Region
Betty Curtiss, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Clearwater Region
Dan Papp, Wildlife Educator, IDFG Southwest Region
Clayton Nielson, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Magic Valley Region
Terri Bergmeier, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Southeast Region
Sammie Hendricks, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Upper Snake Region
Victoria Runnoe, Hunter Education Technician, IDFG Salmon Region

APPENDIX A

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 10,250 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 78 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 were provided to students.

4. The minimum length of an IHEA-approved hunter education class will be 12 hours.

Accomplishment: The average class length for courses conducted during the agreement period was 18 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.

6. The basic hunter education course has been available on the Internet since May 2005.

Accomplishment: During this agreement period, 368 students completed the basic online course.

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 2,000 bowhunter education students during this agreement period.

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

Accomplishment: Twenty-one 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 and the related field day curriculum was implemented and was available on the Internet in January 2006. During the last 6 months of the agreement period, 140 students completed the online portion of the course.

Hunter and Bowhunter Education Program

1. A standardized 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 during FY06.

Accomplishment: The hunter education final examination was reviewed and found to effectively meet the program needs. The revision of the bowhunter course final examination is currently in progress. Feedback received from the hunter education exam revision process will be applied to the bowhunter examination thus offering a potential cost savings.

3. An optional independent study and an online Internet hunter education course will be available for persons unable to attend the traditional course.

Accomplishment: Both hunter and bowhunter education courses are available on the Internet for the public as an alternative to the traditional courses. A workbook-based self-study hunter education course is also available as an alternative course.

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

Accomplishment: During FY06, over 1,100 active instructors provided a total of 17,902 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. The hourly rate of \$16.44/hr, which was established over 4 years ago, was reevaluated and revised to more realistically reflect the current value of services performed. The instructor tasks performed by the hunter and bowhunter volunteer instructors are closely aligned with those performed by the IDFG Wildlife Educator. Therefore, the hourly rate for this grant period was revised to \$28.20/hr.

5. Seven regional HETs 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 an HET who provides regional coordination, guidance, and support for the program. They are supervised by their respective Regional Conservation Educator.

6. A hunter education distribution center will provide logistical and class material support for volunteer instructors.

Accomplishment: All hunter education class supplies and resource materials for instructors are distributed from a central Hunter Education Distribution Center located in Boise by a customer service representative.

7. An administrative clerk will maintain a hunter education database and class and instructor records.

Accomplishment: Over 5,000 active and inactive hunter and bowhunter education instructor records and 219,000 student records in an active database are maintained by a hunter education records clerk. This database is constantly being updated to provide the most current information. The clerk frequently enters new data and provides customer support for instructors and individuals needing replacement certificates.

8. Idaho should have over 1,100 active hunter and bowhunter education volunteer instructors.

Accomplishment: At the end of this grant period, the program listed 1,277 active instructors (947 hunter education and 330 bowhunter education).

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.

