



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2020

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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After the lull of canceled classes in April and May, the HIT Program hit the ground running in June. We've had a large number of instructors step up to help teach additional classes this summer to meet the need and we greatly appreciate this. We'd like to recognize the following instructors for going "Above & Beyond" during the past few months. They will all receive gift cards provided by the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation.

Rich Graham (Wasilla)

Rich stepped in to be a go-to instructor for classes in both Anchorage and the Valley. He was always willing to help out at the last minute if a class was short on instructors. He taught 4 hunter ed and 2 bowhunter ed classes in the past three months.



Cordell Gray (Fairbanks)

As a newly certified instructor in 2020, Cordell jumped into instructing with both feet! He taught 8 of the 12 hunter education classes offered in Fairbanks, and has become a great addition to our instructor team.

Shilo & Wayne McManus (Kasilof)

Shilo and Wayne are the dynamic duo, teaching all four hunter ed classes offered in Soldotna this summer. We look forward to them becoming certified crossbow and muzzleloader ed instructors this fall as well.

As we move into fall and winter, we will continue to do our best communicating any changes due to COVID-19 and other important information about the HIT Program. At this time we plan to hold our scheduled instructor trainings this fall, but may make some changes to our annual instructor meetings. Please keep an eye on your email inbox in the upcoming months, and if you change email addresses, please let your regional coordinator or Cindy know so we can update your contact information.

Best of luck in your fall hunts and as Fred Bear said,

“Go afield with a good attitude, with respect for the wildlife you hunt and for the forest and fields in which you walk. Immerse yourself in the outdoor experience. It will cleanse your soul and make you a better person.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Spotted in Anchorage, it looks like there is another use for our Hunter Orange vests :)





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Help Us Recruit New Volunteer Instructors

We are always looking to recruit new volunteer instructors. If you know of anyone interested or see a likely candidate during a certification course, encourage them to visit the website (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and fill out an application. There are also printed copies of the application to hand out in all course locations.

Once we receive their application then we'll contact them about attending instructor training. The HIT Program covers travel costs to attend the training or if there are enough interested instructors in an area we'll send HIT Program staff to conduct a training.

We'll be offering the following instructor trainings this fall:

Hunter Education

- Anchorage: October 23 & 24- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am-5:00pm
- Juneau: November 6 & 7- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 8:00am-5:00pm
- Fairbanks: November 13 & 14- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-6:00pm

Bowhunter Education

- Anchorage: October 9 & 10- Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
- Fairbanks: October 23 & 24, 2020 Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm

Muzzleloader Education

- Anchorage: September 26 & 27- Saturday from 3:00pm-6:00pm and Sunday from 8:00am-5:00pm

Crossbow Education

- Anchorage: September 26- Saturday from 8:00am-2:00pm

If you are certified to instruct one certification course discipline and would like to become an instructor of another discipline, please contact Cindy at 267-2187 so she can update your file.



An evening online muzzleloader ed field day in Anchorage.

WANTED:

Certification Course Photos

We could really use more photos from all of the certification courses to update our handouts, website, and newsletter. Please take photos during your classes and email them to Gina. Plus, it's always fun to see what other facilities look like or what other instructors are doing statewide.

Steve Unfreid's granddaughters searching for Dall's sheep during the August youth hunt. Unfortunately they didn't find any legal sheep



to harvest, but they definitely made outdoor memories with their family that they'll never forget.



IHEA Instructor Resource Site
www.ihea.com

HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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President Signs Great American Outdoors Act

On August 8th, 2020 the President signed the Great American Outdoors Act. “This landmark legislation recognizes the need for increased conservation funding and recreational opportunities as the public is relying on the outdoors more than ever,” said Secretary Kelly Hepler of South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

It has two major components: fully and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million per year in perpetuity, and providing \$9.5 billion over five years (\$1.9 billion annually), to address a maintenance backlog at American national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and other federal lands. The number of visitors to the national parks system has increased by 50 percent since 1980, but the parks’ budget remained effectively flat. This imbalance has led to a \$12 billion backlog of maintenance to repair roads, trails, campgrounds, monuments, fire safety, utilities, and visitor infrastructure — which will finally be addressed.

The LWCF is a flagship conservation program paid for by royalty payments from offshore oil and gas drilling in federal waters which was established in 1964. It is especially important because it helps fund the four main federal land programs (National Parks, National Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management) and provides grants to state and local governments to acquire land for recreation and conservation.

The Associated Press wrote that it would be “the most significant conservation legislation enacted in nearly half a century.”

Common Hunting Violations in Alaska

As a reminder since hunting season is now in full swing, the most common hunting violations in Alaska are listed below. These can easily be incorporated into the hunter ed field course, and they make for great talking points during any of the certification courses as students prepare to head out into the field.

1. It is illegal in Alaska to shoot from, on, or across a road.
2. Not validating harvest ticket after harvesting the animal.
3. Wanton waste of game meat – all edible meat must be salvaged for human consumption.
4. Evidence of sex – failing to leave evidence of sex naturally attached to the meat.
5. Moving antlers or horns to the place where you will leave the field before all meat is packed out--antler or horns must be packed out with last load.
6. Intentionally feeding or baiting animals to attract them (minus bear baiting in the specific GMUs where it is allowed).
7. Leaving any part of game on a public road or right-of-way
8. Illegal stream crossing with ATVs.



HIT Steering Group

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) lilenutscars@yahoo.com

Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf@ptialaska.net

Larry Boyle (Southcentral) larryboyle@alaska.net

Rich Graham (Southcentral) richgraham.ek@gmail.com

James Plosay (Southeast) jrplosay@gci.net

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Instructor Notes

Steering Group Members Needed

On November 1, 2020 there will be two open seats on the HIT Program's Volunteer Steering Group. The openings will be from our Interior and Rural regions and each seat is a two-year term. Lyle Shelnut (Interior) and Andy Finke (Rural) have been a tremendous asset to the Steering Group over the past two years.

The duties of the Steering Group are as follows:

- advise HIT Program Coordinator and staff on a wide range of issues pertaining to hunting and firearms safety
- establish/maintain open communication between volunteer instructors and staff
- periodically monitor and review program goals, objectives, and policies
- provide ongoing recommendations on program curriculum (study manual, workbook, test, and lesson plans)
- provide input to improve the Volunteer Instructor Incentive Program
- represent instructors and program participants
- attend 1-2 teleconferences and one in-person meeting in Anchorage annually

To apply, submit a one-page letter/email of interest describing your background and addressing how your membership on the Steering Group would benefit the HIT Program.

Letters/emails can be emailed, faxed, or mailed to Gina by September 15, 2020.

If you have any questions about being on the Steering Group, feel free to contact a current member. The HIT Program Steering Group has proven to be a great advisory resource in advancing program goals and objectives. The members have consistently served both the volunteer instructors from around the state and ADF&G, and we look forward to continuing with this tradition. If you have any questions about the application process or the Steering Group, feel free to call Gina.



Ironically as Alaskans, when students are asked on the student survey what they like least about a class, the typical response is mosquitoes and wet/cold weather. I guess the "Unofficial Alaska State Bird" isn't appreciated by everyone :)

But when it comes to what students like most about the class, it's all of the friendly, knowledgeable, and excellent instructors! And of course the hands-on shooting portions too.

Please take the time to read the student surveys before turning them in with the course paperwork. They can provide valuable feedback to you as an instructor.

HIT Staff

Contact Information

Anchorage:

Gina Smith 267-2196
Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373
Steven Unfreid 267-2241
Katelyn Zonneville
267-2534
Cindy Palmatier
267-2187

Fairbanks:

Bob Hunter 459-7375
Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Daniel Gutierrez
465-4345
Jeff Jemison 586-4101



**New platform for Juneau
bow ed proficiency shoot**