

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

HUNTER EDUCATION ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Alaska

Grant Title: Hunter Education Enhancement

Grant #: AKW-8 HE Section 10

Start Date: July 1, 2015 Ending Date: June 30, 2016

Project Leader/Contact: Ginamaria Smith

6,211 Students Trained (1511) Cost (if available): _____ *Section 10 funds*
Students participating in NASP, shotgun leagues, rimfire leagues, including costs of maintaining a staff of instructors and training for basic hunter education. Report number of students in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.

234 Advanced Student Training (1515) Cost (if available): _____ *Section 10 funds*
Advanced or adult students completing seminars or specialty courses beyond the beginning or basic course requirements. Report number of students in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.

1,012 Volunteer Hours of Effort (1521) Cost (if available): _____ *Section 10 funds*
Hours contributed by volunteers and any associated costs of coordination/administration. Report number of hours, with total in-kind value of contribution and how in-kind value was calculated and recorded in narrative below.

141 Volunteers Trained (1523) Cost (if available): _____ *Section 10 funds*
*Current active volunteers (**Basic Archery Instructors, Shotgun coaches**) trained during the reporting year. Report number of volunteers in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

4 Other Section 10 Enhancements (1573) \$10,696 (cost if available): *Section 10 funds*
Report number of enhancements (e.g., projects) and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.

5 HE Coordination and Administration (1581) (cost if available): **\$52,836.86** *Section 10 funds*
Planning, budgeting, needs assessments, reporting and those items that could not be assigned to a category above. Report cost and summarize in narrative below.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Project Objectives:

Objective 1:

Provide funding for personnel to enhance coordination of Hunter Education, outreach, and recruitment programs. Recruitment and retention efforts remain a top priority, and are a primary directive from our leadership. A NASP Coordinator or full-time Southeast HIT Coordinator is needed. The growing popularity of HIT activities, NASP, and SCTP statewide, continue to stretch our personnel resources.

- a) Personnel located in Southcentral, Interior, and Southeast Alaska will communicate with volunteer instructors to facilitate opportunities for hunter education, specialized clinics, and the shooting sports. The staff will reach out to those with a general interest in outdoor activities and to those who are ardent hunters with specific interests. An increase in communication will be instrumental in making the public aware of these opportunities.

Objective 2:

Provide funding for facility rentals to increase courses and clinics designed to promote hunter education, archery, and the shooting sports. Also continue to meet the expanding need for HIT programs statewide by purchasing additional clinic equipment and instructional materials for students and volunteer instructors. The interest in online courses continues to grow around the state. This will lead to increased travel to rural areas to proxy required field day activities and proficiency shoots.

- a) Continue to purchase new training materials that reach all areas of the state. Training firearms, air guns, shotguns, trap machines, .22 rifles, 3-D targets, and hunter education field kits are all mandatory in certifying students in remote Alaska.
- b) Increase courses and clinics designed to promote hunting and shooting sports by seeking out new facilities and venues where these activities can be held, especially in rural Alaska. With the online certification courses for all three disciplines continuing to grow in popularity, ensure that trained volunteer instructors are available statewide and have the necessary equipment to conduct Field Day events.

Objective 3:

Continue and work to increase involvement in NASP and SCTP. NASP has gone from 10 schools in 2007 to 145 in 2015, and the interest continues to grow, especially in rural communities. SCTP is the latest program designed to promote the shooting sports through the schools and in the community. The HIT Staff are traveling statewide to train volunteer shotgun coaches.

- a) Discuss the possibility of a statewide NASP Coordinator, Recruitment/Retention position, or an expanded Southeast HIT Coordinator. These outreach programs are very popular and continue to grow. To add one of these programs into a community involves recruitment, training, equipment, volunteers, and a program

assessment. For example, with NASP now in 145 schools, the effort to monitor this program is substantial.

Objective 4:

Public shooting ranges remain a top initiative for a number of communities around the state. Our goal is to look outside of the three state operated ranges to offer possible maintenance, upgrades, and shooting league development to established facilities. We continue to strive for quality opportunities statewide to recruit new shooters and to those that want to practice and hone their shooting skills. Attention must be paid to all shooting disciplines-- archery, rifle, handgun, shotgunning and muzzleloading.

- a) Work with DWC leadership to identify range upgrade requests to improve and expand shooting opportunities around the state. This would include materials and equipment to improve range facilities and shooting programs. Starting a shooting program such as SCTP, requires a huge commitment from facility management, plus training, volunteer coaches, and equipment.
- b) Discuss the possibility of developing an annual budget (cost sharing or matching funds) to increase range development. This could include sites that would be maintained by the local communities and not be state operated facilities.

Project Accomplishments:

Objective 1:

-The HIT Program hired a new, part-time Southeast Regional Coordinator due to a retirement. He worked on recruiting students and instructors in Southeast Alaska, and ensured that all materials were updated for the area. He also assisted with training new BAI's.

-All HIT staff worked to update volunteer instructor contact information to increase communication between staff and the instructors. The WinfoNet database was updated to ensure instructors received information about upcoming classes, trainings, and program changes.

-The HIT Program website was updated with new photos and information. Comments and complaints from the public were also included to make the website more user-friendly and help in making the public more aware of the certification courses and additional shooting program opportunities available throughout the state.

Objective 2:

-The HIT Program rented two facilities in the Mat-Su Valley where hunter, bowhunter, and muzzleloader education courses could be offered. The Mat-Su Valley's population is growing, so it's important for us to provide courses there and meet the demand.

-A new 3-D mountain goat target was purchased for Ketchikan to use in bowhunter education courses.

Objective 3:

- This past year, 128 Alaskan school teachers became certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI).
- During the 2015-16 school-year, NASP was offered in 179 schools to over 5,900 students.
- Since NASP's inception in Alaska, over 36,000 youth have enjoyed the sport of archery in physical education classes.
- 13 coaches were trained by HIT staff in order to coach the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and USEYess teams throughout Alaska. The shotgun sports continue to expand statewide and the HIT Program is assisting in this recruitment program by training new coaches.
- HIT Program staff and volunteer coaches coached 62 participants in the fall and 66 participants in the spring as part of the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (RCSP) Youth Shotgun League. Each session is 10 weeks long and the participants practice safe firearm handling and discover the lifelong sport of shotgun shooting. The volunteer coaches volunteered 740 hours to this program.
- HIT Program staff and volunteer coaches coached 16 participants in the spring as part of the RCSP Youth Rimfire League. Each session is 10 weeks long and the participants practice safe firearm handling and discover the lifelong sport of rifle shooting. The volunteer coaches volunteered 272 hours to this program.

Objective 4:

- Tables, chairs, whiteboards, and 3-D targets were purchased for the Prince of Wales Shooting Club. The Club just built a new classroom facility and all HIT Program certification courses are offered there (no facility fee necessary).
- The RCSP Youth Shotgun League was started in 2000, and the majority of trap machines are original. Machine parts and batteries were purchased to help the program run smoothly. The RCSP Youth Shotgun League, Shotgun Coach training, and shotgun clinics all use these machines
- A storage building is under construction at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park and will hold all statewide HIT Program materials (hunter education classroom kits, bowhunter education targets, muzzleloader education materials, etc.). The architectural services and prep of site were paid through this grant.
- The Fairbanks Trap Club is starting a Youth Shotgun League, so advertising materials were printed to inform the public about this new youth shooting opportunity.

Prepared by: Ginamaria Smith
Date: August 2016