

**Wildlife Restoration OPERATING GRANT  
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

**GRANT NUMBER:** AKW-26

**PROJECT TITLE:** Enhanced Hunter Ed Section 10 FY2018

**PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE:** July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

**REPORT DUE DATE:** September 1, 2018

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Ginamaria Smith, Program Coordinator II

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**I. PROGRESS ON PROJECT OBJECTIVES DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE**

**OBJECTIVE 1:**

**Certification Courses**

Identify the specific areas throughout the state that need instructors and conduct “target recruiting” efforts in those locations. Provide program administration and coordination for certification courses in more remote locations in the state. Provide funding for facility rentals and purchasing training materials.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- The HIT Program rented two facilities in the Mat-Su Valley where hunter, bowhunter, crossbow, 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.
- Cordova is a small city accessed only by plane or boat, but it is a very active community of hunters and shooters. Partnering with the Cordova Shooting Range, ADF&G paid the yearly DOT lease on the property so it could be used for certification courses, youth shotgun leagues, and additional shooting opportunities for the community.
- The Fish & Wildlife Technician III in Fairbanks assisted students in more remote locations to get certified.

**OBJECTIVE 2:**

**National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)**

Recruit new schools and school districts to participate in NASP. Increase the number of students involved in archery statewide. Conduct Basic Archery Instructor training for school teachers and volunteers.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- This past year, 14 Alaskan school teachers became certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI).

-During the 2017-18 school-year, NASP was offered in 225 schools to 10,313 students. NASP instituted an online report and it allowed us to capture better reports on where NASP is being offered in Alaska.

-Since NASP's inception in Alaska, 56,482 youth have enjoyed the sport of archery in physical education classes.

**OBJECTIVE 3:**

**Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Program**

Recruit and retain new hunters, shooters, and outdoor enthusiasts. Offer skill development in hunting and shooting sports to women. Provide training for volunteer instructors. Coordinate the sign-up and equipment needs for the BOW workshops and clinics.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

-Three Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) workshops were offered in the Interior, Southcentral, and Southeast Alaska. 300 women participated and attended over 70 sessions designed to teach them about the shooting sports, hunting skills, and outdoor opportunities. Many of these women continued their education by attending Beyond BOW clinics throughout the state. -Beyond BOW clinics offered included: hunter education, archery, shotgun shooting, backcountry skiing/camping, firearms cleaning & maintenance, big game rifles, fur sewing, handguns, bear safety, and wilderness first aid.

**OBJECTIVE 4:**

**Youth Opportunities**

Coordinate and conduct youth conservation camps that promote the development of outdoor-related skills. Coordinate and conduct youth shotgun and rimfire rifle leagues. Provide training for shotgun coaches/instructors statewide.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

-5 coaches were trained by HIT Program staff in order to coach the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and USAYess 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 72 participants in the fall and 66 participants in the spring as part of the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (RCSP) Youth Shotgun League. Each session was 10 weeks long and the participants practiced safe firearm handling and discovered the lifelong sport of shotgun shooting.

- HIT Program staff and volunteer coaches coached 7 participants in the spring as part of the RCSP Youth Rimfire League. The League was 10 weeks long and the participants practiced safe firearm handling, participated in the NRA Rimfire Rifle Marksmanship program, and discovered the lifelong sport of rifle shooting.

-The youth shotgun and rimfire league coaches volunteered 784.75 hours to these programs, and their effort provided \$ 26,707.00 of in-kind match.

**OBJECTIVE 5:**

**Outreach Activities**

Increase the number of clinics offered to the public that are designed to promote hunting and shooting sports by seeking out new facilities and venues. Provide opportunities for the public to

learn about certification classes, game regulations, and training opportunities offered by the HIT Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Fish & Wildlife Technician III in Fairbanks and the Program Coordinator I in Juneau spent time advertising certification classes and providing info to the public about opportunities offered by the HIT Program.
- The Education Associate II position responsible for HIT Program outreach was vacant and in the process of being trained during this fiscal year, so we expect this objective to be more of a priority in FY19.

**OBJECTIVE 6:**

**Alaska R3 Program**

Evaluate current R3 efforts in Alaska, develop clear and measurable pathways, and help implement an effective Alaska R3 Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- An R3 Coordinator was hired in December 2017 to evaluate current R3 efforts in Alaska and help implement an effective Alaska R3 Program. Since the position was new and in the process of being trained during this fiscal year, we expect this objective to be more of a priority in FY19.

The actual expenditures spent per budget category in this fiscal year are below:

1000-Staff time	\$48,292.00
2000-Travel	\$1,718.36
3000-Contractual	\$12,063.23
4000-Supplies	\$8,614.80
Total	\$70,688.39

**II. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.**

This is an annual grant with similar objectives and results completed each year. The HIT Program is involved in a variety of activities designed to educate both new and existing hunters/shooters on additional hunting/shooting opportunities and provide them with opportunities to become proficient in various shooting sports, hunting techniques, and skills.

#### IV. PUBLICATIONS



2018 Spring Rabbit Creek Youth Shotgun League



Southeast Island School District and Bethel Schools took 1<sup>st</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively in the High School Division at the 2018 NASP Western National IBO 3D Challenge

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT**

AKW-26 is a year-long grant, however it's an ongoing annual project, so the recommendation is for continuation.

**Date: August 2018**