

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 Information and Training

Grant #: W-34-E Segment: 5

Start Date: July 1, 2007 Ending Date: June 30, 2008

Project Leader/Contact: Jerry Soukup

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**3,530 Students Trained (1511) Cost** (if available): NA (circle - 4c or Section 10 funds?)  
*Students certified under an approved basic hunter education course, 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.*

**2,594 Students Live-Firing (1513) Cost** (if available): NA (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*Students completing live-firing exercises as part of the basic approved hunter education course. Report number of students in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

**417 Advanced Student Training (1515) Cost** (if available): NA (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*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.*

**8,231 Volunteer Hours of Effort (1521) Cost** (if available): NA (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*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.*

**92 Volunteers Trained (1523) Cost** (if available): NA (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*Volunteers trained during the reporting year. Report number of volunteers in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

**0 New Ranges Constructed with Section 4c Funds (1561)**  
*Ranges developed with WR Section 4c funds during the reporting year. Report number of ranges and cost, with summary in narrative below.*

**0 Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 4c Funds (1562)**  
*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**1 Educational Facility Capital Development (1563) Cost** (if available): **(4c)**  
*Classrooms, education centers, etc. developed and/or maintained during the reporting year. Report number of facilities and cost, with summary in narrative below.*

**NA New Range Construction with Section 10 funds (1571)**  
*Ranges developed with WR Section 10 funds during the reporting year. Report number of ranges and cost with summary in narrative below.*

**NA Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 10 Funds (1572)**  
*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**NA Other Section 10 Enhancements (1573) Cost** (if available):  
*Report number of enhancements (e.g., projects) and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**5 HE Coordination and Administration (1581) Cost** (if available): **\$433,000** (HIT Personnel Costs 4; does not include Interior Coordinator position charged to Section 10 funding)  
*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 RELATED TO PROPOSED OBJECTIVES:**

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**Project Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Undertake a needs assessment for the HIT program.

OBJECTIVE 2: Expand the reach of the HIT program to better serve all Alaskans, including those beyond the population centers of Anchorage and Fairbanks, with appropriate curriculum and facilities.

OBJECTIVE 3: Open and maintain lines of communication and recognition between staff and volunteer instructors, and implement practical and consistent instructor policies and agreements.

OBJECTIVE 4: Meet the need for mandatory HE training and ensure intra-jurisdictional certification reciprocity through standardized testing and passing requirements.

OBJECTIVE 5: Provide opportunities for specialized clinics and continuing hunter education.

OBJECTIVE 6: Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and ensure ongoing planning and coordination of the HIT program, and seek opportunities to refine and improve it with development of additional training aids and opportunities.

**Project activities and accomplishments:**

The following are job activities and accomplishments for the report period. The numbers correspond to activities listed in the annual work plan and described under the objectives in the project statement.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1C: Assess the needs of staff, instructors, students, and the public regarding hunter education.

- HIT Staff meetings , 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month address needs of staff, volunteer instructors, students and public (phone conference include HIT personnel in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau).
- Interior Coordinator meets with Volunteer Coordinators and local volunteer instructors twice monthly to assess needs and resolve any issues.
- Continue to monitor feedback from Instructor Scorecards and Student Feedback sheets at the end of each course (lead instructor shares with co-instructors and returns forms to HIT Staff with Course Reports).
- Public needs and recommendations are brought to HIT Staff through ADF&G. Information Centers and through Board of Game testimony on hunter education issues.
- Productive discussion and planning took place at annual Regional meetings for Fish & Game staff.
- Public needs and opinions are brought to HIT staff at major events such as various Alaska State Fairs and Sportsmen's shows held throughout the state.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1D: Develop, with a timeline, measures to evaluate the progress of HIT efforts.

- FY 09 will be the start of implantation of the next 5-year plan, (2008-2013).
- Input from instructors through our HIT Steering Group was instrumental in the development and implantation of this long-term plan.

- Continue to work with Department of Public Safety to improve the reporting process as it relates to the National Incident Database, tracking hunting related incidents around the country.

JOB/ACTIVITY 1E: Assess hunter education needs throughout Alaska.

- Continue to work with rural communities, Native leaders, and school administrators in offering firearms safety to all students.
- Offered a one-credit Instructor Training Course, through Prince William Sound Community College, to school teachers; resulted in additional hunter education classes being taught in middle schools.
- Attended the 2008 National Shooting Sports Summit, “The Future of Hunting and the Shooting Sports”; primary focus was on the nationwide concern of recruitment and retention of hunters and shooters.
- Alaska now has over 20 schools involved with Archery in the Schools Program. Over 3,300 kids have experienced the sport of archery in their PE classes. A nationwide concern and studies have shown that we need programs to get our youth outdoors and NASP is meeting that challenge.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2A: Recruit and retain hunter education instructors with broad backgrounds.

- Recruited and trained 92 new instructors in Basic Hunter Education, Archery, and Muzzleloading; 54 Basic HE, 22 Bowhunter Ed, and 16 Muzzleloader.
- Of the 92 new instructors, 83 were male and 9 were female volunteers.
- Muzzleloader interest continues to grow and we have continued our recruitment efforts in searching out new volunteers.
- A new Muzzleloader Student Manual is being developed as well as an Online Course option; new instructors will still be required to proxy the Field Day and shooting proficiency.
- Recruitment efforts through school programs continues; the one-credit training course (PWSCC) will help with the recruitment of certified teachers that can teach our courses in any school district in the state.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2B: The Mobile Shooting Sports trailer is used to provide a wide variety of training to students and instructors in remote, road accessible locations.

- The Mobile Shooting Sports Trailer supported numerous events and offered a number of courses during FY 2008; over 4,000 people were reached by this program.
- B.O.W. events (Becoming and Outdoors Women) were conducted in Kodiak, Chickaloon, and Salcha.
- With the change in regulations and the need for additional muzzleloader courses, the Mobile Shooting Sport trailer offered courses in smaller remote communities; Valdez, Kodiak, Anchor Point, Seward, Homer, Tok and Salcha.

JOB/ACTIVITY 2C: Provide alternative training opportunities to Alaskans in areas lacking road access.

- Internet course options and the concern of minimum standards being met by each state were discussed at IHEA Conference, May 2008.
- February 1, 2008 was the launch date for Today's Bowhunter in Alaska, our first online course to go public.
- Over 200 students completed the online portion, earned their Field Day Qualifier and received their bowhunter certification (feedback has been extremely positive from online students).
- A pilot program for Alaska's Online Basic Hunter Education course will take place this Fall with a target date of Jan, 2009 to offer this delivery method to the public.
- "Field Day" standards and Lesson Plans to be incorporated with hunter education and archery certification online course have been developed.

**JOB/ACTIVITY 2E: Interact and collaborate with other agencies and organization.**

- Annual IHEA Conference (May 2008); great opportunity to discuss the future of hunting; current standards, online courses, instructor training and recruitment/retention concerns.
- Concerns over the future of our hunting heritage were discussed in-depth at the National Shooting Sports Foundation, "Shooting Summit" in June 2008 (recruitment and retention were key topics).
- Continued cooperation with Matthew's Bow Corporation and Archery Trade Association have allowed the continued growth of Archery in the Schools throughout Alaska.
- Continued a beneficial relationship with a number of program partners represented at the annual Shooting and Hunting Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show.
- Continued partnerships with Safari Club International, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Rifle Association, Ruffed Grouse Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Alaska Bowhunter Association and Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska; provided for shooting and hunting opportunities and support in the form of shooting leagues, equipment, ammunition costs, registration fees, and small game hunts.
- Worked with the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) in support of a new shotgun league in the Mat Su Valley. Anchorage Youth League to join SCTP this fall, 2008.

**JOB/ACTIVITY 3A: Work with staff and volunteers to improve communication.**

- Annual course scheduling meetings were held throughout the state in October-December; meetings held in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, Mat-Su Valley and Kenai Peninsula.
- Utilize feedback and input from volunteer instructors, volunteer coordinators, and HIT Staff to develop an annual course schedule (statewide) and to improve program efficiency and communication to all involved.
- Recognition to top volunteers that go above and beyond or step in to teach on short notice.
- Quarterly newsletter including relevant information for all disciplines of the HIT Program (includes an "Instructor's Corner" for volunteer input).

- Supplemental information included in mail outs; IHEA Instructor Journal, Hunter's Handbook, and instructor discount information with nationwide contact information.
- Continued to share information via email contact list with instructors statewide; topics such as national hunting/fishing trends, new equipment items, online course updates, and accident reporting data.
- Numerous phone calls or face-face contact to discuss with volunteers, items from Student Feedback (score cards).
- HIT Staff have attended and observed more public classes, offering support and constructive feedback to our volunteer instructors.

JOB/ACTIVITY 4A: Utilize appropriate advertising mediums to effectively inform the public of upcoming courses.

- National Course Database through IHEA will link to each state for online course offerings.
- A "web search" for online hunter education or bowhunter certification will take any potential student to Today's Bowhunter in Alaska and by Jan 2009 to Today's Hunter in Alaska. Both courses will be offered through Kalkome Enterprises Inc., developers of our online courses.
- Any student can log on to [www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com) and locate any course listings in the US and Canada.
- Alaska website lists of all course statewide and if there is "space available" [www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov).
- Flyers listing all HIT courses are posted in area sporting stores and at area Fish & Game offices.
- In rural Alaska posters at the General Store, school, or Fish & Game office gets the word out.
- The following website <http://www.hunter-ed.com/> will take students to Alaska's online course offered through Kalcome Enterprise Inc. Currently 17 states have online bowhunter certification courses and 13 offer online basic hunter education courses.

JOB/ACTIVITY 4B: Maintain standard testing and passing requirements for hunter education courses.

- Remained consistent with our 80% on written test for all HIT disciplines traditional courses.
- The 80% passing rate also applies for our Online Course (Bowhunter Certification and Basic Hunter Education).
- Lesson Plans have been developed for the Field Day requirements for Online students (Field Days will involve firearm's handling, field course and live-fire proficiency).
- Live-fire proficiency shoot and field course for basic hunter education, archery, and muzzleloader courses in Alaska are above "suggested" IHEA national standards.

JOB/ACTIVITY 5A: Offer specialized clinics and continuing hunter education opportunities.

- Specialized clinics continued to be popular with the public; most events were promoted through the Mobile Shooting Sports Trailer or in conjunction with hunting related events/weekend; e.g., Sportsman Show, SCI Banquet weekend, or Hunter Appreciation events.
- Clinics offered included, Bow Tuning, Sighting-In Days, Bear Hunting, Waterfowl Hunting, Small Game Hunting, Basic Reloading, and Map & Compass.
- A variety of outdoor subject areas were taught at Becoming an Outdoors Women, (BOW) and Women in the Outdoors, (WITO); Intro to Firearms, Intro to Hunting, shotgun shooting, Intro to Archery, maintenance of firearms, trapping, fly casting, fly tying, meat care/preparation, and bear safety.
- Volunteer instructors and coaches prepared students in advanced training for the annual Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC); event involves eight areas of outdoor competition.
- Youth Shotgun Leagues coordinated by HIT Staff and volunteer coaches and supported by the National Sporting Clays Association and Scholastic Clay Target Program offer shooting opportunities for youth after basic hunter education courses.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6A: Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the HIT Program.

- Feedback cards and instructor score sheets from every HIT course provide valuable information directly to our volunteer instructors and then back to the HIT Staff with Course Reports.
- Guest presenters at Regional Training Conference (Interior AK-Spring 2008) discussed teaching methods, evaluation and results to improve HIT Program.
- Discuss the need for and results of firearms training with area biologists, wildlife enforcement, native leaders, and school administrators in rural Alaska.
- HIT Staff using Instructor Evaluation Forms and personal visits to classes provide positive feedback and constructive criticism to volunteers for areas of improvement.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6B: Maintain and expand the capabilities of the HIT computer database.

- Instructor database (WINFONET) tracks the requirements for volunteer instructors and other pertinent information, providing for a more efficient training process.
- WINFONET stores courses taught, location, student numbers, and “in-kind” volunteer hours.
- WINFONET provided information on our “active” instructors and identified ones that have not been active; these contacted by HIT staff to validate their commitment to program.
- WINFONET instrumental to the success of current online bowhunter education course.

- Interaction between websites and databases (Alaska and Kalkome Enterprise) allowed for easy sign up and completion of online course and confirmation of Field Day attendance.
- Further expansion to add Basic Hunter Education and Muzzleloader Online courses are planned for CY 2009.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6C: Include planning and coordination as an ongoing part of the HIT Program.

- HIT Steering Group has been instrumental in development and implementation of new 5-year Plan (2008-2013).
- Annual meeting with Steering Group Anchorage and continued communication via emails and phone conferences led to launch of Online Bowhunter Course in Feb of 2008.
- Steering Group maintained email contact, phone calls and met with their respective volunteer instructors to provide valuable feedback on any aspects of the HIT Program.
- Bowhunter Instructor Committee, (BIC) implemented the use of a new “Teaching Guide” for volunteers to use at the new Online Bow Ed Field Days.
- With Steering Group input a draft version of teaching guide for the upcoming Online Hunter Education Field Day has been produced.

JOB/ACTIVITY 6D: Coordinate with other states and organizations and use outside resources to develop additional training aids for use in HIT Programs.

- IHEA Conference (May 2008); supported by many outdoor vendors offering substantial discounts to Hunter Education Programs related to training aids and equipment.
- The Outdoor Trade Show (Jan 2008), annual meeting of interested shooting groups, vendors and organizations resulted in continued strong support of Alaska in training materials and accessories.
- National Shooting Sports Foundation, (NSSF) provided valuable information and training materials to enhance recruitment and retention programs in our state.

**Total HITClasses Offered:**

Basic Hunter Education:	163
Bow hunter Certification:	103
Muzzleloader Certification:	31
Total students enrolled:	3,530
Total students certified:	3,020*

\* Students either failed a proficient shoot (firearm or archery) or did not complete the course. School programs offer the classroom portion of the basic hunter education course to all students, but not all parents follow through with sending the student to the Field Day where they would complete the mandatory live-fire and field course portions to earn their state certification.

**Minority Participation In Basic  
Hunter Education Courses**

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Female	667
Alaska Natives	267
Black	26
Oriental	43
Hispanic	44
Alaskans with disabilities	22

**Minority Participation In Bow  
Hunter Courses**

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Female	62
Alaska Natives	15
Black	8
Oriental	9
Hispanic	4
Alaskans with disabilities	2

**Minority Participation In  
Muzzleloader Courses**

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Female	26
Alaska Natives	6
Black	6
Oriental	1
Hispanic	2
Alaskans with disabilities	5

**Do all your publications contain an approved equal opportunity statement? Yes**

**Prepared by:** Jerry Soukup

**Date:** August 18, 2008



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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 #:** W-32-E      **Segment:** 7 (Section 10)

**Start Date:** July 1, 2007      **Ending Date:** June 30, 2008

**Project Leader/Contact:** Jerry Soukup

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**NA**      **Students Trained (1511) Cost** (if available): **NA**      (circle - 4c or Section 10 funds?)  
*Students certified under an approved basic hunter education course, 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.*

**NA**      **Students Live-Firing (1513) Cost** (if available): **NA**      (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*Students completing live-firing exercises as part of the basic approved hunter education course. Report number of students in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

**NA**      **Advanced Student Training (1515) Cost** (if available): **NA**      (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*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.*

**NA**      **Volunteer Hours of Effort (1521) Cost** (if available): **NA**      (circle - 4c or Section 10?)  
*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.*

**43**      **Volunteers Trained (1523) Cost** (if available): **\$2,600** (Section 10?)  
*Volunteers trained during the reporting year. Report number of volunteers in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

**NA**      **New Ranges Constructed with Section 4c Funds (1561) Cost** (if available):  
*Ranges developed with WR Section 4c funds during the reporting year. Report number of ranges and cost, with summary in narrative below.*

**1**      **Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 4c Funds (1562) Cost** (if available): **\$8,335**  
*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**NA**      **Educational Facility Capital Development (1563) Cost** (if available): (4c or Sect. 10?)  
*Classrooms, education centers, etc. developed and/or maintained during the reporting year. Report number of facilities and cost, with summary in narrative below.*

**NA**      **New Range Construction with Section 10 funds (1571) Cost** (if available):  
*Ranges developed with WR Section 10 funds during the reporting year. Report number of ranges and cost with summary in narrative below*

**0**      **Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 10 Funds (1572) Cost** (if available):  
*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**NA**      **Other Section 10 Enhancements (1573) Cost** (if available):  
*Report number of enhancements (e.g., projects) and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**2**      **HE Coordination and Administration (1581) Cost** (if available): \$87,271 (Personnel; Sect. 10)  
*Planning, budgeting, needs assessments, reporting and those items that could not be assigned to a category above. Report cost and summarize in narrative below.*

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**SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO PROPOSED OBJECTIVES:**

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**Project Objectives:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Obtain additional funding outside of HIT's W-34-E-4 grant in support of the full-time Interior Hunter Education Coordinator and one month commitment in support of coordinator duties in Region I; this would be in support of the Juneau Indoor Range Manager.

OBJECTIVE 2: Coordinate with area biologists on the maintenance and upgrades of shooting facilities in their respective areas. A major upgrade in restroom facilities is required at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park in Anchorage where "outhouses" remain.

OBJECTIVE 3: Continue to meet the expanding need for HIT programs statewide by purchasing and making available additional equipment and instructional materials for students and volunteer instructors.

OBJECTIVE 4: Improve the expertise and knowledge of our volunteer instructor core through evaluations and training opportunities.

**Project accomplishments:**

OBJECTIVE 1: Personnel costs to HIT Program: (Interior Coordinator-full time; SE Coordinator-part time)

- Interior HE Coordinator successfully coordinated all HIT activities in the vast interior, north-western and north-slope regions of Alaska, meeting the public's needs.
- Beyond Basic Hunter Education, Interior Coordinator is also responsible for promoting National Archery in the Schools Program, (NASP) in Northwest region (Kotzebue) and the Northslope (Barrow).
- Interior coordinator coordinated all logistics, travel, and training to 43 current volunteer instructors at the Interior Regional Training Conference held in Fairbanks.
- Statistics may show a slight decrease in Interior activity most likely due to, increased military deployments and change in Hunter Education requirements on Military Lands in Alaska.
- Southeast HE Coordinator continued to provide logistical support and training to a number of communities in Southeast Alaska.
- SE Coordinator key promoter in offering the Basic Hunter Education into the second Juneau Middle School, a model for other communities around the State to strive for.
- SE Coordinator responsible for largest increase in NASP participation in the state, with SE students being the first Alaskan competitors at the National NASP Tournament.

OBJECTIVE 2: Range upgrades and maintenance

- Cleaning contract for Hunter Education building at Rabbit Creek Shooting Park now being covered under Section 4 funds.

- CIP funding to address the need for a modern restroom facility at Rabbit Creek Shooting Park are in motion with site testing, surveys and project approvals in the works.

OBJECTIVE 3: Equipment and Instructional Materials.

- Majority of equipment, course materials and training costs for FY08 were covered by Section 4 funds with a large proportion of Section 10 Funds allocated to cover personnel costs and support of the Interior Instructor Training Conference held in Fairbanks.

OBJECTIVE 4: Volunteer Instructor Training

- Covered travel, facility and training expenses for the Interior Regional Training Conference in Fairbanks Alaska, March 2008.
- 43 current (active) volunteer instructors attended; shared information and ideas expanding their ability to delivery quality programs in their respective communities.
- Guest presenters were from AK Dept of Fish & Game-Fairbanks, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, USFWS, and key note speaker was retired Fish & Game Officer and Hunter Education Coordinator from the Yukon Territory, Canada.
- Special recognition to our most active volunteer instructors from Interior Alaska; selected the top hunter education, archery, and muzzleloader volunteers.
- Continued to promote membership and involvement with the Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor Association, (AVHEIA).
- Breakout sessions for each HIT discipline proved valuable as we discussed changes involved with new course delivery methods (Online Courses and Field Days).

**Do all your publications contain an approved equal opportunity statement? Yes**

**Prepared by:** Jerry Soukup

**Date:** August 22, 2008