

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: 6

Start Date: July 1, 2008 Ending Date: June 30, 2009

Project Leader/Contact: Jerry Soukup

3,650 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.

3,398 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.

3,175* Advanced Student Training *Includes 1,927 Archery in the School students for 08-09 school year. (1515) Cost (\$4,000) (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.*

7,419 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.

58 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): **\$ 433,100** (HIT Personnel Costs 4; doesn't include Interior or SE (part time) HIT positions 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:

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 1A: Identify and quantify significant problems that the HIT program should address in Alaska.

- Input from instructors through our HIT Steering Group resulted in the best source to identify areas needing improvement
- Met with HIT Steering Group in Anchorage (Jan 16-18, 2009) and held a number of phone conferences to discuss program issues.
- HIT Staff worked with a Volunteer Management Trainer from the United Way to identify better methods to recruit, train, and to gain a long term commitment from volunteer instructors.
- Discussed better ways to mentor new instructors to ensure early teaching success
- A continued need to recruit more instructors in rural communities where requests for firearms safety training continue to grow.

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

- HIT Staff meetings were held the 1st & 3rd Wed of each month. We addressed needs of staff, volunteer instructors, students and public (phone conference include HIT personnel in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau).
- Interior Coordinator met with Volunteer Coordinators and local volunteers in Fairbanks twice monthly to assess needs and discuss any problem areas.
- Our best public response came 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 response regarding course curriculum and instructors continued to be very positive. Any minor concerns regarding instructor personality or teaching style was addressed on a case by case basis.
- The Board of Game met in Anchorage spring of 2009. Received some public feedback on proposals requiring archery proficiency shoots for archers and bear baiters.
- Met with area biologist and information representatives from the Southcentral Region at their annual meeting. Discussed how to better promote, advertise, and conduct HIT course and to recruit more volunteer instructors.
- Public needs, suggestions and opinions were brought to HIT staff at the Mat-Su Valley Sportsman Show, Great Alaska Sportsman Show (Anchorage), and the State Fair (Palmer). Over 6,000 estimated people had contact with our staff during these events.

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

- Recruited and trained 58 new instructors in Basic Hunter Education, Archery, and Muzzleloading; 37 Basic HE, 10 Bowhunter Ed, and 11 Muzzleloader.
- Of the 58 new instructors, 47 were male and 11 were female volunteers.
- More Muzzleloader instructors were recruited after our online course delivery was made available to the public. Instructors are still needed to proxy the Field Day and shooting proficiency
- The new “Today’s Muzzleloader Hunter” was developed by our staff and Kalkomey Enterprises of Dallas, TX. The document is now available to all states and should add some consistency in how these courses are taught.
- Recruitment of certified school teachers that earn one-credit through our training program has continued to be popular. Most are Junior High School teachers that offer an elective Outdoor Skills course and incorporate our Basic Hunter Education Course into that curriculum.

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 and clinics during FY 2009
- We estimate that over 7,000 had contact with the Trailer during this year’s Southeast Alaska trip, Sportsman’s Shows, and State Fair.
- During the spring of 2009, seven weeks on the road, the Mobile Shooting Sports traveled to Southeast, Alaska. A variety of clinics and training was offered in Haines, Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg, Craig, Klawock, and Thorne Bay
- B.O.W. events (Becoming and Outdoors Women) were conducted and well received in a number of SE communities. Clinics included an introduction to rifle, shotgun, and archery; Map & Compass; meat care of big game; and bear safety.
- A new program now added to the Mobile Shooting Sports is the National Archery in the Schools Program, (NASP).

JOB/ACTIVITY 2D: Maintain and monitor Alaska's curriculum for use in teaching hunter education.

- Course Standards and Online Course Delivery methods were top priorities discussed at the Annual IHEA Conference, June, 2009 in Toronto, Canada.
- Many hours of working with Kalkomey Enterprises, Inc. of Dallas, Texas, resulted in quality online course curriculum for all three Alaska disciplines; Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter, and Muzzleloader certification courses.
- Kalkomey has been in the outdoor skills course development for years and has coordinated with many states to ensure quality teaching material.
- Our work in a number of school districts around the state of Alaska, has also resulted in positive changes to course delivery and content.

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

- Course scheduling meetings were held throughout the state in October-December 2009; meetings were held in Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks, Mat-Su Valley and Kenai Peninsula. Instructors had ownership in the scheduling process.
- Feedback and input from volunteer instructors, volunteer coordinators, and HIT Staff improved our target areas and timing of course offerings in different parts of the state.
- Quarterly newsletters continued to be the most consistent way to pass on new information to all instructors. Equally important was the input from volunteers and Steering Group members that wrote articles in the "Instructor's Corner."
- Supplemental information included in mail outs to every volunteer instructor statewide included: IHEA Instructor Journal, Hunter's Handbook.
- Utilized email "contact list" with instructors statewide reaching about 80%. Topics such as national hunting/fishing trends, new equipment items, online course updates, and accident reporting data.
- Numerous phone calls or face-face contact with volunteer instructors by HIT Staff continued to provide an open forum for communication.
- HIT Staff have attended and observed more public classes, offering support and constructive feedback to our volunteer instructors.

JOB/ACTIVITY 3B: Further develop and make known an instructor recognition and incentives program.

- Federal Premium Ammunition honored and selected Alaska's Hunter Education Instructor of the Year as the 2008 International Hunter Education Association's, (IHEA) Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor of the Year.
- The trip to the IHEA Conference in Toronto, Canada, for Ray Johnson our winner, was covered by the HIT Program and Federal Premium.
- Letters of congratulations from our Commissioner and Director were sent to all three Alaska Volunteer Instructors of the Year in the three HIT disciplines; Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter, and Muzzleloader.
- Recognition for these three volunteers as well as a "thank you" statement to all volunteers for the thousands of volunteer hours, was listed in the ADF&G Hunting Regulations.

- At each regional scheduling meeting, we recognized outstanding efforts and service during the previous year for our top volunteers. We also discussed course numbers taught and hours volunteered in each community.
- New instructor discount information with nationwide contact information was included in quarterly newsletter

JOB/ACTIVITY 3C: Ensure consistency and appropriateness of instructor policies and volunteer agreements.

- Instructor training is offered to each new applicant with the HIT Policy Manual ensuring consistency in the information and training provided.
- The HIT Policy Manual, developed with input from volunteers statewide and with review by the HIT Steering Group, clearly spells out the expectations, duties, and responsibilities of each volunteer that represent not only the HIT Program but the State of Alaska.
- The HIT Steering Group met in Anchorage (Jan, 2009) for an annual meeting to discuss any policy issues brought up by volunteer instructors statewide.

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

- National Course Database through IHEA links to each state for online course offerings.
- A web search for online “hunter education”, “bowhunter” or “muzzleloader” education, will take any potential student to Kalkomey Enterprises Inc., developers of our online courses. We now have all three disciplines available to the public.
- Any student can log on to www.ihea.com and locate any course listings in the US and Canada.
- The HIT website www.huntereducation.alaska.gov is a direct link to all course offerings and information statewide and informs the student if there are still openings in any listed course.
- Posters listing all HIT courses are posted at area shooting ranges, sporting goods stores and at area Fish & Game offices.
- In rural Alaska posters were effective at the local store, ADF&G office, or through the school.

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 applied to the online course offerings; Bowhunter Basic Hunter Education, and Muzzleloader
- Lesson Plans have been developed for the Field Day requirements for online students (Field Days will involved 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 with most events promoted through the Mobile Shooting Sports Trailer or in conjunction with hunting related events/weekend; e.g., sportsman shows, SCI Banquet weekend, or Hunter Appreciation events.
- Clinics offered included, Bow Tuning, Sighting-In Days, Bear Hunting, Bear Baiting, 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). Introductory classes in firearms, hunting, shotgunning, and archery were very popular. Other sessions included 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 involved eight areas of outdoor competition. Annual YHEC event was held in Fairbanks during the first weekend in June.
- 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.
- The newest program we’ve added to the HIT Program is the National Archery in the Schools Program. Alaska now has over 20 schools involved in Olympic style archery shooting incorporated into school’s PE programs. Over 5,000 kids have participated during the past three years with 1,927 during school year 2008-09.

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

- Feedback cards and instructor score sheets from every HIT course provided valuable information directly to our volunteer instructors and then back to the HIT Staff with Course Reports.
- Guest presenters at Regional Training Conference (Southeast-Spring 2009) 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 provided positive feedback and constructive criticism to volunteers for areas of improvement.
- HIT Staff attended a volunteer management training provided by a trainer from the United Way Organization.

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

- HIT Steering Group has been instrumental in monitoring the current year of 5-year plan.
- Bi-weekly HIT Staff meetings with all HIT Staff and Rabbit Creek Range Manager to discuss classes, clinics, and shooting programs.
- Annual meeting with Steering Group in Anchorage and continued communication via emails and phone conferences resulted in online course delivery to the public, for all three certification disciplines.
- 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.
- New lesson plans were developed and are now in place for all three Online Field Day disciplines; Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter, and Muzzleloader.

Total HIT Classes Offered:

Basic Hunter Education:	167
Bow hunter Certification:	118
Muzzleloader Certification:	28
Total students enrolled:	3,650
Total students certified:	3,398*

* 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

Female	743
Alaska Natives	249
Black	30
Oriental	59
Hispanic	37
Alaskans with disabilities	21

Minority Participation In Bowhunter Courses

Female	48
Alaska Natives	9
Black	6
Oriental	8
Hispanic	9
Alaskans with disabilities	5

**Minority Participation In
Muzzleloader Courses**

Female	24
Alaska Natives	2
Black	2
Oriental	0
Hispanic	4
Alaskans with disabilities	2

**Minority Participation In
Mobile Shooting Sports Clinics**

Female	341
Alaska Natives	*
Black	*
Oriental	*
Hispanic	*
Alaskans with disabilities	*

*other minorities not tracked this year
but will be monitored going forward

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

Prepared by: Jerry Soukup

Date: August 10, 2009

**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 #: W-32-E **Segment:** 8 (Section 10)

Start Date: July 1, 2008 **Ending Date:** June 30, 2009

Project Leader/Contact: Jerry Soukup

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.

35 **Volunteers Trained (1523) Cost** (if available): **\$3,000** (Section 10)
Current active 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.

0 **Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 4c Funds (1562) Cost** (if available):
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): \$91,154 (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.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS RELATED TO PROPOSED OBJECTIVES:

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)

- Personnel costs for these two positions in FY 2009 accounted for 95% of Section 10 funding. For FY 2010, the SE position will be coded to Section 4 funding. This will free up more Range Enhancement funds for other projects.
- Interest and delivery of HIT courses continued to grow in Regions III & V that include all of interior, northwest and the north slope of Alaska. Many areas are very remote posing logistical challenges in course delivery.
- The duties and responsibilities of the Interior Coordinator have been stretched to the limits. A new FWT II position has been approved and will be an assistant to the Interior HIT Coordinator. The person will handle many of the logistics of shipping and maintaining course materials, firearms, and training supplies.
- Interest in the National Archery in the Schools Program, (NASP) in these regions has continued to grow. We now have seven schools on board in Regions III/V with over 25 schools statewide in just our third year.
- Southeast HE Coordinator continued to provide logistical support and training to a number of communities in Southeast Alaska.
- SE Coordinator was the POC for our Regional Training Conference held in Juneau, February, 2009.
- SE students involved with the NASP provided the highest percentage of Alaska shooters at the National Archery Tournament held in Kentucky. More than 4,500 students gathered to participate in the world record of the largest archery tournament in world history. Alaska sent 15 young archers.
- SE Coordinator made special trips to 4-5 hub communities to meet with volunteer instructors, offering training, and to set the schedule of HIT courses for their communities for the next calendar year.

OBJECTIVE 2: Range upgrades and maintenance

- Additional funding from the Archery Trade Association, (ATA) has resulted in the completion of an archery range in conjunction with the Indoor Hunter Education facility in Juneau.
- This added shooting range will aid in the promotion and growth of shooters visiting the Indoor Range.
- The restroom facility project at Rabbit Creek Shooting Park in Anchorage has gone out to bids and will be accomplished in two phases. Ground breaking is to take place this fall with the building addition be completed in winter of 2009.

OBJECTIVE 3: Equipment and Instructional Materials.

- The majority of program equipment, course manuals and training materials for FY 2009 were covered by Section 4 funds with a large proportion of Section 10 Funds allocated to cover personnel costs and in support of the SE Regional Training Conference.

OBJECTIVE 4: Volunteer Instructor Training

- Covered travel, facility and training expenses for the Interior Regional Training Conference in Juneau, Alaska, February 2009.
- 35 current (active) volunteer instructors attended sharing information and ideas and expanding their ability to delivery quality programs in their respective communities.
- Guest presenter and key note speaker was Wayne Van Zwoll, PH.D. Mr. Van Zwoll is known worldwide as an outdoor writer, author and expert on big game hunting, shooting, and firearms.
- Quality teaching seminars were provided by the Educational Staff from the Alaska Dept of Fish & Game as well as professors from the University of Alaska, Southeast.
- Special recognition was given to our most active volunteer instructors from Southeast Alaska. We selected the top hunter education, archery, and muzzleloader volunteers.
- An ice-breaker, fund raiser event was held the first night, hosted by the Alaska Volunteer Hunter Education Instructor Association, (AVHEIA) and the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska, OHFA.
- Breakout sessions for each HIT discipline were invaluable. Discussion on the three online course options and the recruitment and retention of new instructors were key topic areas.

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

Prepared by: Jerry Soukup

Date: August 10, 2009