



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Winter 2025

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

Since its inception, the Pittman-Robertson Act has generated more than \$28 billion in funding for wildlife restoration, habitat management, land conservation, and other critical work benefiting wildlife.

*ADF&G Biologist and
Hunter Ed Instructor
Charlotte Westing working
on a Mountain Goat
research project*

HIT Program certification courses were taught in **36 different cities and villages** during 2024 and we had **420 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students
Hunter Ed	147	1,869
Bowhunter Ed	47	401
Muzzleloader Ed	17	84
Crossbow Ed	11	40
Totals:	222	2,394

Your **4,629** volunteer hours allowed us to access **\$984,265** in P-R Federal-Aid funds! These funds are used for HIT Program administration and to purchase class supplies, rent facilities, and pay for travel. Thank you for all of your volunteer hours.

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	210	Paul Houser (Palmer) taught 13 hunter ed classes
Bowhunter Ed	65	Melissa Hendrickson (Fairbanks), Quintin Bates (Anchorage), Steve Latz (Kenai), and Ken Calkins (Salcha) taught 4 bowhunter ed classes
Muzzleloader Ed	19	Bill Sobolesky (Anchorage) taught 4 muzzleloader ed classes
Crossbow Ed	17	Paul Ritz (Anchorage) taught 3 crossbow ed classes
Multiple Disciplines	254	Kurt Woodward (Anchorage) taught 5 hunter ed, 3 bowhunter ed, 3 muzzleloader ed, and 1 crossbow ed class

Region	# of Classes	Students in Class
Region I (Southeast)	27	287
Region II (Anc, Kodiak, & Kenai Pen.)	105	1,127
Region III & V (Interior & Northwest)	47	530
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	43	456



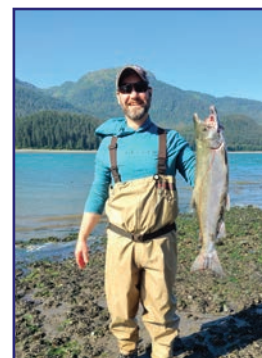
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Mike Kelly New Southeast Coordinator



Hello, I'm excited to be the new HIT Southeast Coordinator. I've lived in Juneau for almost four years after moving from Colorado with my partner, Christy. I've been lucky to have worked a variety of jobs in a variety of places that have made it possible for me to spend time engaging with the outdoors. After growing up in Texas where I first started hunting and shooting, and attending college in South Carolina at The Citadel, I started my professional career as a US Army Infantry Officer. I completed my service in the Army and went to work for the Colorado Outward Bound School, where I lead backpacking trips as an instructor. For several years, I spent my winters as a professional ski patroller and EMT, and summers building trails and fighting fires with the US Forest Service. Most recently, I spent several summers providing medical and technical rope support to the film crew of a TV show shot in the Alaskan backcountry. Those jobs led me to meet a lot of great people and see some amazing places. Southeast Alaska, though, has been one of the best. Being here has allowed me to appreciate the many unique outdoor experiences available to us. Whether I'm hunting, fishing, skiing, or walking our dog, Penny, rain or shine (she doesn't care much either way), I'm glad to be here and to be part of a program that helps others access and appreciate Alaska.



To contact Mike regarding Southeast region certification courses: (907) 465-4345 or mike.kelly@alaska.gov

Board of Game Statewide Meeting March 21-28, 2025 in Anchorage

The Board of Game invites you to share your comments for the Statewide meeting. The deadline for comments is Friday, March 7th. There are a number of proposals that you as instructors and active community members may be interested in.

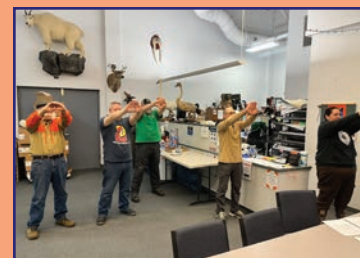
Here is a link to the Board of Game website where you can submit comments for the upcoming meeting or learn more about the Board of Game and how to submit proposals.

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>

In 2024 we certified the following new instructors:

- 60 hunter ed instructors
- 7 bowhunter ed instructors
- 2 muzzleloader ed instructors
- 2 crossbow ed instructors

The 2025 instructor training dates and volunteer instructor application are posted on the HIT Program website. Please encourage students, family members, and friends to become a volunteer.



IHEA Instructor Resource Site

<https://www.ihea-usa.org/>

<https://www.expertvoice.com/ihea/>

HIT Program Site

www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Volunteer Instructor Longevity Pins in 2024

Thank you to these long-time, dedicated volunteer instructors! The time and effort that they've contributed to teaching HIT Program certification courses has made a difference in the safety and behavior of hunters in the field.



Brandon Bartleson-Port Lions
Carlos Bravo-Navarro-Golovin
Ross Dorendorf-Ketchikan
John Fillman-Glennallen
Paul Fussey-Anchorage
Cassandra Hajicek-Cordova
Tessa Hasbrouck-Ketchikan
Sara Henslee-Nome

Dan Hubert-Juneau
Jeramy Lemons-Ninilchik
Ben Matthews-Chugiak
Shaine Nixon-Coffman Cove
Winfred Olanna-Brevig Mission
John Olson-Anchorage
Dan Palicka-Juneau
Clint Renfro-Anchorage

Angel Romero-Palmer
Michael Sciotti-Wasilla
John Sloss-Sterling
John Toomer-Anchorage
Fred Transburg-Chugiak
Steve Unfreid-Palmer
Danielle Verna-Valdez
James White-Juneau



Bob Albright-Ketchikan
Thomas Anthony-Soldotna
Kyle Ferguson-Sitka
Chad Goeden-Sitka

Jacques Kosto-Kenai
James Kvamme-Glennallen
Levi Lewellyn-Fairbanks
Jason Okuly-Homer

Paul Ritz-Anchorage
Timothy Shilling-Fairbanks
Scott Work-Palmer
Michael Yaniec-Eagle River



Doug Baily-Homer
Lantz Dahlke-North Pole
Merri Hall-Delta Junction
Annette Hannan-Delta Junction

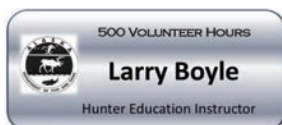
Garrett Haponski-Ketchikan
Somerset Jones-Chugiak
Jeffrey Lipscomb-Delta Junction
Ralf Lysdahl-Palmer

Tia Shoemaker-Wasilla
Ginamaria Smith-Anchorage
Wayne Valcq-Healy
Riley Woodford-Juneau



Howard Bone-Anchorage
Rich Graham-Wasilla

Bart Morehouse-Anchorage
Steve Shiell-Valdez



HIT Steering Group Members

Melissa Hendrickson (Interior)
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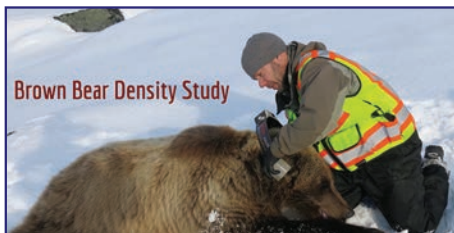
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Instructor Notes

ADF&G Working for Wildlife videos

ADF&G has developed the Working for Wildlife series which are short videos highlighting research and management activities conducted by wildlife biologists. This is an ongoing project, but current video topics include:

- Moose surveys on the Seward Peninsula
- Grouse and ptarmigan brood surveys
- Muskox survival study
- Brown bear density study in Interior Alaska
- Prescribed fire for habitat enhancement
- Short yearling moose captures
- Alaska's Board of Game



The videos follow biologists out into the field and provide an up close look at some of the cool projects that ADF&G is working on. To watch the videos, go to the ADF&G YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/c/alaskafishandgame> or choose "Videos & Multimedia" from the Features menu on the ADF&G homepage: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov>

Instructor Discount Opportunity

Outdoor Edge has changed how they handle discounts for instructors. When you visit their website: <https://www.outdooredge.com/> you can just use the code **IHEA30** to receive 30% off your orders year-round.



Outdoor Edge said they've reduced their online pricing recently and that with the new system you aren't limited to only 4 items. Plus, all Outdoor Edge products come with a Lifetime Guarantee to be free from defects in materials and workmanship for the lifetime of the original purchaser.

HIT Program Staff Contact Information

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459-7242

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Mike Kelly 465-4345
Dan Palicka 586-4101



**Ben Pinney instructing
a hunter ed class in
Juneau in December**