

# 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-E-2-2019

PROJECT TITLE: Enhanced Hunter Ed Section 10 FY2019

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019

REPORT DUE DATE: September 28, 2019

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 which 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 and enhance interstate coordination. Provide funding for facility rentals.

##### **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.
- A wall-mounted tv and steel targets were purchased for use at the Prince of Wales Shooting Club. All certification courses held on Prince of Wales Island and other shooting sports-related classes are held at the Club.

#### **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 schoolteachers and volunteers.

**Accomplishments:**

- This past year, 35 Alaskan schoolteachers became certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI). BAI trainings, conducted by HIT Program staff, were held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Healy, and Wasilla.
- During the 2018-19 school-year, NASP was offered in 246 schools to 8,631 students in Alaska.
- Since NASP's inception in Alaska, 65,113 youth have enjoyed the sport of archery in physical education classes.
- Six new 3-D archery targets were purchased for use by the Alaska State Archery Association. The targets will be used in free public archery trainings and to encourage increased participation in bowhunting and archery statewide.

**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, duck hunting, handguns, bear safety, map & compass, survival skills, and wilderness remote first aid.
- Manuals were purchased from the Alaska Trappers Association to be used at workshops and clinics during trapping, skinning, and wildlife tracking classes.
- The Program Coordinator I and Education Associate II traveled to Fairbanks to attend and assist with the Interior BOW workshop since they were both new to the HIT Program and would be involved with offering BOW in Southcentral and Southeast.

**OBJECTIVE 4:****Youth Opportunities**

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

**Accomplishments:**

- 17 coaches were trained by HIT Program staff in order to coach the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and USA Yess 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 60 participants in the fall and 58 participants in the spring as part of the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (RCSP) Youth Shotgun League. The League was expanded with a team which shoots on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and had 14 participants in the fall and 15 participants in the spring. Each session was 10 weeks long and the participants practiced safe firearm handling and discovered the lifelong sport of shotgun shooting.
- The youth rimfire rifle league program wasn't held in FY19. Lack of interest from participants and volunteer instructors meant we didn't hold the program and are deciding on how to revamp the program for future participation.
- HIT Program staff conducted two sessions of Outdoor Youth Days Camps for a total of 60 participants (ages 10-14). Participants learned a variety of outdoor-related skills over three-day sessions.
- HIT Program staff, in conjunction with the Anchorage CSI Camp, taught 60 camp participants how to safely handle firearms. Participants got to shoot rimfire rifles, shotguns, and archery.
- The youth shotgun league coaches volunteered 950.25 hours to this program, and their effort provided \$ 26,707.00 of in-kind match.

**OBJECTIVE 5:**

**Alaska R3 Program**

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

**Accomplishments:**

- Online surveys were developed and distributed to all program participants to gain more insight into where they are at on the Outdoor Recreation Adoption Model in regard to hunting and shooting sports.
- Prior to leaving the position in April 2019, the Program Coordinator I gave a presentation to the Division of Wildlife Conservation's Management Team with their recommendations for future R3 endeavors in Alaska.
- The Program Coordinator I worked with the Division of Sport Fish to set-up a contract with Southwick Associates to create a Data Dashboard for the department over the next few years.

**EXPENDITURES FOR FY19:**

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

	<b>Awarded</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
Indirect	\$13,318.59	\$6,687.69	\$6,630.90
1000-Staff time	\$58,569.00	\$29,409.36	\$29,159.64
2000-Travel		\$3,152.39	\$(3,152.39)
3000-Contractual	\$6,191.75	\$11,939.41	\$(5,747.66)
4000-Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$16,811.84	\$(14,811.84)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,079.34</b>	<b>\$68,000.69</b>	<b>\$12,078.65</b>

**Note:** PCN 11-2222 left in April, which meant they only spent 2 months of time completing work under this project, instead of the original planned 5 months of personnel time.

**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.

**III. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS**

Amendment #1 AKW-E-2-2019 was submitted and accepted by USFWS in August 2018. The amendment added funds to adjust for omission of the in-kind match amount from the total cost of the project on the base grant.

**IV. PUBLICATIONS**



Participants of Outdoor Youth Days learning how to use archery equipment



Three of the Rabbit Creek Youth Shotgun League participants who took home high honors at the 2019 State Shoot.



Outdoor Youth Day participants receiving instruction from a volunteer on how to properly stand when shooting a shotgun.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

AKW-E-2-2019 is a year-long grant, however it's an ongoing annual project, so the recommendation is for continuation.

**Date: September 2019**