



# 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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2,394</b>

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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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	Dan Hubert-Juneau	Angel Romero-Palmer
Carlos Bravo-Navarro-Golovin	Jeremy Lemons-Ninilchik	Michael Sciotti-Wasilla
Ross Dorendorf-Ketchikan	Ben Matthews-Chugiak	John Sloss-Sterling
John Fillman-Glennallen	Shaine Nixon-Coffman Cove	John Toomer-Anchorage
Paul Fussey-Anchorage	Winfred Olanna-Brevig Mission	Fred Transburg-Chugiak
Cassandra Hajicek-Cordova	John Olson-Anchorage	Steve Unfreid-Palmer
Tessa Hasbrouck-Ketchikan	Dan Palicka-Juneau	Danielle Verna-Valdez
Sara Henslee-Nome	Clint Renfro-Anchorage	James White-Juneau



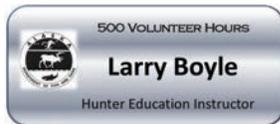
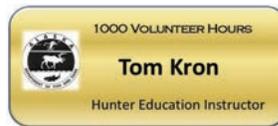
Bob Albright-Ketchikan	Jacques Kosto-Kenai	Paul Ritz-Anchorage
Thomas Anthony-Soldotna	James Kvamme-Glennallen	Timothy Shilling-Fairbanks
Kyle Ferguson-Sitka	Levi Lewellyn-Fairbanks	Scott Work-Palmer
Chad Goeden-Sitka	Jason Okuly-Homer	Michael Yaniec-Eagle River



Doug Baily-Homer	Garrett Haponski-Ketchikan	Tia Shoemaker-Wasilla
Lantz Dahlke-North Pole	Somerset Jones-Chugiak	Ginamaria Smith-Anchorage
Merri Hall-Delta Junction	Jeffrey Lipscomb-Delta Junction	Wayne Valcq-Healy
Annette Hannan-Delta Junction	Ralf Lysdahl-Palmer	Riley Woodford-Juneau



Howard Bone-Anchorage	Bart Morehouse-Anchorage
Rich Graham-Wasilla	Steve Shiell-Valdez



## HIT Steering Group Members

Melissa Hendrickson (Interior)  
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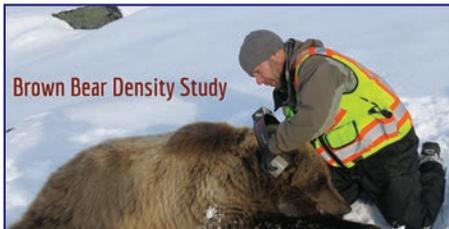
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## Instructor Notes

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