

**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-11 Segment: 12**

**Start Date: July 1, 2013 Ending Date: June 30, 2014**

**Project Leader/Contact: Ginamaria Smith**

**5,297 Students Trained (1511) Cost (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Section 10 funds**

*Students participating in **National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)**, 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.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ Students Live-Firing (1513) Cost (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ (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.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Student Training (1515) Cost (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ (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.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Hours of Effort (1521) Cost (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ (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.*

**136 Volunteers Trained (1523) Cost (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ (Section 10)**

*Current active volunteers (**Basic Archery Instructors, BAI**) trained during the reporting year. Report number of volunteers in age/gender/race/disabled categories in narrative below, as determined by instructor.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ New Ranges Constructed with Section 4c Funds (1561) \_\_\_\_\_ (if available):**

*Ranges developed with WR Section 4c funds during the reporting year. Report number of ranges and cost, with summary in narrative below.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 4c Funds (1562) \_\_\_\_\_ (if available):**

*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ 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.*

**1 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*

**3 Ranges Operated and Maintained with Section 10 Funds (1572) \$5,500 (cost if available):**

*Report number of ranges and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**\_\_\_\_\_ Other Section 10 Enhancements (1573) (cost if available):**

*Report number of enhancements (e.g., projects) and associated costs, with summary in narrative below.*

**4 HE Coordination and Administration (1581) (cost if available): \$23,690 (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:**

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**Project Objectives:**

**Objective 1:**

- a) Discuss the possibility of a statewide NASP/SCTP Coordinator, Recruitment/Retention position, or an expanded southeast HIT Coordinator. These outreach programs are very popular and continue to grow. To add one of these programs into a community involves recruitment, training, equipment, volunteers and program assessment. For example, with NASP now in over 90 schools, the effort to monitor this program is substantial.

**Objective 2:**

- a) Work with DWC leadership to identify range upgrade requests to improve and expand shooting opportunities around the state. This would include materials and equipment to improve range facilities and shooting programs. Starting a shooting program such as the Scholastic Clays Target Program, requires a huge commitment from facility management, plus training, volunteer coaches, and equipment.
- b) Discuss the possibility of developing an annual budget (cost sharing or matching funds) to increase range development. This could include sites that would be maintained by the local communities and not be state operated facilities.

**Objective 3:**

- a) Continue to purchase new training materials that reach all areas of the state. Training firearms, air guns, shot guns, trap machines, .22 rifles, 3-D targets, and hunter education field kits are all mandatory in certifying students in remote Alaska. Our Laser Shot system is our most popular recruiting and training system and is used at sportsman shows, state fairs and outdoor youth events. Tens of thousands of kids enjoy and learn from this resource each year.
- b) Online certification courses for all three disciplines (Basic Hunter Education, Bowhunter, and Muzzleloader) continue to grow in popularity. All online course students will be required to attend field day training with a certified instructor. Ensure trained, active instructors are available to proxy "Field Day" events.

**Objective 4:**

- a) Volunteer instructors continue to request a statewide instructor training conference. The new online IHEA Instructor Training Course, developed by Kalkomey Enterprise Inc. will be expanded and offered to each volunteer instructor. Setting up regional online training sessions would be of benefit to all instructors. This commitment to advanced training sessions and volunteer recognition is critical.

- b) Search out other local training opportunities for volunteer instructors. These may include seminars on survival skills, orienteering, reloading or advanced shooting skills. An Advanced Hunter Education Program is being looked into as well.

**Objective 5:**

- a) Continue to facilitate opportunities for specialized clinics, shooting leagues, and continuing hunter education. Offer specialized clinics and continuing hunter education opportunities. This would include the expansion of Scholastic Clays Target Program (SCTP) and the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

Offer a variety of classes, courses, camps, leagues, and clinics that appeal to a variety of people. Reach out to those with a general interest in outdoor activities to those who are ardent hunters with specific interests (basic reloading, bear hunting, sheep hunting, range days, gear clinics, land navigation, and waterfowl hunting clinics). Make the public aware of these opportunities through advertising media.

**Project accomplishments:**

**1. Continue to emphasize the need for a Recruitment & Retention position, NASP Coordinator, or Southeast HIT Representative.**

**Accomplishments:**

- This past year, 136 Alaskan school teachers became certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI). There are now over 500 BAIs offering the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) around the state.
- During the 2013-14 school-year NASP was offered in 135 schools with over 5,200 students participating.
- Since NASP's inception in Alaska, over 24,500 youth have enjoyed the sport of archery in the physical education classes.
- 14 coaches were trained by HIT Staff in order to coach the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP). SCTP continues to expand statewide and the HIT Program is assisting in this recruitment program by training new coach's, providing target machines, equipment upgrades, shotguns, clay targets, and ammunition.
- The popularity of both SCTP and NASP require another "recruitment/retention" position for the HIT Program. This need continues to be emphasized to the Department Management Team (DMT).

**2. Discuss the issue of public shooting ranges around the state with Director of Wildlife Conservation, range managers, and area biologists.**

**Accomplishments:**

- A majority of HIT classes and clinics were held at the three state operated ranges in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.
  - Personnel needs of the ranges were addressed, especially since the number of users has risen dramatically and safety concerns are always first.

-HIT supported the start of the Prince of Wales Shooting Club in Craig. We gave them \$2,000 to help lease a property, file paperwork, and begin work on range construction. The Club then applied for an NRA grant which allowed them to develop a new shooting range. They plan to host Hunter Ed. classes at this location since it will provide a safe location for using firearms during the class.

-The Tok Rifle Range leases land from the DNR and they had to have their grounds surveyed to continue the lease. The HIT Program uses the rifle range for Hunter Ed. classes. We gave them \$1,000 towards the survey.

-The Ketchikan Rod & Gun Club wanted to expand their youth shooting program and so we purchased a trap machine for the Club for \$2,249. Ketchikan now has a SCTP team and sent participants to the 2014 State SCTP Shoot in Wasilla.

-A new partnership with the Mat-Valley Sportsman's Range in Palmer has allowed the HIT Program to expand our class offerings. We purchased a tv for \$230 and installed it in their classroom. Besides HIT classes, the classroom is used by firearm instructors to teach about the safe use of handguns, firearms, and to give shooting instruction. This partnership has been a great asset to our program and we are looking forward to helping with additional opportunities to expand this public range.

**3. Continue to meet the expanding need for HIT programs statewide by purchasing additional clinic equipment and instructional materials for students and volunteer instructors.**

**Accomplishments:**

-The Explore Bowhunting Program is expanding in Alaska thanks to the partnership with the Archery Trade Association (ATA).

- Explore Bowhunting is an educational program designed to help instructors, program leaders, and educators teach students, ages 11–17 the basic skills of bowhunting. It was created by the ATA to spark interest in and passion for bowhunting in today's youth, recognizing that through hands-on experience, students will gain confidence interacting with the natural environment, and strengthen their appreciation for wildlife and the outdoors.
- ADFG purchased three Explore Bowhunting equipment kits and the ATA donated seven kits to be used statewide.
- 6 instructors were trained in Nome and an Explore Bowhunting equipment kit was given to the Nome School District.
- 12 instructors were trained in Juneau at a joint teacher workshop with the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum. Two equipment kits were given to the Juneau School District.
- 18 students participated in a week-long intensive Explore Bowhunting class at the Highland Tech Charter School in Anchorage
- Over 70 Girl Scouts participated in a day-long Explore Bowhunting workshop in Anchorage

-Student manuals for Hunter Ed. and Bowhunter Ed. were purchased during this fiscal year. The course materials will match the information that is currently being offering in our online courses.

-Hunt Alaska books were purchased to distribute during courses and clinics and also at ADFG offices. Hunt Alaska provides information about all things “Alaskan” for hunters and is a great resource for new hunters in our state.

-Due to an increase in Bowhunter Ed. classes additional 3-D targets were purchased. The Alaska Board of Game passed the follow regulation, “Beginning July 1, 2016, all big game hunters using archery will be required to have successfully completed a department approved certification course.” Currently Bowhunter Ed. courses are only required if the hunt is restricted to archery only. We foresee an increase in Bowhunter Ed. classes into the future as well.

**4. Improve the knowledge and teaching experience of our volunteer instructor core through evaluations and regional training opportunities.**

**Accomplishments:**

-The 87 volunteer instructors that were trained this year by HIT staff participated in the online IHEA Instructor Training Course.

-The use of email and keeping our instructor database updated has allowed us to inform instructors of regional training opportunities. NRA Rifle classes and Learn to Return workshops are a few of the opportunities that our instructors attended this year.

**5. Facilitate opportunities for specialized clinics, shooting leagues, and continuing hunter education.**

**Accomplishments:**

-The online bear baiting clinic, now required for all baiting seasons, was taken by more than 1,000 hunters.

-Over 400 participants took advantage of a wide range of outdoor training clinics to include: big game meat care, intro. to archery, riflery, intro. to shot gunning, firearms maintenance, bear hunting, bear safety, and sheep hunting.

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

**Prepared by: Ginamaria Smith**

**Date: August 29, 2014**