

**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 #: AKW-3 HE Section 10 FY2015

Start Date: July 1, 2014 **Ending Date:** June 30, 2015

Project Leader/Contact: Ginamaria Smith

6,462 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.

118 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.

_____ 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) \$15,000 (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.

6 HE Coordination and Administration (1581) (cost if available): \$48,784 (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:

Project Objectives:

Objective 1:

- a) Discuss the possibility of a statewide NASP 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 a program assessment. For example, with NASP now in 135 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 SCTP, 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 SCTP, NASP, and Explore Bowhunting.
- b) 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 and 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, 117 Alaskan school teachers became certified as Basic Archery Instructors (BAI) and 1 HIT Staff was certified as a Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT). There are now over 500 BAIs offering the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) around the state.

-During the 2014-15 school-year NASP was offered in 164 schools with over 6,500 students participating.

-Since NASP's inception in Alaska, over 31,000 youth have enjoyed the sport of archery in the physical education classes.

-26 coaches were trained by HIT Staff in order to coach the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports (USAYESS). The shotgun sports continue 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).

-A short-term, non-perm Fish & Wildlife Technician III was hired for a month to tabulate all participants of BOW Programs, Outdoor camps, and youth shooting leagues to determine if the participants are purchasing hunting licenses. This will also give the Divisional Management Team an idea of how many people have participated in HIT Program opportunities over the years.

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. Discussions with the Divisional Management Team continue.

-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 \$13,000 towards the survey.

-The Kodiak Island Sportsman Range completed some much needed updates to their facility. The HIT Program uses the range for Hunter Ed. classes. We gave them \$1,000 towards the building maintenance.

-The Prince of Wales Shooting Club purchased targets, safety equipment, and security equipment to enhance their range. The HIT Program uses the range for Hunter Ed. classes. We gave them \$1,000 towards the updates.

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:

-Survival Bandanas were designed and purchased for distribution in certification classes, clinics, and workshops. The Survival Bandanas contain information about survival kits, shelters, building fires, trip planning, signaling, first aid, STOP, and hypothermia. These bandanas are blaze orange and students are encouraged to carry them in the field.

-Due to an increase in Bowhunter Ed. classes additional 3-D targets used during the shooting proficiency 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:

-A Dave Oake's training video was purchased and made available to instructors. Topics covered include public speaking tips, speaker distractions, bad habits of speaking, using questioning techniques, and breaks during classes.

-The use of email and keeping our instructor database updated has allowed us to inform instructors of regional training opportunities.

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

Accomplishments:

-Over 1,000 participants took advantage of a wide range of outdoor training clinics to include: big game meat care, introduction to archery, riflery, introduction to shotgunning, 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 27, 2014