

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

November 23, 2019, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Washington Cattlemen's Association, 1301 W. Dolarway Rd., Ellensburg, WA 98926

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- Eric Lauver
 - Eric held two online classes and one traditional class in August. He saw his lowest traditional class attendance yet this year.
 - His team's next class will be in April.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty had full classes in June and July.
 - In September, they held a traditional class and an online class and both filled.
 - Marty's October classes filled as well.
 - During a November class, he helped Bill with a PST and class.
 - He opened a class in December for registration and the class filled quickly.
 - His team will start with more classes in January.
- Jim Conway
 - Jim held 10 online classes.
 - His attendance in the middle of the year has dropped and he may not do classes during that period of the year.
 - He has had a lot of no-shows, up to 20% over the year.
 - Jim's registration numbers for classes are lower than they have been in the past.
 - Jim is not requesting a student deposit for classes.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff held two classes this year.
 - He had a problem with a lack of students this year.
- Bob Palmer
 - Bob has had the same issues as other IAC members with the student no-shows.
 - Bob and his team allows walk in students as well.
 - He had a number of instructors ask about the test and an update to the test.
 - He suggested putting effective dates on WDFW documents to ensure instructors are using the most current documents.
 - He submitted a grant request to purchase student vests for HEI to use for classes.

- Butch Buffalo
 - Butch's August class had 25 registrations and 16 students showed up.
 - He will start scheduling his 2020 classes after thanksgiving.
- Cathy Lynch
 - Cathy has held several classes.
 - She had to work with a new instructor to correct some issues she noticed when they were conducting live-fire exercises.
- Sam Grubbs
 - Sam has had some new instructors that have come into classes without instruction on the orange guns. He suggested the instructors have more training on them before certification.
 - He helps in about 13 classes each year.
 - He has shown students about the difference in the hunter pink vs hunter orange at the range.
 - His team has been working on a video about the orange guns.
 - Sam encourages students to bring their own orange vests if possible.
- Jim Gleiter
 - Jim held one traditional class and a couple online classes this year.
 - His team graduated 85 students this year.
- John Malek
 - John held fewer online courses this year because the facility has had an increase in shoots.
 - He does not hold classes in the summer because he sees less student registrations for those classes.
 - John generally invites some of the wait list, if they live close to the venue, to come to the class and see if no-shows open up seats.
- Steve Mills
 - Steve held a few classes this year.
 - He completed a PST with Amy, and the instructors that were certified have held classes since.
 - He also has a December 8 class at the Cowlitz range.
 - Steve said he may want to hold a how to be a chief instructor class soon.
- Jim Sevier
 - Jim held nine classes this year.
 - Three teams now teach at the Vancouver Trap Club.

⊙ **WDFW Budget and Legislative Update**

- ⊕ Dave gave a quick update on the 2020 legislative session.
- ⊕ This included the possible Hunter Ed proposals if WDFW's fee bill is picked-up, including:

- Eliminating the deferral's accompanying hunter 3-year license requirement. This was fully supported by IAC last year.
 - Updating the "Born after Jan. 1, 1972" wording to "Born on or after Jan. 1, 1972"
 - Adding a Federal LEO exemption to be consistent with the military and state LEO exemption.
- ⊕ Dave gave an overview of the 2020 budget process and possible budget challenges including:
- The governor's budget comes out in early to mid-December and is used by the senate and house to construct their budgets.
 - WDFW may receive the funding needed to maintain its current services, but it might only be for 2020 and not a permanent fix.
 - Pittman-Robertson was down more than \$2.4 million.
 - Pittman-Robertson funding projections for 2020 is trending down.
- ⊕ The proposed retirement coin was discussed.
- Dave asked IAC members to think about the number of service years that an instructor would have to complete before being eligible for the retirement coin and email it to Kris by the end of next week.
 - Jeff suggested 20 years.
- ⊕ NRA Hunter Ed Course & in-kind donations
- Some states offer the NRA's course along with other courses.
 - Some states have experienced issues getting admin help with the NRA course.
 - The NRA course is not being used much that Dave has heard.
 - WDFW has concerns with the NRA course including:
 - Lack of customer support
 - Integration of 2+ data sets
 - There are also effects on our Kalkomey costs if they are not the sole source of hunter education in Washington State.
 - Kalkomey also has some products that may be available in the future such as:
 - A new generation of the Event Manger program
 - New, more interactive online hunter ed course
 - Possible volunteer manager software
 - Hunting 101 videos and class information for students.
 - Students may receive 50% off the videos and classes if WDFW posts the information on its website.
- ⊕ WDFW is starting to create a 25-year strategic plan. It will be a broad, overarching, living plan that will be adaptable.
- It will include a Relevancy Group, Public Engagement Team, and R3 Planning.
 - WDFW will have a lot of public outreach regarding the plan, and IAC and instructors are encouraged to participate and provide input.

⊙ **IAC Recognition**

- ⊕ WDFW has recognized IAC members sporadically in the past couple years.
- ⊕ In 2018, WDFW gave plaques to outgoing members but not reappointed members.
- ⊕ This year we wanted to recognize all outgoing members.
- ⊕ Dave presented all members whose terms had expired at the end of July at the meeting with a plaque and handshake.
- ⊕ The Master Hunter Advisory Group members whose terms are up are given a plaque at the last meeting of their term, even if reappointed.
- ⊕ What is the best way to recognize IAC members upon completion of their term?
 - IAC members feel a certificate of appreciation and a name tag with an IAC identifier will suffice.

⊙ **WDFW Updates**

- ⊕ Student statistics
 - 2018 stats through October were as follows:

Total Classes	654
Capacity	14,330
Registered	11,034
Total Pass	8,920
Total Fail	253
Total Incomplete	127
Total No-show	1,732
Total % Fail	3
Total % NS	16

- 2019 stats through October are as follows:

Total Classes	651
Capacity	14,141
Registered	11,190
Total Pass	9,096
Total Fail	251
Total Incomplete	127
Total No-show	1,717
Total % Fail	3
Total % NS	15

- The difference of 2018 and 2019 year to date was as follows:

Total Classes	-3
Capacity	-189
Registered	156
Total Pass	176

Total Fail	-2
Total Incomplete	0
Total No-show	-15
Total % Fail	0
Total % NS	-1

⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants

- As of Oct 31, 2019, WDFW has 1,049 instructors.
- WDFW has certified 73 instructors in 2019 as of the end of September.

⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates

▪ Bill Montgomery

- Bill has noticed the top spring months for full classes are March and April. August and September are also large volume months.
- Bill met with a teaching team to discuss online class graduate incidents vs traditional class graduate incidents.
- He has also had an instructor conduct issue that he is working through.
- He held a mentored pheasant hunt at the Davis Creek Wildlife area.
- He planned and worked at National Hunting and Fishing Day.

▪ Amy Elliott

- In June Amy assisted at the Washington Outdoor Women (WOW) shotgun clinic.
- WDFW is working in partnership with WOW to add an online field skills evaluation with the next WOW event.
- Amy was pleased that region 5 instructors were at NHFD volunteering with their other interest groups as well as WDFW instructors.
- She has had some challenges of losing chief instructors.
- Amy is working through starting a how to train new chief HEI.
- She had an instructor adopt hunter pink vests for class.
- She had an instructor with some concerns about a student's attitude and had a conversation with the student and their parent. The instructor found out after the class that the student was autistic.
- Region 5 still has classes available.
- She certified 13 new instructors so far in 2019.
- Amy is working on certifying seven more instructors this year.

▪ Steve Dazey

- Steve conducted 23 teaching team visits for evaluation since the last meeting.
- He held four pre-service trainings and certified 12 new instructors, bringing this year's total to 21 including three women instructors.

- Steve attended two tribal classes, which cover the WDFW curriculum and add in tribal laws.
- He previewed two new venues, Birch Bay and Nooksack tribal center, and held classes there.
- Steve attended the Wenatchee in-service training to present the Region 4 Coordinators award to Liz Crain for her help making the 2018 female oriented classes happen. Liz has also been the Chief Instructor at all three female oriented classes this year.
- Region 4 held three female oriented classes that saw 21 certified.
- Steve attended the DFW Employee and citizen recognition awards where Bob Palmer received the Terry Hoffer award from the director.
- Along with a team of instructors, Steve presented a combined hunter education class and a NRA basic rifle class to the All Mission Academy of the Civil Air Patrol. At the end of the class all of the cadets had their hunter education complete as well as their Basic Rifle and had qualified for at least Pro-Marksmen level. Thank you to Bob Palmer, Johanna Palmer, Chuck Ray, and John Campanella.
- He conducted Basic Firearm training in Rifle, Pistol, and Handgun for DFW staff to meet WDFWs non-enforcement firearm policy requirements. Thank you Bob Palmer and Chuck Ray for helping with the classes.
- Steve attended and helped at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event in September.
- He presented at a board meeting of the Black Diamond Gun Club recognizing a member of the teaching team that uses that venue.
- Steve met with a representative from the Washington Waterfowl Association to discuss mentoring possibilities.
- He assisted a blind student to find a hunter education class. A big thanks to John Malek and his team for making this happen.
- Steve assisted with the release of fisher in the North Cascades.
- Steve helped the region 6 coordinator with a meeting explaining the differences and advantages of both types of classes to a teaching team.
- He worked to put together Range Safety Officer classes for hunter education instructors across Washington State and has seven classes planned to accommodate instructors. Thanks to Mike Whorton, Bill Montgomery, Kevin Roberts, Amy Elliott, Stacy Wilson, and Bill Schneider for assistance in securing venues for the classes.
- He hosted four fall hunter education classes at the Region 4 office and also hosted WHEIA for their west side meeting.

- Steve provided support for the Chief Seattle Council Boy Scouts of America (BSA) training conference in October where he presented material to show the volunteer opportunities suitable for scout troops and also Eagle Scout service projects. The BSA groups have been very helpful at the Snoqualmie wildlife area and have helped clean up trails after hunting season of litter, spent shotgun shells, and other things left behind.

⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Debrief**

- ⊕ WDFW held its fifth annual celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day at Tacoma Sportsmen's Club in Puyallup on Sept 28.
- ⊕ We had some challenges with registration so we did not get a good count of youth participants.
- ⊕ However, 488 youth had signed in at registration.
- ⊕ The average age of participants was 8.7 years old.
- ⊕ One hundred and sixty eight (168) had shot a firearm or bow before.
- ⊕ Twenty-five (25) had taken hunter education before.
- ⊕ Traditional non-government organizations were on site to provide great activities and give-aways but we also had non-traditional organizations like the Dutch Oven Society, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Operation Lifesaver.
- ⊕ There were two active trout ponds for youth to catch and keep a trout.
- ⊕ Participants learned how to clean a fish from WDFW staff and volunteers.
- ⊕ A mother of one participant emailed WDFW after the event thanking WDFW because our event was so engagingly helpful, very informative and fun. She said it was a great way for her son to slow down and really connect with the people and what he wanted to do.

⊙ **2019 IST Debrief**

- ⊕ We had 332 attendees at the regional ISTs in 2019.
- ⊕ Kris copied the evaluation information into a spreadsheet.
- ⊕ The topics were scored on a basis of 1-5.
- ⊕ Each topics average score was:
 - Wolves – 3.62
 - Incidents – 4.29
 - R3 – 4.16
 - Lands – 3.75
 - Tips and Tricks – 3.01
- ⊕ When asked if IAC noticed any areas for improvement, no suggestions were given.

⊙ **2020 IST Topic(s) Discussion**

- ⊕ Staff presented the draft agenda for the 2020 regional ISTs.
- ⊕ The IAC felt the draft agenda was good information to present to instructors at the 2020 ISTs.

- ⊕ IAC member Jim Sevier motioned to make ISTs mandatory for instructors to maintain their certification.
 - Steve Mills and Marty Kotzke seconded the motion.
 - All attending members were in agreement.

⊙ **Female Instructor Recruitment**

- ⊕ This topic was moved to the next meeting due to other topics taking more time.

⊙ **Online Course Certificate Expiration Discussion**

- ⊕ WDFW has had questions from some instructors about the one-year expiration of the online certificate. It also appears that there is inconsistencies in how instructors handle certificates that are slightly or moderately beyond the expiration date.
- ⊕ Dave asked the IAC about the frequency they have noticed students coming in with expired certificates.
- ⊕ The IAC has not seen widespread issues with this topic.
- ⊕ Dave asked if the IAC feels that the quiz and field course would weed out students who took the course over one year before taking the online field skills evaluation.
- ⊕ IAC discussed the idea of removing the expiration date and was in favor of the idea.

⊙ **Hunter Education Class Posters**

- ⊕ The hunter education poster was recently redesigned.
- ⊕ All IAC members liked the design of both posters.
- ⊕ IAC would like to have John send out posters to instructors.
- ⊕ WDFW will need to get the information out to HEI for them to be able to order.
- ⊕ Jeff suggested just have a bare bones poster to point folks to WDFW website.

⊙ **HEI Incentive Permits**

- ⊕ Staff created a draft proposal of the 2020 incentive permits levels and table composition.
- ⊕ This year the regional program managers discussed biological issues and requested to remove some permits.
- ⊕ Hunter education staff agreed that the permits should be removed if the public was also seeing a reduction in permits due to biological reasons.
- ⊕ However, hunter education staff requested the regions offer some other permits in place of the permits that were lost.
- ⊕ Overall, three permits were added to the incentive permits for 2020.
- ⊕ IAC did not propose any changes to the draft permit levels and table makeup.

⊙ **IAC Recruitment Debrief**

- ⊕ This topic was moved to the next meeting due to other topics taking more time.

⊙ **Adjourn** – Next meeting is January 25, 2020.