

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
May 7, 2016, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Rodeo City Bar-B-Q, Ellensburg

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

- ⊕ IAC Member Roundtable
 - Members introduced themselves and where they were from.
 - Janice Jarmin, a HEI from Region 4, attended the meeting as a guest.

⊙ **WDFW Updates**

- ⊕ Instructors & instructor applicants
 - As of April, we had 960 Hunter Education Instructors.
 - There are 191 Applicants in the database.
 - What is the target # of instructors?
- ⊕ Student numbers
 - There are currently 4013 HEI grads as of 05/04/2016.
 - A couple of the IAC members have had to cancel classes this month due to lack of demand.
 - A suggestion from the group was to maybe start the outreach earlier in the year. Also have some public service announcements on the radio or TV.
 - Also there was a suggestion of talking to the Licensing division about possibly having a larger poster/flyer for license dealers to post.
- ⊕ Terry Hoffer Nominations & Decision
 - Received no nominations from regions 1, 2, or 3.
 - Received 17 nominations for 11 HEI's
 - Hunter Ed staff members reviewed the nominations and brought forward three finalists for the selection committee.
 - The three finalists were Cathy Lynch, Bill Vincent, and Jim Sevier
 - The selection committee decided that the 2016 winner of the Terry Hoffer award is Bill Vincent
 - Bill will be honored in Olympia on May 17 at the department's awards ceremony.
- ⊕ Incentive Permits discussion and decision
 - Region 5 was requesting a drop in the number of permits that they offer for the HEI Instructor drawing.
 - Dave convinced the Regional Program Managers (RPM's) to not change the permits for the 2016 year and we would revisit the idea this year for 2017.
 - The Hunter Education Division proposed an increase in one permit for deer and one permit for elk.
 - Any new permits WILL come out of the general public pool of permits.

- We have also secured support for three spring bear permits in Region 1 and Region 4. These may be in GMU 111, 121, and 418.
 - WDFW suggests adding a table 5 to the hunter education instructor incentive hunts with the same qualifications as table 1 to house the spring bears permits.
 - The Hunter Education Division is asking for two more antlerless moose permits for the HEI Incentive tags as well.
 - Marty suggested the possibility of adding back in the 10 year disqualification.
 - Catherine suggested that WDFW look to add in some other incentives outside big game hunts to also incentivize groups such as:
 - Duck Hunters
 - Pheasant Hunters
 - Anglers
- ⊕ Update on Classes geared towards females
- Have held two classes to date.
 - The evaluations of the classes have overwhelming support for the class due to a more comfortable atmosphere.
 - Currently there are classes scheduled in Region 6 on May 22 and Region 2 on June 4.
- ⊕ Update on Hunting clinics
- In 2015 WDFW started holding clinics on how to hunt. There were three pheasant clinics and one turkey clinic. All three of these clinics had hunts attached to them.
 - In 2016 WDFW held eight turkey clinics before the April 15 opener. There was at least one clinic in each region. Region 6 had three.
 - The average age of the clinic participants in 2016 has been 49.
 - Participants have been between 9 and 81 years old.
 - Hunter Education Field Coordinators are planning on having more clinics in the near future. Region 5 has an introduction to bowhunting clinic in May.
 - If you would like to assist with clinics please contact your volunteer coordinator and they can discuss this with you.
 - The clinic booklets are posted online for the public who cannot make a clinic at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/clinics/booklets.php>.
 - Also WDFW is developing an access guide for hunting access in Washington. The guide will be posted online on the WDFW Hunting Access webpage, http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/.
 - There was a suggestion by the MHAG Chair to have HEI go to the clinic sites and Access sites to give new hunters information on how to gain access and how to hunt those five species.
- ⊕ Deferral administrative changes
- The agenda item allows removed the need for the white deferral card.

- It also allows clarifies the deferred hunter will not receive a special WILD ID but will be allowed to use their current WILD ID or have one created by the licensing division staff.
- The changes also clear up that the accompanying hunter only has to have had a license for the previous three license years instead of them having to prove they had the licenses.
- Applicants will also be able to apply by email.

⊕ Legislative report

- Hunter Ed closely tracked only a few bills, & tracked others out of interest. Below is a list of the more important bills tracked:
- HB 1245, HB 1886, HB 2164 – bills proposed modifying or repealing laws related to I-594 (background checks)
 - None received a hearing
- HB 2374 - Statewide ammunition fee
 - Proposed a 5 cent/round fee on retail sale of ammo. State agencies would be exempt.
 - Didn't get a hearing
- HB 2514, SB 6015 – NRA special license plate
 - Fees would provide enhanced support of hunter ed program
 - Brought forward from last session
 - No hearings
- HB 1191 , SB 6267 - Concealed pistol license renewals
 - Required DOL to notify CPL holders of their upcoming renewal date, in order to decrease illegal concealed carry due to expired permit, and to decrease late fees on CPL renewals.
 - Bills received hearings, & Senate version passed out of Senate, was passed out of House Judiciary Committee, but did die in House Rules Committee.
- **Biggest Bills for Hunter Ed:**
- **HB 2325 – Hunter Ed in the schools**
 - Would require the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation w/ WDFW, to develop a program of instruction for firearms safety and hunter education for students in grades 9-12 that satisfies hunting license prerequisite requirements.
 - Authorizes school districts to adopt the program as an elective ½ credit course to instruct high school students in the content area addressed by the curriculum.
 - Received public hearing after the cutoff, to begin preparing for next year, when the bill will likely have more momentum.
 - WDFW will work to prepare for next session, w/ the intent of trying to broaden the bill to more of an outdoor recreation curriculum, w/ Hunter Ed as one component.
- **HB 2793, SB 6603 – Suicide Prevention and Awareness**
 - WA has a higher than avg. higher suicide rate

- Firearms & prescription drugs are involved w/ the majority of suicides
- The bill:
 - Creates the safe homes task force to raise public awareness and increase suicide prevention education among new partners who are in key positions to help reduce suicide.
 - Among other things, the safe homes task force will:
 - Consult w/ WDFW to review the Firearms Safety the Law and You pamphlet, & recommend changes to incorporate info on suicide awareness & prevention.
 - Consult w/ WDFW to develop strategies for creating & disseminating suicide awareness & prevention info for hunter ed classes, including potential messages to parents that can be shared during online registration, follow-up emails, etc.
 - Dave Whipple will be the liaison to the safe homes task force. The goal will be to provide info via the firearm safety pamphlet, make that pamphlet available to hunter ed students, and minimize burdens to instructors.

⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates

- Region 2
 - There will be a female oriented class in June in the Ephrata area.
 - Chuck is trying to put together PST's for new instructors.
 - He also has his last regional IST in Okanogan on May 14.
- Region 3
 - Aaron has completed all the ISTs he had scheduled.
 - There have been several PSTs within Region 3.
 - Aaron is working on a female oriented class. He has two new female instructors that he will be working with for these in the future.
 - There has been some difficulty in filling classes in Region 3.
 - However, there have been more classes in Region 3 this year than in past years.
 - Aaron is working with regional biologists on a pheasant clinic for the September youth season.
 - They are talking about possibly moving birds from release areas that are not heavily used to the clinic area.
- Region 4
 - Region 4 had about the same number of classes so far as there been last year.
 - However there has been an increase of the number of students.
 - Currently there is an 18% no show rate in Region 4.

- Steve worked in conjunction with some Chinese speaking instructors to hold a Hunter Education class in Chinese.
- Also Steve has completed two PSTs.
- Region 5
 - Currently Region 5 is well served with classes and attendance.
 - There is a need for more in the Kelso/Longview area due to some instructors that have had to step back.
 - Dan has a Bowhunter clinic scheduled on May 13 and 14 for an introduction to bowhunting.
 - He is also working on the Trapper Education course and program.
 - There is a possibility of moving Dan's office down to the new Vancouver Office once it is completed.
- Region 6
 - Bill held two IST's in Region 6.
 - Bill completed a PST in March and certified 11 Instructors.
 - He has another PST scheduled in May.
 - On June 3 Bill is heading up to Neah Bay to do a PST for new instructors for the tribe. They have expressed interest to make all hunters on tribal permits go through a Hunter Education course.
 - There are also lots of classes going on in Region 6.
 - There was an issue where some instructors did not fill their classes due to a competing class.
- ⊕ Wildlife Program Assistant Director
 - The position is open until filled.
 - Currently Bob Everitt will serve as the Acting Assistant Director until filled.
 - The deputy Director will be reviewing the applications and possibly scheduling interviews in the near future.
 - The new AD may be in office by the middle of June or the first of July if an acceptable candidate is found in the interview process.

⊙ IAC Purpose, Roles and Operating Procedures

- ⊕ Review final draft
 - WDFW will use this document in operating IAC from here on out.
 - The IAC agreed that the current draft was acceptable to become the new Purpose, Roles, and Operating Procedures.
 - WDFW will post the document on the IAC webpage.

⊙ Hunter Education Instructor Book

- ⊕ The IAC briefly reviewed a draft document that is a compiled handbook for online and traditional classes that new instructors could find valuable.
 - This book was put together using several Hunter Education publications in conjunction with Field Coordinator input.

- The information includes how to put on a class, for a team, the online course, and the Kalkomey hunter education instructors guide.
- The IAC thought that there is value in the document and should be given out at instructor pre-service trainings.
- They also thought that the booklet should be posted on the website for instructors to use as well.
- WDFW will not widely print and distribute.
- It will be up to the Field Coordinators to print and staple the books for use at PST's.
 - HERO has small Wildlife ID booklets \$1.25 per booklet. Please contact them if you would like to order some for your classes.

⊙ **Regional ISTs – Report and Debrief**

⊕ **WDFW Staff Debrief**

- WDFW will post the 2016 IST PowerPoint to HEI website for instructors to use.
- Some of the HEI didn't really understand the message. However a majority did and has taken the message to heart.

⊕ **IAC Member notes**

- The IST had great information for all who attended.
- Jeff asked if there was a lack of participation. WDFW seemed to see about a 50% attendance rate in the regional IST's.
- There were suggestions on 2017 regional IST topics or 2018 statewide IST Topics. These were:
 - Conflict de-escalation techniques
- The IAC members asked if it was possible to have some canned language on asking problem students to leave so instructors are consistent in their requests.
 - IAC members will send a draft rules and expectations document to Kris to have him review and standardize.

⊙ **IAC Recruitment Document Review**

- ⊕ This is a draft document that WDFW will use to recruit members to the IAC in the future.
 - The recruitment steps are similar to the Master Hunter Advisory group which Hunter Ed also manages.
 - The applicants will be asked to submit a letter of interest answering several questions on why they feel they would be a good fit on IAC.
 - There will be seven selection members who will score the applicants individually and then as a group.
 - The recruitment announcement will go out early next week.

⊙ **Schedule Next Meeting**

- ⊕ The next IAC meeting is scheduled for August 20 in Ellensburg