

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
December 3, 2016, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Hal Holmes Center, Ellensburg

⦿ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

- ⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

⦿ **WDFW Updates**

- ⊕ Hunter Education Webpage update
 - Jan, Tracy, and Kris are currently updating the website information to be more user friendly.
 - There is also a full website redesign that is supposed to go live summer of 2018.
- ⊕ Student statistics through October 2016
 - Traditional classes: 283, 40.3%
 - Online Classes: 419, 59.7%
 - Total: 702
 - Capacity: 15,562
 - Registrations: 12,698, 81.6%
 - Pass: 10,480, 67.3%
 - Fails: 290, 2.6%
 - Incompletes: 175, 1.6%
 - No-shows: 1773, 14%
- ⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants
 - The Field Coordinators have certified 92 new instructors in 2016.
 - As of November 22, 2016 there were 979 certified instructors.
 - There were 185 applicants in 2016.
- ⊕ Recognition of Instructors
 - Howard Gardner will be recognized this spring for teaching for 60 years.
 - Are there more recognition tools that we should or could provide?
 - Randy Absolon – Instructors don't do this for recognition.
 - Bob Palmer – What do you as the program want to do as recognition?
 - Jeff Bull – After a while, too many awards demans larger special awards.
 - Cathy Lynch – Too many awards will dilute the waters.
- ⊕ 2017 Legislative Session
 - There was a legislative bill introduced last year to put Hunter Ed in the schools.
 - The department is looking to broaden the bill to encapsulate more outdoor recreation topics.
- ⊕ NRA Hunter Education Online Course

- The NRA is building a new online course and will make it free for everybody.
 - They contend that the cost of Hunter Education is a barrier.
- ⊕ First Aid Training
 - The first aid requirements in the Policy Manual state, “First Aid-certified personnel and First Aid equipment are required at all Hunter Education Courses.”
 - This policy requires at least one qualified, first aid trained instructor to be present during classroom, field course, and live-fire activities.
 - WDFW is working internally to get the Field Coordinators certified to teach first aid.
 - The Hunter Education Division is also thinking about possibly having a first aid training course at the 2018 statewide IST.
- ⊕ Range Safety Officer Training
 - In the “Two instructors Required Policy in the manual” it states, “WDFW requires a certified Hunter Education Instructor must be in charge of all live-fire exercises and provide direct supervision and training to any volunteers, instructor applicants, or other certified Hunter Education Instructors participating.”
 - As such, several instructors inquired about becoming a Range Safety Officer (RSO).
 - Bob Palmer is a Training Councilor and can teach RSO and Chief RSO course and tried a pilot program in region 4.
 - The training has been well accepted and staff members are working with other Chief RSO and training councilors to increase the availability of the program.
 - The RSO training is not needed to meet the policy, but can be a help in executing the live-fire protocols.
- ⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates
 - Region 6
 - Bill was going to attend a class in Sequim on Saturday.
 - He is also working on scheduling ISTs.
 - Bill is working on scheduling and preparing for master hunter orientation presentations in Region 5 and 6.
 - He is also working on getting a PST scheduled in Region 6.
 - Region 5
 - Region 5 instructors are doing well and this is the lowest demand on his time in his tenure as a field coordinator.
 - Dan is working on helping to revise the Trapper Education Manual.
 - He has introduced hunter education into a private school as a club per a request of the school principal.
 - Region 4

- Steve has two ISTs scheduled.
 - One on March 18 at Camp Pigott.
 - One in May in Lynden. The date and location haven't been finalized.
- Steve completed six PSTs this past year.
- Region 4 has a higher online class rate than the rest of the state.
- There have been 191 classes in region 4 through the end of November.
- Steve certified some naval station Whidbey staff as instructors and they are now teaching hunter education to base personnel and their dependents.
- Steve has worked with instructors in region 4 and held several classes in Mandarin.
- Region 3
 - Aaron has been focusing on getting some clinics going.
 - He also secured a new venue, Reds Fly Shop, between Ellensburg and Yakima.
 - He has certified a number of new instructors.
 - Aaron held a youth pheasant clinic hunt at the Sunnyside wildlife area in September.
 - He also has a clinic for upland birds scheduled on December 28.
 - Aaron is starting to plan the spring turkey clinics.
 - He is planning on holding two ISTs.
 - Aaron is working on his instructor's equipment inventories.
 - He was invited to Naches Middle School to do a presentation on Hunter Ed, Conservation, etc.
 - A regional staff member had reached out to districts and is now able to send out hunter education class notifications through the schools.
- Region 2
 - Chuck has been working on instructor's inventories.
 - He held a turkey clinic in April.
 - This year Chuck scheduled a couple clinics but didn't have much interest.
 - He had a youth pheasant hunt in Grant County where 20+ youth participated.
- Region 1
 - Region 1 has had 1200 students complete hunter education so far.
 - Mike held four clinics this season.
 - He also integrated the access booklet into the clinics

- ⊕ Eric Gardner (Wildlife Program Assistant Director) and Mick Cope (Wildlife Program Deputy Assistant Director) came to discuss the Washington Wild Future presentation.
- ⊕ Two years ago the department didn't have a lot of support in the legislature for funding increases.
- ⊕ WDFW Director Jim Unsworth came in and started spearheading the Wild Future effort to get input from the public to ensure the department understands what the public want and what it may cost.
- ⊕ The department held public meetings to get information on what was of value to them.
- ⊕ Department staff listened to the input from the public and compared costs of the wants and needs to the current WDFW budget.
- ⊕ This information allowed the department to see the current budget shortfall.
- ⊕ This legislative session, the department will ask for an increased budget and have the wants and needs identified by the public to provide to legislators.
- ⊕ The department also looked at increasing fees to help with the budget shortfall.
- ⊕ The Fish Programs budget is far off from the public's wants and needs.
- ⊕ The Wildlife Programs budget is less than a million dollars off what it would cost to give the public their wants and needs.
- ⊕ To give the public their wants and needs the Wildlife Program is proposing a 10% fee increase across the board.
 - Mick and Eric distributed a fact sheet about the license fees increase.
- ⊕ The department needs legislative approval to increase the license fees.
- ⊕ Hunting access was a large want and need from the public and it can be a huge draw on funding.
- ⊕ The development of a mobile app is also being proposed and considered.
- ⊕ The Wild Future meetings showed that the public liked the idea of more enforcement officers. The department could potentially hire four more officers if the budget request is granted.
- ⊕ The department has also worked with the falconry community.
- ⊕ There used to be a falconry permit that all falconers had to purchase, but this was a federal program and is no longer an active program. It was proposed to the falconry community to start charging a fee for falcons and falconers.
- ⊕ There is also talk about having a discounted first license for hunter education graduates.
- ⊕ In the proposal, the migratory bird permit would also increase to match the federal stamp cost.
- ⊕ There is also the possibility that the department may offer deals on package licenses.
- ⊕ There is also language in the budget request that would allow the department to adjust fees as needed for inflation.
- ⊕ Questions:
 - Is there a reason we regulate elk to east or west?
 - The reason the department designates elk hunters to eastern or western Washington is hunter separation, drawing odds, etc. If

the hunters were not required to choose, most would put in for eastern Washington elk special permits and if not drawn, would hunt western Washington.

- It was mentioned that there is a liability protection for private lands access. Would that liability extend to timberland owners?
 - If a person recreating on a private parcel gets hurt and no fee was exchanged, the recreationist cannot sue the landowner.
 - Once a landowner changes to pay to play, does their tax status change to a recreation company?
 - No, that does not currently happen.
 - Have you looked at other states and their land access?
 - Yes, it wouldn't work in Washington because the other states have more money from out of state licenses, etc.
 - Are you going to work with USFS on road closures and habitat improvements? Would PR money be able to be used to help?
 - Right now the department has limited engagement with the Federal road plans. Currently the department is not staffed to engage in this work.
 - The Habitat Program is starting to work on staffing to address this issue.
 - With regards to sales on tags and licenses, if people are anticipating a sale, they will wait until the thing goes on sale. Have you thought about this?
 - Yes, the department knows that there could be a drop in license sales dollars, but if done right, hunters may possibly purchase more tags.
 - Have you looked at the cost of licenses to the poaching cases? If our license fees go up, are more families or people possibly going to poach animals?
 - Seldom with Eric's 20 years' experience in Arizona as a commissioned officer was the poaching based on license fees being too expensive.
 - What's the value added to offer a \$20 discount for HE Grads?
 - Trying to stimulate an R3 effort. The department feels this may increase the percentage of HE Grads that buy a license. Currently 50% buy licenses.
- ⊕ The department is also looking into alternative funding sources and having non-consumptive users contribute more money to the agency.
- ⊕ Staff members are working to request funding to search for new areas of funding.
- ⊕ QUESTIONS:
- Is there any regulation on match dollars for the blue ribbon panel money?

- You need to match it with money that is not also federally provided.
- Has it been looked at to allow 65+ senior hunters getting a discounted license?
 - It has been looked at and it isn't financially feasible. The majority of our hunters are getting to the age that they would qualify for the discount and would decrease funding and opportunity.

⊙ Lunch

⊙ Instructor Incentive Permits: Points Option (approx. 1:00)

- ⊕ Special Guests Commissioner Jay Kehne and Instructor Sean Issac were unable to attend the meeting.
- ⊕ Dave gave a background on the Hunter Education Instructor Incentive tags for the membership.
- ⊕ He asked the committee members if they would like to see points added for table 1.
- ⊕ Ray had sent an email to all region 1 chiefs in Spokane, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Ferry counties about the HEI Incentives. He got one response and it did not address the incentive permits.
- ⊕ Cathy talked to her instructors and they didn't need a points system.
 - She talked to about 16 people and they liked it as is.
- ⊕ Creation of points may make the instructors have to teach more classes and more frequent classes to get their points.
- ⊕ Sam Grubbs had done an informal survey on his instructors.
- ⊕ He had 19 reply:
 - 6 had no feelings.
 - 4 like the system as is.
 - 9 wanted some type of system but were unsure what that might be.
- ⊕ After a rather lengthy discussion of the pros (limited) and more numerous cons, the committee took a self-initiated vote on whether a points system should be implemented.
 - The committee voted unanimously in opposition of a points system.

⊙ 2017 Regional ISTs; Need Agenda Topics

- ⊕ The 2017 Regional ISTs are quickly approaching.
- ⊕ Current agenda looks like:
 - Welcome
 - Benefits for being a HEI
 - IHEA discounts, HEI Incentive permits, etc.
 - Hunting community and we are all one.
 - Reasonable Accommodation
 - Lunch
 - Non-toxic ammunition
 - Biologist presentations

- R1 – Moose
- R2 – Mule Deer
- R3 – Bighorn Sheep
- R4, 5, 6 – Hoof disease
- Service Awards
- ⊕ A suggestion was made to have the I-594 pamphlet available

⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Recap**

- ⊕ This year WDFW celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day on October 1 at the North Central Washington Gun Club in East Wenatchee.
- ⊕ There were 78 youth, ages 2 to 17, and approximately 120 adults who attended.
- ⊕ They had the ability to visit six shooting stations throughout the day to experience target shooting with .223 rifles, .22 rifles, and air rifles, as well as trap shooting, and archery shooting.
- ⊕ Instructors, master hunters, and WDFW Police officers helped the participants with their shooting. Many of the participants had no firearms experience.
- ⊕ At registration all youth participants were gifted a reusable bag that included a blaze orange safety vest, eye protection, ear plugs, moist towelette to clean up after shooting, and leaflets from the Audubon Society and WDFW.
- ⊕ Participants were also able to earn a Hunter Education Flashlight, Survival Bandana, and NHFD Bracelets by participating in shooting activities.
- ⊕ Several non-government partners joined us this year as sponsors and provided displays, information and activities. Sponsors included Wenatchee Sportsman's Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, Mule Deer Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, Team Naturaleza, and the USFWS. Participants received give-aways, and door prizes donated by local sporting goods stores, and everyone enjoyed a free lunch donated by Volterra Restaurants and Pacific Food Importers.
- ⊕ There were several other activities, such as rod and reel casting lessons, a virtual turkey hunt sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation, making plaster casts of wildlife tracks, fish and wildlife-related crafts, and Gytaku (Japanese style fish printing).
- ⊕ There were also mini-clinics on; knot tying, scent control while hunting, and walleye fishing.
- ⊕ Participants visited several displays including the WDFW Hunter Education display, the WDFW TIP (Turn in a Poacher) Trailer/display (staffed by enforcement officers), poster-sized blow-ups of the National Shooting Sports Foundation's infographics, and Operation Lifesaver (rail safety education).

⊙ **Discussion on IAC Workplan Items**

- ⊕ **Moved to future meeting.**

⊙ **Future Meeting Schedule**

- ⊕ Discussion on setting static meetings for the coming year
 - March 25

- June 17
- September 9
- December 2

⦿ Approval of last meeting notes

⊕ Approved