

“GREEN SHEET”

Meeting: March 12-13, 2010

Agenda Item: Presentation of the Annual Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award and Special Recognition For Fred Burr, Hunter Education Volunteer For 50 Years – Briefing only

Prepared By: Mik Mikitik, Hunter Education Division

Presented By: Chief Bruce Bjork and Mik Mikitik

Background:

Fish and Wildlife Officer Terry Hoffer was shot and killed by negligent hunters while on routine patrol during the fall 1984 hunting season. The Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award (THMFSA) is presented annually to one volunteer hunter education instructor who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to firearm safety and hunter education training during the previous 12-month period.

The award is funded via interest-bearing custodial accounts administered by the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA). Other individuals and organizations—including hunter education instructors and the Washington Game Warden Association (WGA)—have made generous contributions to ensure that the award continues in perpetuity.

Nominees for THMFSA come from an open nomination process between July and November each year. Nominees are recommended by both fellow instructors and WDFW staff. The initial list of nominees is reviewed and discussed in depth by WDFW Hunter Education Division staff, who select the final three nominees. A separate, independent committee—composed of representatives of WHEIA, WGA, and former recipients of THMFSA—discuss and vote to select the annual recipient.

The other award to be made at this Commission meeting is for Fred Burr. Burr is a West Seattle resident who has taught hunter education continuously for 50 years. To honor his five decades of public service, the state’s two instructor associations—WHEIA and the Hunter Education Resources Organization (HERO)—purchased and engraved a shotgun to present to him.

Policy Issue(s) you are bringing to the Commission for consideration:

This briefing is “informational” only. The purpose is to honor the achievements and contributions of two outstanding individuals to WDFW’s Hunter Education Training Program.

Public involvement process used and what you learned:

WDFW, in conjunction with WHEIA, WGA, and hunter education instructors throughout the state, present the THMFSA award every year because it recognizes the most important component of hunter education: firearm safety. WDFW accepts nominations from July to November each year, to garner the names of as many hunter-education instructor candidates as possible. Nominations

are made by hunter education instructors and WDFW staff. Both groups are reliable in identifying hunter education instructors who should be considered for the award.

Action requested (identify the specific Commission decisions you are seeking):

This briefing is informational only. No formal action is planned for this agenda item, aside from the Commission recognizing the annual THMFSA nominee, and Fred Burr.

Draft motion language:

N/A

Justification for Commission action:

N/A

Communications plan:

The department will coordinate with Public Affairs (PA) to issue a press release if PA deems it appropriate.
