



Web-Based Registration: Will Your Team Support It?

COMPLETING STUDENT REGISTRATION FORMS is a time-consuming process for both students and instructors. A good question for all instructor teams to chew on is "Can your teaching team support development of an online student registration process?"

Data is always necessary—both for effective program evaluation and to provide basic public service (original student certification cards, duplicate replacements, etc.). For the past 50 years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has relied on chief instructors to provide all basic data via student registration forms and an instructor course report.

Historically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has required Washington hunter education staff to maintain print-based student registration forms as audit documents—to verify the numbers of students we annually report. However, it now appears that e-reporting of student (not instructor) records also meets federal aid standards, opening the door to developing an online student registration process.

Statewide online registration is now taking place in at least one state

(Pennsylvania), which gives instructors a choice: Use the print-based system (similar to our bubble forms) or migrate to their new, online system. The beauty of the online system is that it saves valuable class time by eliminates the need for completing forms during class. Here's how it works for Pennsylvania instructors:

- ◆ Instructors post all classes online. Instructors can set limits on class size.
- ◆ Students enroll online—completing all basic data in advance of class.
- ◆ Instructors print their class rosters directly from online student rosters.
- ◆ At the conclusion of class, instructors simply use online check-boxes to document student performance, then submit e-records for their students.
- ◆ The instructor course report is still required (by U.S.F.W.S.) as a primary audit document.

While their online system is far from perfect, it does save time, paper and effort. Please share your thoughts!

Still Room Available For Yakima IST!

THE YAKIMA IN-SERVICE TRAINING (IST) program is just a few weeks away and there's still time to register! A \$35 registration fee will provide four meals (Saturday lunch through Sunday lunch), a hotel room shared with a fellow

instructor as well as training, fun and camaraderie. The 2008 IST promises to be informative and enjoyable...so why not join us?

Ken Goddard, director of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory—the only wildlife forensics lab in the

world!—will be one of our featured speakers on Saturday. Ken's staff have helped solve a number of unusual wildlife cases for both state and federal wildlife agencies.

See 'ya in Yakima!

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Dates To Remember

- February 22 – 23, Tri-Cities PST
- March 7 – 8, Summer PST
- April 12 – 13, Yakima In-Service Training

Important Contacts

- Olympia: 1-800-215-1979
- Chuck Ray: 1-800-468-5006
- E-mail: huntered@dfw.wa.gov
- Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

Turkey Safety Tips

SPRING TURKEY SEASON is just around the corner, and the growing popularity of turkey hunting means more hunters afield. The National Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force—comprised of specialists from a broad range of backgrounds—reminds hunter education instructors that the most common cause of turkey hunting incidents is failure to correctly identify the target.

Safety recommendations from past Task Force meetings include:

- ◆ Never have turkey decoys visible while they are being transported.
- ◆ Whenever possible, set up by a tree, stump or rock that is wider than your shoulders and taller than your head. From your seated position, establish a “sight line” that allows you 100 yards visibility, and set up your decoy(s) approximately 20 yards from your position on the line.
- ◆ If you observe other hunters, call out in a loud, clear voice. Their presence has already compromised your location and a “soft” call may only confuse them—not alert them to your presence.
- ◆ If you have been calling over decoys and decide to move to a new location, check carefully to ensure that nobody has been stalking your decoys before leaving your setup.
- ◆ Use extreme caution when carrying a harvested bird over your shoulder.

For more information, go online to the National Wild Turkey Federation web site at www.nwtf.org

The above online address offers a “For Hunters” section, which contains a link to the entire 18-page Safety Task Force report.

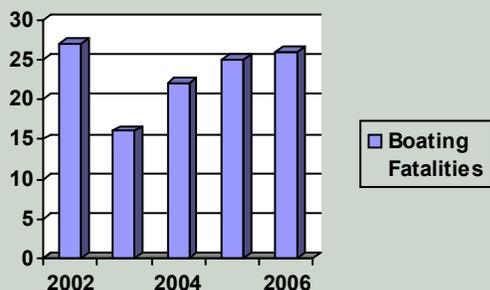
Other useful turkey hunting safety information available from the NWTF web site includes:

- ◆ *About Turkeys*—with lots of valuable information.
- ◆ *Defensive Turkey Hunting*—with an obvious emphasis on safety.
- ◆ *Hunting Tactics*—offering suggestions to improve success.

The NWTF web site offers lots of material for both new and experienced turkey hunters!

Boating Safety Fatalities

One picture quickly answers the question, “In terms of safety statistics, which Washington State recreational activity typically has a higher numbers of fatalities: Boating or hunting?” Uninformed individuals will almost assume that hunting has a worse safety record. Data below is from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission records.



IST OPTIONS

Options available for the annual IST requirement include:

- ◆ Home Study Option. Instructors who do not attend the April 2008 Yakima training will receive a home study packet to complete and return, or they can choose other options below.
- ◆ Instructor’s Forum. Attend a meeting in your area with Dan Boes or Chuck Ray. A minimum of 10 instructors is required to conduct a Forum. *Instructors must request this option.*
- ◆ Chief Instructor Waiver. Any Chief Instructor who serves as a chief instructor in three or more classes can request an IST waiver for the calendar year. *Must request this option.*
- ◆ Active Instructor Waiver. A certified instructor who teaches in three or more classes with at least 10 hours’ participation total can request a waiver. *Must request this option.*
- ◆ Cross-Training Waiver. A certified instructor who teaches with another group for at least 2-1/2 hours can request an IST waiver for the calendar year. *Must request this option.*

Instructors must complete their annual IST requirement by 12/31 to remain active in the hunter education program. Instructors who do not complete the IST will become inactive.

Field Notes: News, Views And More....

Remember

Policy: Instructors charging a fee of more than \$5 per student are required to get approval in writing in advance! This policy applies to every instructor and every team.

Grant applications for shooting range development should be available in early April. Although no final budget amount has been established for 2008, WDFW typically provides funding for both small-scale (less than \$5,000) and large-scale (up to \$25,000) projects. Range grant applications will be available to instructors attending the IST in Yakima.

The Fishing and Hunting Recruitment and Retention survey conducted by USFWS (available on their web site at www.fws.gov) identified the Pacific Region—which includes Washington State—as one of the two regions in the United States with the lowest hunting initiation rate. The Pacific Region had a 4% rate, and only the New England Region had a lower rate at 3%. The highest initiation rates were in the West North Central Region (15%) and East South Central Regions (16%). The 40+ page report notes that both fishing and hunting participation has fallen from 1991 levels.

More recent research funded by The Nature Conservancy confirms substantial declines (ranging from 18 – 25 %) in various types of outdoor recreation, including visitation to state and national park system facilities.

A Braille hunter education manual is available for visually-impaired students that can read Braille. Because of the high cost of developing the Braille manual, it is only available on a loan basis and must be returned to the Olympia office after completion of the course.

Approximately 900 individuals have requested hunter education deferrals since September—about 80% more demand than anticipated. While the deferral program generated a great deal of extra work, it has also generated revenue to

cover costs at \$20 per application. The user-pay, once-in-a-lifetime deferral seems to be finding more favor with adults ages 18 and over. Approximately 60% of applicants are adults.

Reports from the field do not yet indicate any unusual problems. Individuals hunting under a deferral license have a special designation on their hunting licenses, allowing Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers to quickly identify them. Hunter education staff have only heard of two violations to date (one failure to tag, one hunting without direct supervision), both involving adult hunters.

Capt. Rich Mann, Yakima, gets a number of questions surrounding “What if...,” including *‘What if a hunter legally shoots an animal which subsequently runs onto private property where it dies? Whose animal is it?’*

Capt. Mann points out that the animal belongs to the State of Washington.

The hunter takes lawful possession from the State of Washington by legally hunting the animal in an open season with valid licenses and tags and by tagging it lawfully.

The landowner has no lawful claim to the animal since s/he did not shoot it and cannot possess wildlife found dead. The hunter is legally entitled to the animal.

The obvious follow-up question is, *‘Can the hunter go onto private property and get the animal without permission?’*

Trespass is the act of unlawfully entering and remaining on the property of another without permission. A hunter is subject to a citation for trespassing if s/he goes on property without permission to tag and retrieve the dead animal.

If a landowner unreasonably withholds permission, s/he may be subject to the argument that such reckless action allowed the dead animal to go to waste.

Another common question is, *‘Can the Fish and Wildlife Officer enter onto the property and get the animal?’*

RCW 77.12.154 states that fish and wildlife officers may enter upon any lands or waters and remain there while performing their duties without liability for trespass. An officer could argue that

preventing the wastage by recovering the animal is “performing duties.” Ideally, everyone works together to see that the rightful person retains the animal and that the landowner’s wishes and concerns are met.

The bigger part of the whole trespass discussion resolves around the hunter and the shot choice s/he made. It gives instructors a great scenario to emphasize the need for the hunter to make a clean, quick, one-shot kill. If the animal goes down immediately, there can be no argument about recovery. It can also be used to stress that a hunter needs to be aware of where the animal may go if it does not die immediately. Hunters should refrain from hunting directly adjacent to unit boundaries, game reserves, closed lands, etc., or taking poor shots when an animal may be able to enter upon closed lands.

RCW 77.15.720 establishes the license suspension penalty at 3 years for shooting another person or livestock—unless the shooting is the result of criminal negligence or reckless or intentional conduct. Then the suspension rises to 10 years.

JAN's Corner

Although special permit applications are still months away, it's time to check your supply of temporary hunter education certificates.

As a reminder, temporary certificates are assigned only to Chief Instructors and should be limited to those students who need a certificate immediately.

Please remember that temporary certificates are reserved for students enrolled in your current classes and are not to be used as a replacement duplicate hunter education certificate.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Yakima in early April! Keep up the good work with your course and student records.

Archery Trade Association (ATA) Summit

BY CHUCK RAY, *Eastern Washington Hunter Education Field Coordinator*

HAVE YOU HEARD of the PGA's *First Tee* program and what it has done for the sport of golf? Are you aware of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and their *Step Outside* and *First Shots* programs and what they are designed to do for the shooting sports?

The PGA's *First Tee* program is a fee program designed to get youth involved in the sport of golf. The PGA realized that there were fewer and fewer people taking up the sport of golfing, so they implemented the *First Tee* program to encourage young kids to take up the sport. Many golf courses around the country now have the program, which the PGA subsidizes. Just look at the number of golfers now!

The NSSF realized the same thing was happening with the shooting sports and so they developed new programs to attract new folks.

Back in December I attended the ATA Summit in Ohio. I learned that five years ago the ATA decided that bowhunting and target archery needed a shot in the arm and so they started the *National Archery in the Schools Program* (NASP). The main focus for the summit was recruitment and retention for the sport, how well NASP was doing, and promoting target archery.

The ATA is now trying to implement NASP in every state, and currently more than 40 states offer it. To encourage states to get involved, the ATA offers a \$15,000 grant for training materials; to date they have awarded \$640,000 in grants! Washington implemented NASP in 2005 and today it is orchestrated by Dave Mack, who volunteers his time. Already 35 schools have signed on with 60 teachers now trained to teach archery. A total of 30,000 students have been taught. (NOTE: Our hunter education program has helped fund NASP to the tune of \$14,000 over the last two years.)

The ATA is now looking at how to transition those NASP students into bowhunting and target archery after they leave school. There is a new ATA program being implemented called *After School Archery Program* (ASAP) to keep young people involved in target archery. There is also a big push to draw young folks into Olympic archery competition.

I found the summit informative and was encouraged to see the archery industry focused on the future.

Student Survey: Responses To Date Indicate Strong Satisfaction

SINCE LATE MARCH 2007 about 11,500 students have enrolled in hunter education classes, and almost 8% of graduates took the time to voluntarily complete a survey and tell us what they think about our program. Listed below are the questions we asked students along with a summary of their response rankings by percentages. Student were offered choice selections from *Poor* (1 or 2), *Fair* (3), or *Good* (4 or 5)

<i>Was the instructor well prepared?</i>	97% good, <1% poor
<i>Did the instructor teach in an interesting way?</i>	91% good, 2.5% poor
<i>Did students have a chance to ask questions?</i>	97.3% good, <1% poor
<i>Did students understand directions and explanations?</i>	94.3% good, 1% poor
<i>Did instructors give individual attention to students who needed it?</i>	91.5% good, 2.2% poor
<i>Did class start and finish on time?</i>	93% good, <1% poor
<i>Was the <u>Student Manual</u> useful?</i>	96.2% good, <1% poor
<i>Did the visual aids used in class help you understand the course material?</i>	95.6% good, <1% poor
<i>Was the written test fair?</i>	95% good, <1% poor
<i>Was the classroom comfortable?</i>	80% good, 6.5% poor
<i>Did you feel you learned the information you needed to become a safe hunter?</i>	99.4% said "Yes"
<i>Would you recommend this class to your friends?</i>	97.7% said "Yes"

From The Desk Of Lt. Crown: Order Shirts By March 28

MORE HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS are now wearing the same WDFW long-sleeved and WDFW polo shirts worn by Dan Boes and Chuck Ray. Well, that's because they have paid for the shirts themselves!

WDFW has approved instructors' use of agency logo shirts as hunter education uniform items. Naturally, any such use is restricted to appropriate venues (e.g., classes, sports shows, fairs, and meetings, etc.).

To simplify the ordering process, hunter education division now order pre-paid shirts only two times per year. The last order deadline was July 31.

If you wish to purchase either the button-down long-sleeved shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) or the short-sleeved polo shirt (with embroidered WDFW logo) we must have your check in the Olympia office by 5:00 p.m. March 28. Checks received after that date will be held until the next order deadline in late July.

All shirts are produced to order, and there may be more than a three month delay between the order deadline and the actual receipt of the shirts. Please be patient! The prices and shirt sizes are in the table on the right.

Checks should be made payable to WDFW / HED Sus-

pense Account. Include a note indicating size, color and quantity required. Send checks to staff in Olympia..

Sizes beyond 3XL are available, for the slightly higher charges shown below.

Be sure to include a note with your name, shirt style, size and quantity and colors ordered!

Style (with logo)	Size	Color	Cost
Polo shirt	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	11.50
	XXL	Khaki or green	13.50
Long-sleeve	S, M, L, XL	Khaki or green	21.75
	XXL/3XL	Khaki or green	23.75
	4XL/5XL	Khaki or green	25.75

Register Now For 2008 Pre-Service Training Classes

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING (PST) is a requirement for new instructor applicants.

Please note that all new instructors are required to attend a training session prior to certification.

February 22 – 23	Tri-Cities
March 7 – 8	Summer
March 28 – 29	Yakima
April 25 – 26	Colville
May 9 – 10	Custer
May 30 – 31	Walla Walla
June 20 – 21	Chelan
	Kitsap TBA
July 18 – 19	Spokane

There is no exception—every new instructor is required to successfully complete the PST prior to certification.

Signing up for a PST training is painless process. Simply check the PST training dates, decide which location and dates best meet your schedule and provide Chuck Ray (eastern Washington) or Dan Boes (western Washington) with your name, telephone number, your preferred PST training dates

and you're done!

Registration for all PST's must be made at least seven days in advance of the scheduled training dates. All attendees receive and study materials in advance to prepare for the PST. There is pre-class work required and, therefore, we actively discourage last-minute registration.

PST enrollments are limited. Once a PST location has reached its maximum enrollment, registration will be closed for that location. In simple English, that means first-come, first-served.

A minimum number of new applicants per location is required to conduct a PST program. If we have too few applicants for a given location, we may cancel that training session. All participants will be notified in advance in event of cancellation.

As always, contact Chuck Ray (eastern Washington) or Dan Boes (western Washington) if you have any questions.

PST Results Are Positive!

The PST Program is designed specifically for new instructors, although experienced instructors are always welcome to attend, space permitting. Participant comments on the post-training evaluation forms offer one useful measure to judge success, and those comments are uniformly very positive.

The PST training program—much like any well-planned hunter education student class—derives much of its success from student-centered learning activities. Whether the topic is lesson planning or hunter education policies and procedures, participants are actively involved as much as possible.

The 10-hour training program covers a lot of ground in a compact time frame, but it definitely hits the mark when it comes to preparing instructors for their responsibilities inside hunter education classes. Why not try it?

Help Needed At May 16 – 17 Youth Outdoor Adventure Expo

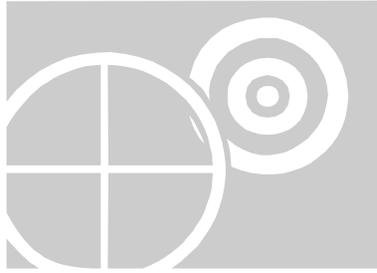
THE 2008 YOUTH OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPO will be at the Benton County Fairground May 16 – 17. Instructors are needed to run the pellet shooting range, which is a popular venue.

Please contact Chuck Ray, 1-800-468-5006, if you are interested in helping. Per diem assistance is available to qualifying instructors.

This is the second year of the Youth Outdoor Expo. The inaugural expo was in Longview (western Washington) in May 2007.

Friday is reserved for local schools, but the Saturday program is open to the general public.

The expo provides hands-on



activities and other education opportunities for everyone, regardless of age, physical ability or experience. In addition to the pellet range, planned activities include archery, birding trails, blacksmith demo, a canoe pond, casting, fish painting, fly tying, geo-caching, a horse packing demo, trout pond and warm water species fishing, rock climbing and a variety of other exhibits.

The Youth Outdoor Adventure

Expo is part of the Go Play Outside Alliance of Washington, which represents a broad coalition of outdoor groups.

The Expo will provide opportunities for wildlife enthusiasts and “wannabe” enthusiasts to get involved with various aspects of the outdoors.

Experienced sportsmen-and-women and outdoor professionals will introduce both entry-level and advanced outdoor skills and help share important conservation concepts. Expo activities focus on learning fish and wildlife-related outdoor skills and the safe, responsible application of those skills.

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Online learning now available at www.hunter-ed.com/wa/

Email: huntered@dfw.wa.gov
Blog: <http://hunter-education.blogspot.com>

“Safety First”

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wdfw.wa.gov**