Welcome & General Interest Announcements (60 minutes)

IAC Member Roundtable

Rich Mann
- Rich helped Jim Conway with a class early in the year.
- He also helped Stacy Wilson with two online classes.

Jim Conway
- Jim had one class so far.
- He had to cancel the next three classes due to COVID-19.
- Jim also had two Master Hunter proctored tests he has to reschedule.

Randy Absolon
- Randy’s team did a January traditional class.
- He had online classes in February and March.
- His next class is scheduled for May 9.

Butch Buffalo
- Butch had his first traditional and online classes early this year.
- His team is discussing contacting people from his cancelled class and inviting them to the next class.

Jeff Bull
- Jeff’s first class had to be cancelled due to the shutdown.
- He tentatively scheduled a traditional class in June.

Eric Lauver
- Eric has not had a class yet due to COVID-19.
- He will wait until the shutdown is lifted before posting a class.

Bob Palmer
- Bob cancelled classes due to COVID-19.

John Malek
- John held classes in February and early-March.
- Both classes were well attended.
- John’s next class is not scheduled until August.

Larry Lufkin
- Larry cancelled a class in Olympia due to the COVID-19 shutdown.
- He sent the Directors report out to his instructors and had one instructor upset about the fishing closure.

Steve Mills
- Steve had a class scheduled with Centralia college for college students, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.
- He will work on holding the college class after the shutdown lifts.
Jim Gleiter
- Jim’s classes are scheduled for June, July, and August.

Sam Grubbs
- Sam missed the last IAC meeting because he was helping another instructor.
- He had a class in March before the shutdown.
- He and his team are working on an orange gun video, but it is on hold until after the shutdown.

Jim Sevier
- Jim had one class in February.
- He had a class in March and April get cancelled.
- Jim helped Steven Dazey with the range safety officer class at the Ridgefield office.
- Jim also took the online class to see what it was all about.

IAC Member Communications with Regional Instructors

Jeff Bull
- Jeff heard from Ray Boone about the department purchasing toy guns for handling practices.

Sam Grubbs didn’t get a list, so he did not contact anyone.

Bob Palmer
- Are we going to allow students who passed online to go back and have a field day?
- The department may market the online field skills evaluation to those people who have completed the virtual field day.

WDFW Updates (45 Minutes)

Student statistics

- 2019 stats through March were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Classes</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>2,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>2,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pass</td>
<td>1,926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fail</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Incomplete</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No-show</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % Fail</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % NS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 2020 stats through March are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Classes</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>2,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>1,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pass</td>
<td>1,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fail</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Incomplete</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No-show</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % Fail</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % NS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The difference between 2020 and 2019 classes through March are as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Classes</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>-692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>-514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Pass</td>
<td>-407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fail</td>
<td>-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Incomplete</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No-show</td>
<td>-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % Fail</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % NS</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Instructors & Instructor Applicants
  - As of March 23, 2020, WDFW has 1,041 certified instructors.
  - WDFW certified one instructor in January 2020.

- Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates
  - Mike Whorton
    - WDFW is holding the National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration on Sept 26 at Camp Cowles in Newport.
    - WDFW will need volunteers for the event.
  - Aaron Garcia
    - Aaron will be cleaning out his trailer this next week.
    - He has cancelled spring turkey hunt mentoring.
    - Aaron has also been emailing and calling his instructors
    - He is working on a new Master Hunter database with Kris.
  - Steve Dazey
    - Steve completed five range safety officer classes.
    - He had to postpone the last two classes.
    - He worked with a new chief instructor on the administrative processes required.
    - He assisted the department with the inventory check for five Skagit instructors.
    - He had an instructor move during the shutdown and he facilitated her inventory transfer digitally.
Steve had to cancel a pre-service training class for 15 applicants before the shutdown.
He is working with the Civil Air Patrol staff to hold a hunter education class and a basic rifle class to certify those members.
He has been contacting his chief instructors to see how they are doing and what they may need during the COVID-19 closure.

Amy Elliott
Amy had one instructor who was teaching a traditional class that had to be cancelled midstream.
She had a women-oriented shotgun clinic scheduled on March 14 but cancelled the clinic due to weather and COVID-19 concerns.
She helped with the range safety officer class at the Ridgefield office.
Amy has 12 applicants waiting on a pre-service training.
She is making lots of contacts with her instructors.
Amy is also working with Kris on updates on the student manual.

Bill Montgomery
Bill has been contacting his instructors.
He had a couple of traditional classes in progress when the shutdown happened.
Bill is also working on organizing his work truck.

WDWF Budget and Legislative Update (15 Minutes)
Dave reminded IAC about the information previously provided on the budget and why WDFW faced such a large funding gap this past legislative session.
Please refer to WDFW’s budget and finance webpage for that operating budget background information:
https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/administration/budget/operating
WDWF’s supplemental budget request was for $26 million of State General Fund (money that comes from general taxpayers across the state).
Most of the $26 million was requested as an ongoing appropriation, so WDFW wouldn’t have to request funding to back-fill the budget in the future.
The $26 million would maintain core and essential services as well as $6.8 million for new emergent needs.
WDWF did not request a recreational license fee bill in 2020 to generate additional revenue.
WDWF also requested $21.3 million for five projects through a capital budget supplemental request.
The legislature appropriated WDFW $27 million in State General Fund in this supplemental operating budget.
This will fund WDFW’s core services through June 2021 and allocates significant resources for new work.
The ongoing dollars are close to fully funding today’s needs in outyears. This is a huge improvement, especially in a supplemental year.
WDFW also received $4.6 million in the capital budget, including funding for the Soos Creek Hatchery, the Pier 86 marine terminal, and the Wiley Slough dike raising.

The governor vetoed approximately $445 million within the supplemental budget in anticipation of future revenue losses due to COVID-19.

WDFW’s structural deficit was not affected by the vetoes.

The governor’s vetoes did affect the following WDFW work without directly affecting staff:

- A reduction to WDFW’s spending authority from the State Wildlife Account, which allows WDFW to utilize existing revenue in that account.
- $800,000 to create a Hydraulic Permit Application permittee assistance program.
- $573,000 for a reverse auction of Columbia River salmon gill net licenses.
- $95,000 of pass-through funding to the Woodland Park Zoo to investigate shell disease in western pond turtles.
- $300,000 provided for elk fencing and other conflict management tools in the Skagit Valley.

The Governor also vetoed an ongoing $400K proviso for aquatic invasive species inspections. While this would have enhanced our capacity, it does not impact current FTE capacity.

Vetoes of Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding affecting WDFW are:

- $300,000 to work with state land management agencies to develop a standardized method to measure and report land stewardship needs and costs on parcels purchased with state capital funding through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.
- $75,000 for DNR, Parks, WDFW, and broad stakeholders, to develop a vision and legislative strategy to invest in, promote, and support outdoor recreation.

Bob had a question about the lead ammunition legislation, but the bill did not pass in the short session.

Both of WDFW’s agency-request bills (HB 2571 and SB 6072) passed.

COVID-19 and Hunter Ed Processes Update (30 minutes)

- WDFW is posting COVID-19 updates at https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates
- Youth spring turkey season was cancelled.
- Spring turkey season and spring bear seasons have been postponed. WDFW will reassess in early May.
  - Local health departments have been consulted & support the cancellations & postponements
- Temporarily, WDFW has transitioned to an all online class format and replaced our field skills evaluations with a virtual field day on March 16.
This meets the Revised Code of Washington requirement of more than ten hours of instruction.

There was some abuse of that opportunity, whereby some very young students were certified.

WDFW implemented a minimum age of 9 to take the online class and virtual field day on March 31 (Kalkomey made the change soon after).

As of April 9, 98 people under 9 years old completed the online and virtual field day.

WDFW is assessing possible actions for students under 9 who were certified during the all online class.

Currently, all classes with a start date thru May 4 have been cancelled.

Demand for classes after May 4 is unknown and will likely depend on the COVID situation and possible changes to hunting seasons.

There may be instructor and venue availability issues for holding classes.

WDFW will assess whether it would be beneficial to slowly phase out the online class and virtual field day to help meet public demand, especially for older students.

WDFW may actively promote and offer field skills evaluations to students who completed the online class and virtual field day to improve knowledge and skills.

This would likely need to be grade-free and voluntary since the students already completed the required course.

A suggestion was made to contact students who were registered for a cancelled class but didn’t take the online and virtual field day and let them know when classes are again available.

John Malek asked how many people took the online course since the transition.

As of April 9, a little over 1,900 have taken the online class.

Hal asked if we can flag the 1900 participants to see if there is a spike in issues associated with the online only classes.

Butch asked about the age ranges of folks who took the virtual online field skills.

Dave shared the certification data by sharing his screen so the members could see the data.

Bob asked if people who are becoming certified that obviously couldn’t complete the class will be removed from the hunter education database.

Dave is working with Eric Gardner, Program Director on this issue and will most likely decertify some individuals.

Bob had questions on the excessive wait times on the virtual field day.

The timers are set to meet the 10-hour requirement by law.

Bob also had sections where his instructors could select multiple review quizzes.

Kris did not have this happen to him but he will go back to review it.

Hunter education instructor incentive permits may be affected this year.

The two incentive permits for the 2020 spring turkey season has currently been shortened from 8 weeks to at most 4 weeks.

WDFW is considering options we might be to offer to the permit recipients.

We will wait and see if the fall big game incentive permits are affected.
WDFW may have to alter the 2021 incentive permit requirements if there are large COVID impacts on the number of classes taught this year.

Similarly, instructor certification retention will consider COVID impacts (e.g. if instructors couldn’t teach in 2020).

IAC will be consulted on changes whenever possible, possibly via email.

There may be other considerations not contemplated yet (WDFW’s focus has been on current COVID issues)

We still hope to be able to offer ISTs this year, but time will tell.

Kris is tracking the possible dates and making the necessary adjustments.

Student Manual Update Discussion (90 minutes)

WDFW is working on updating the current traditional student manual.

The IAC was emailed three PDFs, one of the current manual, one of Kalkomey’s Today’s Hunter, and one of the New Mexico student manual.

Kris started the discussion by asking the IAC which version they preferred and why as well as any suggestions they had to their preferred manual.

Below are the members suggestions:

- **Jeff Bull**
  - Take out the strict regulations and leave in referrals to RCWs and WACs because they change so often.
  - Wildlife ID is long and we could choose to not print that section.
  - Jeff likes the Today’s Hunter and suggested WDFW go that route.
  - Also, make a downloadable version for students to be able to use on a computer or tablet.

- **Jim Gleiter**
  - Jim likes the New Mexico version.
  - He sent some suggestions to Kris on the booklet.
  - He like the suicide prevention information.
  - Jim thinks we need to add handgun shooting techniques to chapter 3.
  - We also need to have some of the Washington specific information in the book.
  - Wildlife ID is a good bit of information and should continue.
  - WDFW needs to add a glossary section like New Mexico.
  - He also thinks we need to add the “Pass It On” section from the New Mexico book.

- **Larry Lufkin**
  - He agrees with Jeff Bull.

- **Jim Sevier**
  - He feels that if we were to go digital students could put the information on their phones.
  - They can then reference the material whenever they want.

- **Steve Mills**
  - Steve likes Today’s Hunter.
• He also likes the idea of a downloadable version of the manual for students.

**Bob Palmer**
• Bob thinks we need to update the suicide prevention information and safe storage information in the New Mexico manual and add to the Washington manual.
• He liked the New Mexico book but also likes the Washington hunter platform.

**John Malek**
• John likes the New Mexico booklet.
• He also thinks parts of the Today’s Hunter book presented the information better.
• He has been handing out the manual to online students as well as traditional students.
• John thinks the online link to the manual would also be a step in the right direction.

**Jim Conway**
• Jim doesn’t do traditional classes at this point.
• He thinks it might be good to give the books to all students.
• Jim suggested we make use of the available white space.

**Rich Mann**
• Rich prefers the Washington book.
• New Mexico is ok with him as well.
• He likes the ability to have digital version for students.
• Rich thinks the wildlife ID section could be condensed.
• WDFW could point students to online publications like “Ducks at a Distance.”

**Randy Absolon**
• Randy agrees with adding suicide prevention into the booklet as well as safe storage.
• He has students each year that do not have internet.
• He thinks the pistol shooting is beyond the class.

**Eric Lauver**
• Eric prefers the Washington Hunter.
• He feels we need to add in hunting skills like Today’s Hunter and/or New Mexico hunter.
• Eric likes the wildlife identification information in the manual.
• Digital vs paper copy is something he likes for the student to be able to choose but likes the paper booklet more.

**Hal Sims**
• Hal would pick Today’s Hunter.
• He would leave some white space to allow for note taking.
• He thinks the basic information is good and allow the instructors to teach the material.
- He thinks wildlife ID can be covered other ways.
- Digital information is needed to be able to cater to those folks who require it.

- **Sam Grubbs**
  - Sam likes the Washington Hunter.
  - He tells his students that they need to know everything about their firearm, and they need to know about the animal they are hunting.
  - Sam likes to have the RCWs and WACs in the manual to allow students to research the more information.
  - He doesn’t think we should include too much pistol shooting since there is not a lot of handgun hunting occurring.
  - He thinks we need to add how to check for obstructions.

- **Butch Buffaloe**
  - Butch thinks we need to update the current regulations in the Washington hunter.
  - Wildlife ID needs to be included.

- Amy thanked the IAC members for their input into the decision.
- She wanted to add the following:
  - The online class is now mirroring Today’s Hunter.
  - WDFW would add the Washington specific information to the PowerPoint if we went away from the Washington Hunter.
  - The Today’s Hunter bulleted points layout is more along the route of how students learn now.

- **For the good of the order**
- **IAC recruitment**
  - Members whose terms are expiring are Sam Grubbs, Jeff Bull, Rich Mann, Cathy Lynch, and Jim Gleiter.
  - WDFW opened the recruitment for IAC members on March 18, 2020.
  - Currently there are four applicants.
  - Kris encouraged the current IAC members whose terms are expiring to reapply for the IAC.

- **Adjourn** – Next meeting is July 25, 2020.