

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES**

**December 1, 2018, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**WDFW Ellensburg Office, 1130 W University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926**

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- John Malek
  - John is holding quite a few classes this year and his team's last one of the year is tomorrow.
  - He updated his field course recently.
  - He has a request from Cascade club to get a new team or expand his teaching areas.
- Bob Palmer
  - Bob has been doing a number of classes.
  - He has noticed this year that the classes have not been filling until recently and has seen up to a 20% cancel rate.
  - Bob has noticed that some students sign up and register for a different class.
  - He volunteered at NHFD in September.
  - He has helped the department by being the training coordinator to help get employees NRA-certified in rifle and shotgun for the new WDFW firearm policy.
  - Bob is also putting on a certified RSO class in December.
- Jeff Bull
  - Jeff taught one class this year.
  - He is a RSO for his department and willing to help teach RSO classes.
- Jim Gleiter
  - Jim taught in several classes this year in several different places.
  - He recruited a female HEI in his area in June and had her through her PST process and teaching in August.
- Steve Mills
  - Steve taught in 15 classes since the last meeting.
  - He had a class with a 60% no show rate (4 attended out of 12 that signed up) and had a 25% fail rate (1 of 4 students).
  - Steve is working on a CHEI PowerPoint to help at PSTs.

- Hal Sims
  - Hal teaches with the INWC team and has become the CHEI.
  - He teaches about four traditional classes each year.
  - His team did eight online classes in August and September.
- Jim Sevier
  - Jim only taught online classes this year.
  - He had to cancel his November class due to no sign ups.
- Eric Lauver
  - Eric taught one traditional class in August, experimented with the class schedule, and seemed to work better for his HEI.
  - He held two online classes in September with a new HEI.
  - He helped at a PF event the same weekend as NHFD.
- Marty Kotzke
  - Marty teaches a traditional class each month and noticed in the start of the year it was really slow.
  - Marty helped at NHFD.
- James Conway
  - He volunteered at NHFD in Moxee.
  - James generally does only online classes but he is interested in starting up with traditional classes.
  - His team teaches one online class a month from February to November.
  - He has ten classes on the schedule for 2019 already with registrations starting about a month before the class.
- Larry Lufkin
  - Larry tries to forward all of the information that the department sends out to his HEI but he generally doesn't get a lot of responses.
  - He has seen an issue with his no-shows but he saw less this year than in past years.
  - Larry started sending reminder emails to students, which decreased the no-show rates.
- Butch Buffaloe
  - Butch was involved with two classes this year.
  - He has his classes for 2019 dates already set and will teach four classes on the weekends.
  - Butch is looking at doing some more online classes mid-week in 2019.

- Rich Mann
  - Rich assisted with three or four classes with James Conway.
  - He volunteered at NHFD for NWTF.
  - He helped with a Muckleshoot tribal day.
  - Rich started with NWTF as their regional director for Washington and Oregon.
  - He did a field day at Cascade Field and Stream but didn't get a lot of attendance.
  - Rich attended a NWTF training and took a class on emails. Millennials generally use the subject line of an email as their filter. Also bullet points in an email are key.
  - He set up a women only NWTF class and associated hunt in November.

⊙ **WDFW Updates**

⊕ Student statistics

- 2017 stats through October were as follows:

<b>Total Classes</b>	<b>721</b>
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>16,296</b>
<b>Registered</b>	<b>12,960</b>
<b>Total Pass</b>	<b>10,508</b>
<b>Total Fail</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Total Incomplete</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Total No-show</b>	<b>1,828</b>
<b>Total % Fail</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total % NS</b>	<b>14</b>

- 2018 stats through October are as follows:

<b>Total Classes</b>	<b>654</b>
<b>Capacity</b>	<b>14,330</b>
<b>Registered</b>	<b>11,034</b>
<b>Total Pass</b>	<b>8,920</b>
<b>Total Fail</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Total Incomplete</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Total No-show</b>	<b>1,732</b>
<b>Total % Fail</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total % NS</b>	<b>16</b>

⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants

- We have had 76 new instructors get their certification this year.

#### ⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates

- Mike Whorton
  - Region 1's student numbers are comparable to last year's numbers.
  - He is noticing that the rural counties are not as well covered as he would like.
  - He has been working on updating the PowerPoints and teaching tips with new videos to meet the demand of the younger generations.
- Steve Dazey
  - Steve certified some new instructors.
  - He completed a female-oriented class and had many positive responses.
  - He has seen an increase in tribal youth and tribal participation in Hunter Education.
- Amy Elliott
  - Amy is working on mentored hunts for pheasants and waterfowl.
  - Amy is working on certifying 12 new instructors.
  - She is also building partnerships within the region.
- Bill Montgomery
  - Region 6 has added more classes this year.
  - He has a PST this weekend and will certify four.
  - Bill is helping Steve with a PST on Vashon on Sunday.
  - He has started working on NHFD 2019.

#### ⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Recap**

- ⊕ We had 65 attendees at the event.
- ⊕ The average age of the attendees was 9.4 years old.
- ⊕ Only three of the 65 had taken a hunter education course previously.
- ⊕ Thirty-five of the 65 (54%) had used a firearm or bow before.
- ⊕ The attendees mostly came from the east side (62%) but 24 (37%) came from the west side.
- ⊕ We wanted to recognize some of the IAC members for their volunteer service at NHFD during our meeting.
- ⊕ We will be thanking MDF and WHEIA with plaques at their meetings.
- ⊕ In addition, we are giving a plaque to the range at their board meeting this month.

#### ⊙ **Outreach Information for Classes**

- ⊕ WDFW marketing has started doing some targeted outreach to recent HE graduates.
- ⊕ Two emails were sent and subsequently tracked.
- ⊕ There were 1,374 recent graduates that did not have a current WILD ID profile and 2,727 recent graduates that had a WILD ID profile.

- ⊕ Of the 1,374 non-WILD ID graduates, 716 purchased a hunting license that generated \$5,325 in revenue.
- ⊕ Of the 2,727 WILD ID graduates, 1,591 purchased a hunting license that generated \$26,961 in revenue.
- ⊕ We would like to know what Hunter Education staff and HEI can do to further market hunting licenses in classes.
  - Is there a handout we might want to ask HEI to distribute on the next steps?
    - Have something small like a business card.
    - Follow up quickly with an email, letter, text etc.
    - Have a print out that the students can go to purchase a license.
    - Point out in class the online license sales system, how to find a dealer, etc.
    - Create urgency in an email to HE graduates.
    - Maybe add into the class how to go hunting etc.
    - Add dealers into GoHunt or other mapping tool.
    - Create a QR code with license information as a print out for class or on the *Washington Hunter* manual.
    - Put a link to next steps in the completion email.
  - IAC suggested that we put together a handout to give to the IAC as a draft for 2019.
  - Butch suggested the department start to target lower volume times because they may not become purchasers. Students in class during lead up to season are most likely going to purchase a license and are in the class to satisfy the need.

### ⊙ **Washington Hunter Informational Sheet**

- ⊕ This sheet was developed to help instructors give the most current information to their students in regards to recent regulation changes since the printing of the 2016 *Washington Hunter*.
- ⊕ WDFW is wondering how the IAC believes the instructors would like to relay this information.
  - It would be better to send the information home with the students like a print out.
    - There is added training value in showing students how changes can occur and in an errata sheet like the regulations.
  - There was a suggestion to have a more bulleted list on what is changed and what page the information is located.
  - Also there was a suggestion to point out to HEI all of the changes such as removed information.

### ⊙ **WDFW Budget Update**

- ⊕ IAC members have likely heard WDFW is facing significant budget challenges in the 2019-2021 biennium and unless the problem is comprehensively addressed

during the 2019 legislative session, WDFW will not be able maintain its current level of services and opportunities.

- ⊕ Ultimately, some of the department's core functions such as programs, services, and facilities will have to be reduced, and in some cases, eliminated.
- ⊕ WDFW conducted a tremendous amount of work since the last legislative session related to the budget situation.
- ⊕ The 2017 Legislature directed WDFW to:
  - find efficiencies in current operations
  - examine the department's management and operations
  - develop a long-term funding plan.
- ⊕ In response to the legislative direction, WDFW did the following:
  - Contracted with an independent consultant to conduct an exhaustive review of WDFW's organizational structure and management. This assessment found WDFW's management practices had not contributed to the funding problem and that WDFW is not funded in an appropriate and sustainable manner.
  - Identified and made \$2 million in spending cuts this fiscal year, which will reduce the budget need into the future.
  - Conducted a bottom-up "zero-based" budget analysis. This examined & verified solid connections between agency operations and legislative goals, and confirmed that WDFW's flexible funding goes towards the highest priorities.
  - Developed a long-term funding plan with help, and ultimately support, from the Budget and Policy Advisory Group. That group was comprised of citizens representing outdoor recreation, businesses depending on fish and wildlife related activities, non-profit conservation organizations, etc. (see: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/bpag/>).
  - The long-term funding plan is the foundation for WDFW's 2019-2021 budget request:
    - \$31 million to eliminate the current shortfall, avoid cuts, and preserve current services
    - \$29 million in enhancements to effectively implement WDFW's mission
  - WDFW's budget proposal requests that 25% of the needed funds come from a 15% increase in recreational hunting and fishing license fees (capped at \$7 for fishing and \$15 for hunting), and 75% come from the state general fund.
- ⊕ IAC members were directed to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/budget/> for general agency budget information and to click the "2019 budget development" link (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/budget/development/>) for more thorough information related to the 2019 budget, including information on the Budget and Policy Advisory Group, the proposed license fee increase, etc.
- ⊕ If budget needs are not addressed via the legislative process, the Hunter Education Division's share of possible cuts include a hunter education/volunteer coordinator position, the statewide instructor IST, the Master Hunter Permit

Program and a related customer service position, as well as two minor budget items.

- ⊕ In addition to this state budget gap, federal Pittman-Robertson funding is expected to be much lower than last year, further exacerbating the budget problem.

### ⊙ **I-1639 Questions**

- ⊕ Washington Voters have tentatively passed initiative I-1639.
- ⊕ There is a lawsuit in federal court challenging the initiative and its constitutionality.
- ⊕ The Hunter Education curriculum does not appear to meet the training elements required by the initiative.
- ⊕ At this time, we are not going to change the curriculum to meet the initiative's requirements.
- ⊕ The department understands that we need to be very cautious about taking actions that may harm WDFW's ability to meet public demand for hunter education.

### ⊙ **2018 IST Recap and IAC Observations**

- ⊕ About 340 HEI attended the statewide IST this year.
- ⊕ Kris shared the suggestions for the 2021 statewide IST that came out of the 2018 IST.
- ⊕ Kris asked the IAC to review the comments and send him suggestions, observations and comments.

### ⊙ **2019 Regional IST Topic Solicitation and Discussion**

- ⊕ During a staff meeting WDFW came up with the following ideas and below the idea is the IAC response to each topic:
  - First Aid Class
    - Look at putting this requirement into the authorized expenditures for hunter education donations policy.
    - Look into the timeframe to get it done.
  - 5-year background check information
    - Might be a good idea to put into the presentation but only allow for 15 minutes.
  - Enforcement issues
    - This would possibly help with educating the public on issues that may need correction.
  - Mountain Goat Relocation
    - We might want to have topics that are more relevant to each region.
  - Budget
    - This would be a good topic.

- ⊕ The department asked for IACs input as to what they would like to see at the regional ISTs.

### ⊙ **Instructor Hour Reporting Report**

- ⊕ This item stems from a USFWS report that instructors might need to report their volunteer hours in a daily timesheet fashion.
- ⊕ WDFW had an audit to determine if this might be something needed in the future.
- ⊕ Per the audit, HEI do not have to report their hours any different than they currently do.

### ⊙ **Hunter Education Instructor Uniforms**

- ⊕ After hearing from HEI, WDFW has decided that they will allow HEI to purchase uniform shirts in specific colors that HEI can then attach a HE patch on and use as their instructor shirt.

### ⊙ **Updating Terry Hoffer Award Criteria**

- ⊕ When selecting a Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award winner within the past several years there seems to be a trend of selecting the HEI that has done the most classes.
- ⊕ Seeing this trend, WDFW wanted to ensure the award recognizes a HEI who exemplifies the award and removes the inferred bias of number of classes or number of students taught.
- ⊕ The nomination form and questions were updated to not include those statistics.
- ⊕ The process will remain the same and WDFW will evaluate the nomination information in the subsequent years to make sure that all nominated instructors who show outstanding commitment and/or teaching excellence are considered for the award.

### ⊙ **Adjourn**