

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC) MEETING NOTES**  
**July 20, 2013**  
**9:00AM-3:00PM**  
**Ellensburg DNR Regional Office**

IAC members present: Bill Vincent, Mike Iyall, Steve Mills, Jim Severe, and Richard Rudberg.

WDFW representatives present: Assistant Director Nate Pamplin, Hunter Education Division Manager Dave Whipple, Mike Kuttel, Dan Boes, Mike Whorton, and Sergeant Carl Klein.

- The vision for the IAC and Hunter Education was shared by AD Pamplin and Manager Whipple. The IAC is viewed as an important mechanism for sharing ideas, gaining input and providing recommendations to WDFW. The IAC will be a full partner in Hunter Education Division matters. Instructors play a key role in the continuation of the strong heritage of safe, ethical, responsible, and legal hunting in Washington. Hunters and hunting have a critical role in recruitment and retention. There is a very important message that will be sent to the public about the role of hunting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. AD Pamplin shared his plan to add more Hunter Education Field Coordinators and perhaps to include some responsibilities for general volunteer management for some, if not all, WDFW Hunter Education Field Coordinators sometime in the future---he is a strong advocate for volunteerism. The Hunter Education Division Manager is now a member of the Wildlife Program's Senior Staff, and AD Pamplin ensures Hunter Education has a presence with the Executive Management Team. Dave Whipple is in the process of becoming a certified Hunter Education Instructor. Immediately following the IAC meeting he was headed to New Mexico to attend and help out with the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge.
- The structure of the IAC was discussed. At the next meeting (September 28, 2013) a chair and vice-chair will be selected, and perhaps also a secretary. Manager Whipple wants a more formal approach to setting agendas and conducting business. Dave wants the IAC chair and vice-chair to become the primary communications conduit between WDFW and the Instructor Corps.
  - The IAC portion of the Instructor webpage has been expanded to include meeting announcements, meeting agendas, meeting notes, and special notifications.
- A decision was made that the major overhaul of the Washington Hunter Education Student Manual will take place over the next year to allow the IAC and Hunter Education staff sufficient time to thoroughly consider options and content.
  - Development and finalization of the two new Hunter Education Student Tests will occur after major changes to the Student Manual are implemented in late 2014.

- A list of critical flaws and information needing to be updated in the existing Hunter Education Student Manual was identified. WDFW will be working with Kalkomey Inc. so that these clarifications are reflected in the next order of manuals for use in 2014.
- A discussion occurred on major concerns remaining with the Hunter Education Policy Manual adopted in September 2012. The primary reason for the topic was to allow AD Pamplin and Manager Whipple to fully understand these concerns and to hear first-hand the perspectives of IAC members. Although a number of items will require further consideration, some short term decision were also made:
  - Major changes to the existing Hunter Education Policy Manual will be implemented sometime in mid-2014, after another review by the IAC, after the Instructor Corps has had an opportunity to review and comment, and after actions have been taken by the 2014 State Legislature on proposed statute changes. Instructors will be required to sign and submit another Instructor Agreement Form by December 31, 2014.
  - Policies changed, effective immediately, and to be reflected in the updated Policy Manual include:
    - The addition of the .410 shotgun to the list of acceptable live-fire firearms. Acceptable firearms now include .410 shotgun, 20 gauge shotgun, .22 rifle, .223 rifle, .243 rifle, .177 air rifle, and Genesis bow.
    - Simplification of the Classroom-Safe Verification Form and Live-Fire-Safe Verification Form---new versions have already been posted on the Instructor webpage.
  - Policies reaffirmed include:
    - June 30, 2013 prohibition on use of reloaded ammunition.
    - Prohibition on students bringing their own firearms to class, field course, or live-fire.
    - Mandate on use of WDFW firearms and bows only for live-fire exercises after January 1, 2017.
    - Ability of Instructors to use their own personal firearms for classroom and field course activities if certified to be classroom-safe following protocols.
    - Prohibition on black-powder/smokeless powder burn demonstrations (Hunter Education Division staff will work with Sgt. Klein to finish modifications to a DVD that instructors will be able to show).
    - Prohibition on use of the Paradigm Course.
    - Prohibition of one-day Traditional Hunter Education courses (this must be clearly reflected in revised Policy Manual).
    - Prohibition on student discharge of muzzle loading rifles, handguns, and crossbows.

- Policies requiring further consideration by WDFW or action by the State Legislature include:
  - Setting a minimum number of registered students per class at 10.
  - Development of a process where records retained by Chief Instructors are provided to and stored by WDFW.
  - WDFW will be pursuing an 8 year minimum age requirement to take Hunter Education Training (that same age requirement may also apply to purchase of a hunting license) during the 2014 Legislative Session.
  - WDFW will be pursuing during the 2014 Legislative Session a requirement that hunters under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a person at least 18 years of age that has either passed Hunter Education Training or was born prior to January 1, 1972 (or alternatively a person 18 years of age that possesses a valid Washington hunting license that was not obtained via a Hunter Education Deferral). There will be exceptions for individuals hunting on their own land or land that is leased by their family.
  - WDFW will be pursuing during the 2014 Legislative Session the authority to charge a registration fee of up to \$20 for all Hunter Education courses. If approved, WDFW would have the option of considering a cost-reimbursement process to compensate Instructors that acquire equipment and supplies under defined criteria.
  - WDFW will also be pursuing during the 2014 Legislative Session clarification of the Military Exemption to reflect active duty military, Washington residency or stationed in Washington, and that the individual must have successfully passed the Washington On-line course.
  - WDFW will also be pursuing during the 2014 Legislative Session changes to the Hunter Education Deferral program reducing the age from 10 to 8 years of age and requiring that the “mentor” is age 18 and hold a valid Washington Hunting license.
  - Legislative packages still need approval of the Fish and Wildlife Commission and Governor’s Office prior to seeking a prime sponsor.
- Proposed draft modifications to the existing Hunter Education Instructor Policy Manual were reviewed.
  - The immediate decisions previously discussed will be reflected in the next draft reviewed by the IAC.
  - Subsequently, draft changes will be posted on the Instructor webpage for review and comment by all Instructors.
  - Any changes in statute language or new authority granted by the 2014 State Legislature will be reflected in the final document released in mid-2014.

- A thorough discussion about the merits of live-fire activities took place. There are some advocates amongst the State Legislature for mandatory live-fire. The effects of such a requirement were detailed, including costs and the inability of some Instructors to include such activities due to lack of facilities and ordinances against shooting, legal reasons for students not to be in possession of firearms, health reasons (e.g., pregnant women), recognition that we have HE reciprocity with other states that do not require it), etc.
- A discussion of handgun safety occurred. A question was raised on whether WDFW should be providing home defense gun safety training, given that other organizations currently provide that service. Kalkomey Inc. version of Today's Handgun Safety Basics was circulated to the IAC. General consensus was that the handgun section of the Student Manual should be beefed up.
- The lack of live-fire firearms available to new Teaching Teams was discussed. Nate Pamplin requested that John Wisner develop a list of where WDFW firearms are currently assigned, by County, so that sharing could be facilitated by the Hunter Education Field Coordinators. Orders are being reviewed for both new firearms and ammunition.
- Ideas were also shared on how to increase the number of Chief Instructors and how to increase the number of Hunter Education classes offered to the public. Options for consideration included simplification of course reporting requirements; special training for Chief Instructors; and recognition for Chief Instructors including qualification for special incentive hunting permits.
- There was a brief discussion on how to promote cross-training of instructors such that good ideas related to teaching classes are shared among teaching teams and instructors.
- A question was raised about the need to consider adopting new consistent standards for the denial of applicants wanting to become certified Hunter Education Instructors. The current background check process was adopted by the Law Enforcement Program. Field Coordinator Mike Whorton was to investigate the matter.
- IAC input was taken on the proposed letter from AD Nate Pamplin and Chief Bruce Bjork to all Hunter Education Instructors and all members of the Master Hunter Permit Program announcing the move of the Hunter Education Division from the Law Enforcement Program to the Wildlife Program, and the hiring of Division Manager Dave Whipple.

- The next meeting of the IAC was set for September 28, 2013, from 9:00AM-3:00PM at the Ellensburg DNR Regional Office. The notice was posted on the Instructor webpage. Meeting notes from the July 20, 2013 IAC meeting will also be posted.