

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

December 2, 2017, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Washington Cattleman's Association, 1301 W. Dolarway Rd., Ellensburg

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- Steve Mills
 - Steve has held some double classes over the last few months.
 - He is still seeing no-shows but they are less than earlier in the year.
- Jim Sevier
 - Jim helped at a class at the Cowlitz range with Richard Rudburg.
 - He also received the Region 5 Volunteer Coordinator's Award.
 - Jim and his team have posted their 2018 classes already.
- Randy Absolon
 - Randy has a traditional class in mid-January.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty volunteered at the NHFD celebration in September.
 - On November 18 he held two online classes.
 - He also assisted with a PST.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff and his team are done for the year.
 - They held their last class in October.
 - Jeff volunteered at the NHFD celebration in East Wenatchee.
- Mike McDaniel
 - Mike held a double online course in September.
 - He also had a class that had a student from Sweden and a student from Australia.
- Jim Gleiter
 - Jim held two traditional classes this last year.
 - He also had three online classes this year.
 - Jim has the 2018 dates decided and will post those online this week.
- John Malek
 - John has his last class for this year tomorrow.
 - The 2018 schedule has been proposed to the gun club and it is working through the process.
- Cathy Lynch
 - Cathy volunteered at the NHFD celebration in Monroe.
 - She also did a female oriented class.
 - Cathy has talked to students in female oriented class and felt that they were more apt to take a women oriented class.

- Sam Grubbs
 - Sam helped with butterfly boxes at NHFD this year.
 - He is done with his last two classes for the year.
 - Sam went to a hunter sight in event to recruit new HEI.
- Eric Lauver
 - Eric had his last class in September.
 - He also helped at youth hunt in September.
 - Eric's next class is in March.

⊙ WDFW Updates

⊕ Student statistics

- All of the following stats are up to the end of October.
- There have been 721 classes.
- The capacity of those classes is 16,296.
- Registrations are at 12,960 which is 80% of annual class capacity.
- Total passes are 10,508 which is an 81% pass rate.
- Total failures are 354 which is a 3.2% fail rate.
- Total incompletes are 250 which is a 2.2% incomplete rate.
- Total no shows are 1,828 which is a 14% no show rate.
- Comparing these stats to 2016 stats for the same time frame shows:
 - Classes are up by 27
 - Registrations are up by 438
 - Fails are up 68
 - Capacity is up 686
 - Passes are up 183
 - No-shows are up 101

⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants

- Currently there are 1,035 HEI certified.
- Drop letters are going out this month and the number should fall closer to 1000 instructors.
- There are 165 applicants that are awaiting a PST.
- Some have been contacted and have been unable to make a PST.
- Certified 70 new instructors in 2017.
- Dave proposed tracking female instructors and female applicants to track any trends in number of female instructors.

⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates

- Region 1 – Kris Thorson for Mike Whorton
 - Region 1 is progressing well.
 - Mike held a deer clinic and only had six students show up.
- Region 2 – Chuck Ray
 - Chuck presented the region 2 award to the Moses Lake Team, team members Matt Morice, Tom Odell, Ken Sheilds and Alan Sweet. (Kris – please double-check spelling)

- He certified three new instructors in the last month, two in the Wenatchee area and one in Washtucna.
 - Chuck helped at the NHFDF events in East Wenatchee and Monroe.
 - Region 3 – Aaron Garcia
 - Aaron has a new team in Walla Walla.
 - Going to certify five more HEI in Walla Walla.
 - Red's Fly Shop has done one class a month this year.
 - Aaron helped with both NHFDF celebrations this year.
 - He also hosted several clinics and hunts this year.
 - He has had 50 sign-ups for turkey mentor hunts and got 30 out.
 - Aaron has a December 27 Upland Bird Clinic and hunt scheduled.
 - Region 4 – Steve Dazey
 - There have been two women's oriented classes in Region 4, one at Marysville Rifle Club w/20 students passing and one at Camp Pigott w/20 students passing.
 - Steve secured two surplus boats (non-floating) from enforcement for hunter ed. teams to use.
 - He evaluated teams in Darrington, a new CHEI in North Bend at a new venue, and the Lopez Island team.
 - Steve assisted Stillaguamish instructors to set up a class for Tulalip tribal hunters.
 - He also assisted a class taught in Mandarin Chinese that passed 27 students. While these students understand and can read English, they learn the course content much better when taught in their native language.
 - Steve conducted training for the Region 4 customer service staff on hunter education, and FAQ's.
 - Region 6 – Bill Montgomery
 - Bill worked at both NHFDF events this year.
 - He held a PST at Tacoma Rifle and Revolver.
 - Bill held a pheasant clinic on the west side this year. Pheasants Forever picked up the cost of the \$40.50 license for participants.
- ⊕ Update on clinics
- WDFW will have offered 25 free hunting clinics in 2017.
 - Nine of those clinics had hunts attached to them.
 - Clinics offered are as follows:
 - Turkey – 14
 - Deer – 1
 - Waterfowl – 1
 - Upland Birds – 8
 - Dove – 1
- ⊕ Student vests
- WDFW ordered student vests in mid-November.
 - The supplier is ordering more supplies and will fulfill the order by April.

- WDFW ordered half of the vests now and will order the other half after the close of the fiscal year on June 30.
- This spreads costs across two fiscal years.
- John mentioned in an email a possible necessity of orange guns.
- John proposed better inventory of orange gun sets and how to adjust distribution of those sets.
- Currently we are not in a financial position to purchase more orange gun sets.

⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Recap**

- ⊕ There were 750 youth registered with an average age of 9.5 years old.
- ⊕ Only 443 had shot a bow or firearm previously, which was 59%.
- ⊕ Only 72 had previously taken Hunter Education, which is 9.6%
- ⊕ WDFW Fish Program stocked 850 1-1/2 lb. trout in the lake.
- ⊕ WDFW had 100+ volunteers at the event.
- ⊕ There were 14 non-government organizations that participated in the festivities.
- ⊕ Major donors were Stillaguamish Indian Tribe, NRA Foundation, Don Curtis and Volterra Restaurant, as well as Camp Pigott.

⊙ **Hunter Education Deferral**

- ⊕ WA Trends
 - Deferrals are up from last year.
 - This may have to do with the streamlining that was completed last year but also could have to do with a marketing campaign by licensing staff members.
 - Approximately 14-18% of deferrals are denied. The vast majority of because the accompanying hunter does not meet the requirement for license purchase history.
- ⊕ Possible WDFW legislative work in 2018
 - Dave is thinking about proposing to eliminate the requirement that the accompanying hunter must have held a WA license the 3 prior years. Internal discussions will occur on whether to propose this during the legislative session, & determine legislative strategy. WDFW would like IAC input on the proposal.
 - Marty thinks that we should simplify the program.
 - Jeff talked a bit about probably doesn't have to be the last three consecutive years and could be something like three of the last 10 years. Jeff mentioned in passing that we should be collecting information from Enforcement about what are the violations they are seeing and possible avenues to correct these issues in class.
 - After thoughtful and thorough discussion, the consensus from IAC was that we can change the 3 previous years hunting experience to a current hunting license.

⊙ **Students Who Fail Online Field Skills Evaluation Class**

- ⊕ Last meeting there was discussion on student failures during online courses.
- ⊕ Current policy reads “If a student passes the online course examination but does not pass the Field Skills Evaluation Course, they must retake the online course before scheduling another Field Skills Evaluation.”
- ⊕ Current policy manual language has the instructor give the contact information for Kalkomey to the student.
- ⊕ In discussions with Kalkomey, it was determined that WDFW should contact Kalkomey to reset a customer’s profile.
- ⊕ Instructors should tell students/parents they need to take the online class again, and that they won’t be charged for it.
- ⊕ Instructors should also notify Jan of the online class failures, so she can contact Kalkomey.
- ⊕ WDFW has also updated the information on the website about this requirement.

⊙ **2018 IST Discussion**

- ⊕ Registration forms were posted on Wednesday the 29th.
- ⊕ The registration forms are due by February 27.
 - Cathy suggested the five members that presented at the IHEA meeting that presented on non-toxic shot.
 - Cathy also suggested having meat cutting demos on field care on big and small game.
 - She also suggested a big game hunting clinic and a NGO panel about what they can do for new HEI.
 - Cathy suggested a falconer talk about how to get involved.
- ⊕ There has been a suggestion to have a range day on Friday afternoon.
- ⊕ Kalkomey is going to be at the IST.

⊙ **Female HE Classes**

- ⊕ Graduate survey to assess interest/support for female classes
 - The survey has been designed to gauge interest in such classes.
 - WDFW is planning on sending out the survey to hunter education graduates for the past year.
 - Once the data is compiled, it will be shared with IAC and a determination on what to do moving forward will be reached.
- ⊕ HEI Outreach re: offering female classes
 - While some females are likely to take a class whether it’s a coed or female class, some females who may not have taken a class may be inclined to take a female class. This may prove important for hunter recruitment, as well as recruitment of female instructors.
 - WDFW will do outreach:
 - 1st priority is to have all female instructors teach the female classes
 - 2nd priority is to have a coed teaching team.
 - 3rd priority is to have a male teach team.

⦿ **Incentive Permits HEI Survey & Permit Status Update**

- ⊕ Currently the incentives program lost three moose permits, due to the decline in the moose population.
- ⊕ Also the Any Elk tags in Region 3 have been switched to Any Bull Elk, due to the reduction in cow permits in Region 3 based on herd objectives.
- ⊕ WDFW has moved some permits between the incentive permit tables to adjust for these changes.

⦿ **Proposed next meeting date of March 10.**

⦿ **Adjourn**