

**HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

March 25, 2017, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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

⊙ **Welcome & General Interest Announcements**

⊕ IAC Member Roundtable

- Sam Grubbs
 - Sam didn't have any no shows in the first class he and his team taught this year.
 - He went to the March 18 IST at the Region 4 office.
 - Sam has heard from Region 4 instructors on their desire to have different colored shirts and place the HEI information on those shirts.
 - There was also an instructor that Sam talked to that had a few comments on current test questions.
 - WDFW might want to have a talk with the IAC on test materials in the future.
- Jonathan Barr
 - Jon held an emergent class on an hour notice when another instructor cancelled a class.
- Larry Lufkin
 - Larry has noticed that his classes are not drawing students from eastern Washington now.
 - However, they are drawing from western Washington areas.
- Jim Sevier
 - Jim has four classes scheduled currently.
 - He had an issue with Kalkomey last Wednesday when he invited a student from the wait list and it froze and did not allow any other students to get into the class.
 - Jim suggested that instructors post all classes for the year to alleviate the no show issue.
 - There is a TBA class that all instructors can post that may alleviate the issue.
 - Also instructors can set sign up to open up at some time closer to the class.
- Steve Mills
 - Steve is working on the hunter education class in a private school in Vancouver.
 - The 45 minute time frame is difficult to accomplish.
 - They also had a snow day and he and the team are trying to figure out how students can make up time.

- Eric Lauver
 - Eric had to cancel his first class of the year due to non-participation.
 - He rescheduled one for April.
 - Eric attended the IST in March and felt it was a good presentation.
 - He has had an instructor ask about how to purchase the survival bandanas.
 - WHEIA has the bandanas for sale to HEI for \$2.70 which is the cost to make the bandanas. Public purchase price is \$5. Contact Jeff Bull directly to order.
 - He also has an online class next week.
- Mike McDaniel
 - Mike's fourth class is coming up.
 - He has noticed that the sign-ups are slow so far.
 - Mike uses student deposits to help alleviate the no show issue.
 - Also he doesn't open up registration until 30 days prior.
- Marty Kotzke
 - The venue Marty teaches at has a new smaller classroom that means they cannot hold as many students as they used to.
 - He went to the IST in Sequim and had a good selection of talks.
 - Marty is also helping at the IST in Olympia on April 1.
 - His team does one traditional classes each month until September.
 - They also sprinkle in some online classes.
- Bob Palmer
 - Bob helped at the IST in Mill Creek.
 - He has been asking for response and feedback on the ISTs and had no responses.
 - Bob is trying to figure out a better way to get the department input.
 - He held a traditional class where a huge chunk of the students were young children.
 - Bob has heard from some HEI that they can tell certain youth cannot pass the class. He feels that as instructors we need to put on blinders and teach regardless of age, etc. because there are exceptions to the rule.
 - He is also seeing traditional classes becoming more of a mentoring class.
 - Bob asked if we need to look at the traditional class and consider updating the curriculum based on gearing the traditional more toward youth?
 - There have been challenges getting HEI feedback from his instructors.

- He is starting to see slow ebb of skill from HEI that are teaching more online classes because the online class is a review of the materials.
- Also Bob is starting to see failures on inert firearms sets.
 - If instructors are seeing failures of inert sets, send the inert to John and he will replace and resend new inert firearms.
- Ray Boone
 - Ray is seeing customers preferring the online class over traditional class.
 - His traditional classes seldom go to the maximum.
 - In the past there was a certificate available online instructors could hand out when a student passed the class.
 - There was a request from an instructor who would like to have those certificates available again.
 - Ray also had a HEI that had a question on the Incentive permits status.
 - He had an instructor ask if they could attend the IAC meetings.
 - These meeting are public meetings and the public can attend if they like.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff's team has decided to do only online classes this year due to his work schedule.
 - He brought up junior instructors or assistant instructors idea again to possibly have it addressed.
- John Malek
 - He is seeing a lot of his instructors prefer teaching the online course.
 - Currently his team has several courses scheduled.
 - The venue in which he holds his classes has had some conflicts with weddings and other parties that wanted to use the range.
 - John has noticed more of a shift to traditional course for youth.
 - He is going to eastern Washington to help a former member of his team teach a class.

◎ WDFW Updates

⊕ Student statistics

- 2016 we had 11176 students pass, 304 fail, 175 incompletes, and 1934 no shows.
- In 2016 we had capacity to have 16, 533 students take the course and had 13,569 (82%) registrations.
- In 2017 through February we have had 822 students pass, 21 fail, 21 incomplete, and 158 no shows.
- In 2017 through February we had capacity to have 1206 students take the course and had 1022 (85%) registrations

- Bob asked to have the stats sent out to IAC members at the time the agenda is sent as well.
- ⊕ Instructors & Instructor Applicants
 - As of February 2017, we have 988 instructors and 165 applicants in the applicant pool.
- ⊕ NRA Hunter Education Online Course
 - The NRA intends to offer a free online course and is developing the curriculum now. They believe hunter education is or can be a barrier to hunting. They're working with educators regarding youth learning style and using high-tech "gamification" methods.
 - There is some concern among states, WA included, regarding how it may affect our current program and whether there will be customer and agency support.
 - The exact timeline for the new course is unknown but agencies may be able to review it this year or next.
- ⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates
 - Mike Whorton
 - Region 1 classes are just starting and filling fast.
 - Mike has been issuing WDFW firearms to HEI for live fire exercises.
 - He is also working on having turkey clinics in April and will work on more diverse clinics in the future.
 - The Region 1 IST is going to be on April 29.
 - He is also looking for more HEI in some of the more rural counties in Region 1.
 - Chuck Ray
 - Chuck had his first IST last weekend.
 - He has another IST scheduled in April.
 - Chuck recently had to cancel a PST due to a snowed in range.
 - He also held a clinic on turkey in east Wenatchee.
 - Aaron Garcia
 - Region 3 has a lot of classes scheduled.
 - Aaron is working with Reds Fly Shop on adding more classes.
 - He is also working on helping set up a permanent field course in the Moxee area.
 - Aaron has held four clinics for turkey so far this year.
 - He is working on mentored turkey hunts for clinic participants and securing mentors and private lands to hunt.
 - Aaron is assisting at all of the eastern Washington ISTs
 - He is working on scheduling some PSTs as well.
 - Steve Dazey
 - Steve held his first IST at the Mill Creek office on March 18.
 - He has another IST scheduled in Lynden in April 29.
 - So far, Steve has held three PSTs this year.

- He has a PST scheduled in April in south King County.
- Region 4 classes currently scheduled have slightly increased from last year.
- Steve has two turkey clinics scheduled for this season.
- He is working on getting deer and elk clinics scheduled for later in the year.

⊕ First Hunt Foundation

- Mike was contacted by the First Hunt Foundation about a year ago.
- The organization is based out of Idaho.
- Their mission statement is, *“The First Hunt Foundation is dedicated to insure hunting remains a vital part of the American culture. We believe that by providing a mentor based hunting experience to youth and other interested individuals, the hunting heritage will be passed on to future generations. Wildlife conservation and habitat management will be better served and supported by having citizens who are educated on the value of hunting as a management tool.”*
- They provide liability insurance to mentors.
- WDFW staff met with the founder in January and has decided to help promote this organization to the Master Hunters.
- WDFW is giving the information to the HEI community so they can give the information to their students who can take advantage of the opportunity.

⊕ Status of First Aid class availability

- The Instructor Policy Manual requires at least one certified HEI be present in classroom, field course, and live-fire activities. The chief HEI is responsible to ensure compliance with this policy.
- WDFW as an agency is implementing the MEDIC program for their employees.
- Hunter Ed Field Coordinators will become certified as instructors in MEDIC and will offer classes to instructors as needed.
- Field Coordinators will be announcing this to instructors when they’re certified and ready to teach classes. They may start identifying areas of need soon.
- There was also a suggestion that WDFW could look into certifying other HEI to teach MEDIC to help meet needs.

⊕ Update on female classes

- WDFW has held several female oriented classes in the past year.
- They are working on growing the program and creating more availability.
- When participants from these classes are giving their evaluations the department is seeing “more comfortable” on most of them.
- Jeff asked, “Can we update Kalkomey to add a class type as a female oriented class?”
 - Currently no, but we can talk about this in the future.

⊕ Combined Hunter Ed class & Washington Outdoor Women shotgun clinic

- WDFW talked with former Fish & Wildlife Commissioner and former MHAG member John McGlenn regarding holding a hunter education online class during the September Washington Outdoor Women (WOW) workshop. But there is little time during the September workshop as many other activities are available.
- Discussion with Ronni McGlenn resulted in WOW/WDFW working on offering an online class in conjunction with a mini-shotgun clinic. The class will be advertised using WOW's past participant database and contact information and will use female hunter ed instructors.
- Bill Montgomery is working w/ Ronni to find a suitable date and venue, as she wants to hold the event in the mid-I-5 corridor.

⊕ Update on clinics

- Since WDFW started offering clinics there have been 22 offered.
- WDFW has noticed that this year, the participation seems to be down from last year.
- There were six turkey clinics held before the meeting and four that are scheduled after the meeting.

⊙ **2017 Legislative Session**

⊕ Dave was tracking a large number of bills throughout the session having to do with hunter ed, background checks, etc. Most of the bills have not made it out of committee or house of origin.

⊕ Those that are especially germane to hunter ed are:

- HB 1174: Hunter Ed in high schools
 - This bill received one public hearing in the House Education committee. The bill is largely permissive in that it only requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to work with WDFW to develop the curriculum. Schools would have the ability to implement it. Therefore, the Committee chair did not believe the bill is needed.
 - A stakeholder meeting was held with Representative Muri, Bob Brown, Burleigh Cubert, Dr. Dan Bishop, John Cerio, a NRA representative, an OSPI representative, and Dave Whipple from WDFW. The current education requirements limit the ability to add an elective class that will receive enrollment. There's a bill this session that would change high school requirements that is supported by OSPI. If it were to pass, it would allow a class like hunter ed to also address physics, math, conservation, etc.
- HB 1900 & SB 5536 - NRA license plate (revenue would go to hunter education program budget)
 - This bill received one hearing in the Senate Transportation committee.
 - There was no support in House, presumably due to the NRA logo, although there seems to be support for hunter education.
- HB 1100 & SB 5268 - CPL expiration notices

- One bill would require DOL to email an expiration notice. The other bill would require DOL to mail an expiration notice.
- Both bills may pass.
- The effect may be a decrease in revenue the Firearms Account that WDFW uses to publish and ship the “Firearm Safety, the Law and You” booklet. This is because that fund receives \$3 of the \$10 late fee associated with late CPL renewals to print the booklet and can also be used to support hunter education, which may be needed if/when Pittman-Robertson funds decline.

⊙ **Hunter Education Instructor Incentive Permits update**

- ⊕ Kris talked about the permit reallocation and restructure that was done prior to the 2017 incentive permits being finalized.
- ⊕ Kris also talked about the increase in the moose permits for the 2017 season and how there was a 20% negative comment on this proposal during open public comments.
- ⊕ During discussions with the moose section manager and hunter education staff members there was agreement that if the science does not support the retention of the increased permits, the hunter education division may be required to drop those permits.
- ⊕ The current permits will be finalized at the April commission meeting.
- ⊕ The drawing of names for the incentive permits was completed in mid-march and Marty Kotzke witnessed it.
- ⊕ The names were drawn by the enforcement programs new community liaison.
- ⊕ There was a comment that noted the incentive permits incentivize the online classes more than the traditional classes and WDFW might want to also offer some more incentive to the traditional instructors.
- ⊕ Steve has heard from region 5 instructors that they would like to see region 5 elk be moved back into Table 1 if possible.
- ⊕ WDFW will review the request for a region 5 elk permit be moved back into Table 1 within the context of all the permits and tables.
- ⊕ Dave mentioned the incentive permits are designed to both incentivize certain teaching activities, as well as recognition of instructors’ service and contributions.
- ⊕ He also mentioned that incentive permits can change from year to year, in terms of the actual permits available, as well as the table composition.

⊙ **Terry Hoffer award**

- ⊕ This year there were 17 nominations
- ⊕ The hunter education staff met and decided the top three candidates for the final selection committee to vote on.
- ⊕ The final selection committee is comprised of the 2015 Terry Hoffer winner Bill Vincent, WHEIA Representative, HERO representative, and a representative of the Game Warden’s Association.
- ⊕ The committee will meet on March 28 to decide the winner.
- ⊕ The department will announce the winner after they are notified.

⊙ **The new HEI award**

- ⊕ Going through the Terry Hoffer process of selecting the top three candidates to forward to the selection committee revealed the difficulty in selecting the nominees.
- ⊕ The process also reveals the fact that so many instructors make very significant contributions, meet critical needs, etc., but they may not be able to compete favorably against some instructors for the Terry Hoffer award.
- ⊕ The Hunter Education Division wants to recognize an instructor or team within each region.
- ⊕ The award will be called the “Regional Hunter Education Coordinator’s Recognition Award”, or something similar.
- ⊕ The award may be annual, but may not be for a given region.
- ⊕ The Terry Hoffer winner will not be eligible. The 2 Terry Hoffer runner-ups will be eligible.
- ⊕ The award recipients will be chosen after the Terry Hoffer winner is chosen.
- ⊕ The IAC is very supportive of the creation of this award.
- ⊕ Inform IAC when this is formalized so they can let their HEI know.

⊙ **HEI website updates**

- ⊕ The department talked about the WAC recodification for WDFW rules that recently took place and that these WACs will have to be updated.
- ⊕ IAC members noted that navigation within the HEI website is not necessarily intuitive.
- ⊕ They also feel that the HEI website page is too long.
- ⊕ There was also a suggestion to think about making the site more mobile friendly.
- ⊕ Kris noted that there was a complete WDFW website redesign project that was launching and scheduled for completion in 2018.
- ⊕ The IAC members suggested that WDFW update labels and information on the Instructor Downloads page.
- ⊕ The instructor download page is also not intuitive (titles/descriptions)

⊙ **2018 Statewide IST topics**

- ⊕ Input from IAC for agenda topics include Hunter Ed’s Role in hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation, wolves (Wolf Management Plan, recovery goals, actions after recovery/delisting, etc.), hoof disease (it’s a current & expanding issue, & not all 2017 ISTs included this as a presentation).
- ⊕ Another topic to think about is some type of targeted training relative to youth protection issues and interactions w/ female students.

⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Update**

- ⊕ National hunting and fishing day is September 23 this year.
- ⊕ WDFW will be holding an event at Camp Pigott in Monroe this year.
- ⊕ WHEIA completed an NRA grant for NHFD activities that was granted for about \$3200.
- ⊕ WHEIA is also donating bandanas to WDFW for the event.
- ⊕ Kris distributed a save the date card to all members.

⦿ **Kalkomey suggestions**

- ⊕ Time was becoming an issue so the group moved that this agenda item be moved to next meeting.

⦿ **IAC Recruitment**

- ⊕ Terms for five seats are coming to an end on July 31.
- ⊕ Members whose terms are expiring are Ray Boone, Jonathan Barr, Ken Hageman, and Cathy Lynch. There is also a vacant seat that WDFW will be recruiting for.
- ⊕ All current members of the IAC are strongly encouraged to reapply.
- ⊕ All instructors will receive an email and postcard alerting them to the recruitments.
- ⊕ There will also be notices on the HEI webpage as well as the IAC webpage.
- ⊕ Instructors will have until June 15 to submit an application.

⦿ **Adjourn – at 3:05pm**