

HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
August 20, 2016, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Rodeo City Bar-B-Q, Ellensburg

⊙ **Welcome & Introductions**

⊕ IAC Member Introductions

- Steve Mills
 - Steve has been on the IAC since its inception.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty has been on the committee for several years.
- Sam Grubbs
 - Sam is a new member and looking forward to help the program.
- Bob Palmer
 - Bob is a new member. He has been an instructor for 12-15 years.
- Cathy Lynch
 - Cathy has been a HEI for eight years.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff is currently representing the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA).
 - He was a member of the IAC for the last three years.
- Rich Mason
 - Rich is a past IAC member.
- Eric Lauver
 - Eric is a new member and has been teaching for four years
- Ray Boone
 - Ray was on the IAC previously but is back for another term.
 - He has been an instructor since 1989.
- Johnathan Barr
 - Johnathan is new to the IAC and eager to learn.
- Randy Absolon
 - Randy has been a Washington HEI for seven years and previously had 20 years' experience as an Oregon HEI.
- Jim Sievier
 - Jim has been on the IAC for the past three years.
- Butch Buffaloe
 - Butch has been a HEI for 36 years.
 - He has also been on the IAC since its inception.
 - Currently Butch is the Hunter Education Resource Organization (HERO) representative.
- Larry Lufkin
 - Larry was certified as a HEI in 1987.
 - He has been a member of the IAC since its inception.

- Bill Vincent
 - Bill has been a HEI for 11 years.
 - Bill was in the IAC since its inception but decided not to reapply.

⊕ WDFW Introductions

- Mike Whorton - Region 1 Field Coordinator
- Chuck Ray - Region 2 Field Coordinator
- Aaron Garcia - Region 3 Field Coordinator
- Steve Dazey - Region 4 Field Coordinator
- Dan Boes - Region 5 Field Coordinator
- Bill Montgomery - Region 6 Field Coordinator
- Jan Ulijohn – Headquarters administrative staff
- Kris Thorson – Hunter Education Division Specialist
- Dave Whipple – Hunter Education Division Manager

⊙ **General Interest Announcements**

- ⊕ Added a Wild Futures presentation by Dave to the agenda under the WDFW Updates section.

⊙ **Recognition of Outgoing Members**

- ⊕ Dave talked about all of the contributions that the IAC has had to the Hunter Education Division and program in the past.
- ⊕ He then read the plaque inscription.
- ⊕ After he read the inscription, he distributed to past members in attendance and personally thanked them for their service to the state of Washington and to hunter education.

⊙ **WDFW Updates**

- ⊕ Student statistics
 - Check to see the amount of HEI students who purchase licenses.
 - Look at average age of both traditional and online courses.
- ⊕ Brief Regional Field Coordinator Updates
 - Region 1
 - Mike is starting to work on clinics and starting to get a core instructor group and keep rolling.
 - Currently Mike is noticing upticks in online classes and downticks in traditional classes.
 - Mike has eight or nine instructor applicants that he is working with.
 - Mike has noticed that more students are coming into hunter ed courses for firearms safety.
 - Region 2
 - Chuck completed a class in Mansfield and certified an instructor.

- He is also working with an applicant in Ephrata with Eric Lauver and his team.
 - Chuck has about three or four applicants pending.
 - The selection of online courses is slim in region 2.
 - Traditional course selections are slim as well.
 - Chuck has identified the city of Tonasket is an area of need.
 - Generally there are less applicants in region 2.
 - Chuck is working on a pheasant clinic in region 2.
 - He is also looking for instructors for big game and waterfowl clinics.
 - Chuck is also working on possible online jamboree in or near Nespellum.
- Region 3
 - Region 3 has five new instructors this past quarter.
 - Aaron held three Pre-service Trainings (PSTs)
 - Region 3 applicants are somewhat low because of the push Aaron did last year.
 - He has identified Kittitas County as an area of need for HEI.
 - Aaron is working on two youth pheasant clinics that will have a hunt component to them.
 - He is also working with staff to offer a fall turkey clinic in Spokane with a hunt component to it that is similar to last year.
- Region 4
 - Region 4 has about the same number of classes this year as in previous years.
 - Steve has noticed about a 17% no show rate across the region.
 - Currently Steve has about 20 applicants in the region.
 - Steve is working on a Range Safety Officer training program with Bob Palmer.
 - He has a new team on the Stillaguamish reservation.
 - Steve has three PSTs scheduled for the coming months.
 - He is also working on a female oriented class in November.
- Region 5
 - Dan has the region running very smoothly.
 - HE has an area of need that opened after an instructor passed away.
 - Currently Dan has about 12 applicants that he is working with.
 - Dan is working on getting applicants to PSTs in small groups.
 - He is working on starting some waterfowl clinics in the region.
 - Dan is also working on starting a female oriented course.
 - Also Dan is working with Kris and the Washington Trappers Association on updating the trapper education manual and test.
- Region 6

- Bill has noticed that a lot of traditional classes didn't fill this year.
 - He held a PST for instructors who are part of the Squaxin tribe.
 - He has had several tribes ask for PSTs and the programs for HE within the tribes are on the rise.
 - Bill is Working on several National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD) events.
 - 1 youth day in Puyallup on Aug 27
 - 1 celebration at Bass Pro Shops in Tacoma on Sept 24
 - 1 celebration at the North Central Washington Gun Club on Oct 1
 - He is also working on starting waterfowl clinics in region 6.
 - Bill is holding a turkey clinic at the youth day on Aug 27.
- ⊕ 2017 Big Game pamphlet photo contest.
- Dave announced the photo contest subject for the 2017 big game regulations pamphlet.
 - The contest will be for pictures of backcountry hunts.
 - Dave did talk to the committee that chooses the picture contest about having hunter education as the subject of the photo contest.
- ⊕ Washington's Wild Future Initiative
- Dave went through the Wild Future PPT / What's at Risk?
 - Dave went through the fee increase information and what is needed.
 - The IAC discussed the Fact Sheets that are online.
 - Dave asked for input on the Wild Future Initiative from the IAC.
 - Comments:
 - Coordination with the USFS is important regarding the road plans & reduced access.
 - Road access is a big issue, especially related to increased license fees.
 - The increase in fees as well as restricted road access will result in resident hunters going out of state.
 - The IAC mentioned that non-consumptive users such as hikers and bird watchers could be another source of income.
 - Also there was a suggestion that GMU maps be modified to GPS coordinates instead of the current township lines.

⊙ Instructor Incentive Permits

- ⊕ General overview of 2017 permits and process
- Dave walked the IAC members through the new permits and the permit process for 2017.
 - The permits are now based on the percentage of quality permits for deer and elk within a WDFW Region.
 - Also Region 1 staff supported the addition of two moose permits.
 - A suggestion was made to use teaching hours as a gauge to submit permits vs classes taught. They pointed out some instructors only teach

one subject for three classes and are entered into the drawing the same as an instructor that puts in 20 hours for each class.

⊕ 10 year requirement discussion.

- There used to be a 10 year disqualification from Table 1 permits for HEIs that drew a Table 1 permit .
- It was dropped because WDFW was able to increase the available permit numbers, and some of the high quality permits were moved to Tables 2 & 3 to incentivize online classes and Chief instructors..
- There has been a recommendation to possibly institute a points system for Table 1 permits only.

⊕ Input from IAC on a points system for Table 1

- Butch Buffalo:
 - Why not all add a disqualification requirement once drawn to each of the 3 tables?
 - There could be a 5 year requirement.
 - These incentive permits are NOT the reason to teach, it's a reward IF they want to put in for permits.
- Bill Vincent:
 - The original purpose was to incentive HEIs and their teaching habits.
 - Implementing a point system would increase complexity.
 - Currently there is a fixed product line and the HEIs know where they stand.
- Sam Grubbs:
 - Implementing the 10 year disqualification is too drastic. The program needs to incentivize ALL HEIs.
 - Sam's HEIs favor having a system, but not sure what that would look like.
 - Sam will solicit other HEI's input.
- Marty Kotzke
 - Marty talked to several of the Region 6 HEI and 19 wanted a 10 year disqualification or some other timeframe for permits.
 - Favoritism is sometimes the perception when instructors draw back to back years.
- Richard Mason
 - Permits are not why Rich teaches and he felt that a lot of HEIs agree. (Rich hasn't drawn in 20 years)
 - Rich was disappointed that there were no elk permits in R1. He would be willing to offer access on his property if a permit in region 1 was possible (500 acres, many big bulls).
 - Rich feels that points would create equity.
- Jeff Bull
 - Jeff hadn't discussed the possibility of points with others.

- He feels that enacting a 10 year disqualification was too long. If the timeline was 5 years, it might work better.
- Steve Mills
 - If a HEI wants the any elk in R5, they have to be drawn first or second because those permits go first.
 - If we went to a points system and a HEI draws for a Table 1 permit but they are lower on the list, they may choose to not accept the permit because they won't want to lose their points.
 - This could lead to permits going unclaimed which may mean the regional staff could pull the permits.
- Eric Lauver
 - The general special permits are an incentive to buy license. The chance of getting a better opportunity is there.
 - For the HEI incentive permits, points don't make sense. It's a random draw which is equitable.
 - There are many permit opportunities if you teach.
 - Eric feels the system is not broken.
 - Keep it simple.
- Randy Absolon
 - Randy feels that it is completely fair without going to a points system.
 - For the general special permits, just because you have points doesn't mean you will draw.
 - Making the system more complex is an issue.
- Ray Boone
 - If WDFW did decide to enact a time disqualification, it should be like old goat system and be three years.
- Jim Sevier
 - Jim feels that if instructors were not allowed to get a permit two years in a row, it might alleviate some of the issues.
 - Jim feels that no instructor should draw a permit 2 years in a row.
 - Jim also suggested that WDFW could possibly add incentives for non-big game hunters.
- Larry Luffkin
 - A points system won't significantly affect the chances of being drawn. Also, the more complex the system gets the more difficult it may be to understand.
- **Summary: Given the agency does not want to go back to a 10 year (or other) waiting period, Whipple asked if he's hearing the results of the discussion and the overall IAC sentiment correctly, in that the IAC does not support a point system for the incentive permits. Most if not all IAC members verbally agreed or nodded their heads, and no member voiced opposition or correction to Whipple's interpretation of committee**

discussions. Overall, there seemed to be little to no support for going to a points system.

⊙ **Multi Season Permits**

- ⊕ Currently WDFW offers 50 deer and 25 elk multi season (MS) permits to hunter education instructors.
 - The drawing dates for the hunter education instructors MS permits are in February.
 - The drawing dates for the general MS permits are in May.
 - HEIs are applying for and drawing both the HEI MS and the general MS permits.
 - If the HEI accepts the HEI MS permit, the general MS permit will be sold in a 2nd draw.
 - This doesn't take opportunity away from general MS applicants.
 - If the HEI accepts the general MS permit, the HEI MS permit will go to another HEI who is drawn from the applicant pool.

⊙ **Policy Manual: Briefing on Recent Changes**

- ⊕ Kris gave the IAC a basic overview of the policy manual changes completed in late 2015.
- ⊕ Staff identified that the inert ammo form is not being filled out sometimes.

⊙ **IAC Purpose, Roles and Operating Procedures**

- ⊕ Kris gave a basic overview of the IAC Purpose, Roles and Operating Procedures that IAC uses to govern its meetings.
- ⊕ Kris asked the IAC if they had any questions on the document and there were none.

⊙ **Hunter Ed Deferral Streamlining**

- ⊕ Dave gave an overview of the previous process as well as the streamlined process.
- ⊕ WDFW is now accepting emailed applications.
- ⊕ Applicants pay for the deferral at the time they purchase their license.
- ⊕ This can be as quick as five minutes.
- ⊕ This has generated a cost saving by completing the updated process.

⊙ **National Hunting and Fishing Day Briefing**

- ⊕ Kris gave an overview of the National Hunting and Fishing Day event that WDFW is holding in Wenatchee on Oct 1.
- ⊕ The department is going to the North Central Washington Gun Club and allowing youth 17 and under to shoot department .223, .22, 20 gauge, air rifle, and archery equipment.
- ⊕ Participants will also get a giveaway bag with hearing protection, eye protection, orange safety vest, printed materials, and much more.

- ⊕ Local non-governmental organizations are also going to be on hand to talk hunting and fishing.
- ⊕ Kris invited all of IAC to come participate.

⊙ **Briefing on Hunting Clinics**

- ⊕ Kris gave a brief overview on the idea of clinics and what has taken place in the past.
- ⊕ Each coordinator talked about what their plans were for the future and clinics.
 - Region 1
 - Two deer clinics and a possible upland bird clinic
 - Region 2
 - Going to hold an upland bird and waterfowl clinic.
 - Region 3
 - Three youth upland bird clinics with associated hunt.
 - Region 4
 - Working on waterfowl clinic.
 - Region 5
 - Working on a waterfowl clinic. Also may hold another intro to bow hunting clinic.
 - Region 6
 - Trying to get Washington Waterfowl to do a waterfowl clinic.
 - Looking to do more turkey clinics in the spring.

⊙ **Determining Possible IAC Workplan Items**

- ⊕ Have IAC members be a conduit to Chief HEIs and have the CHEIs communicate with their team members.
- ⊕ May have them work on HEI Incentive Permits and possible points system.
- ⊕ Have IAC survey HEIs about the following issues:
 - Needs / Changes / Hot Issues
 - Improvements to curriculum
 - Issues w/ administration
 - HEI recruitment
 - HEI supplies, tools
 - Other incentives
- ⊕ IAC helping to improve our teaching techniques:
 - Helping to make good HEIs great HEIs
 - Teaching Tips; IHEA IAC has or is working on
 - Rotating HEI's teaching topics w/ in teams
 - Rotating HEIs between teams (cross-training)
 - CHEI training
- ⊕ Ray Boone made the comment that our curriculum is targeted at students about 11 years old. We may need to target a bit older students with the curriculum and/or delivery since the average age is now around 25.

⊙ **Schedule Next Meeting**

- ⊕ Standard / regular meeting dates?
 - Discuss at next meeting w/ full IAC
- ⊕ Next meeting December 3