

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Annual Performance Report
of Survey-Inventory Activities
1 July 1993-30 June 1994

Hunter Education

M. V. Hicks, Editor



Photo by Pat Costello

Grant G-18-HS-23
December 1994

STATE OF ALASKA
Tony Knowles, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Carl L. Rosier, Commissioner

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
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PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

PROJECT NUMBER: W18 HS 23

PROJECT TITLE: Hunter Education

PERIOD COVERED: 1 July 1993 through 30 June 1994

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: To develop and conduct an educational program for the following purposes:

- a. to reduce hunting-related accidents, particularly those involving firearms and archery equipment;
- b. provide students with a basic understanding of wildlife management;
- c. help students understand the role of hunter responsibility and ethics and the role these subjects play in the future of hunting;
- d. help students adapt to new rules and regulations.

JOB 1: PROGRAM COORDINATION AND EVALUATION

JOB OBJECTIVES: To coordinate the state Hunter Education program and to assure standards are maintained.

a. ACTIVITIES: As a result of a federal audit regarding civil rights and how the HE program addresses those concerns, the *Instructor's Course Report* was modified to gather additional information on course fees and specific course location. Additionally, a statewide toll free number for the hearing-impaired will be added to all future program publications.

Last year it was reported that the Department of Public Safety had agreed to collect hunting accident information for the HE program. To date, no information has been sent to this office.

This year a total of 79 basic HE and 38 bowhunter education courses were offered. The basic courses were taught by 51 volunteer instructors and 27 additional assistants. The bow courses were taught by 19 instructors with an additional 23 assistants, a total of 120 volunteer instructors last year or approximately one third of the number certified to teach. Student enrollment ranged from 1 per course to 100 per course, averaging 14.8 students certified per course. That is an increase from last year of about 3 students per course.

Regional efforts were as follows:

Region I	-	143 students certified
Region II	-	784 students certified
Region III	-	90 students certified
Region V	-	151 students certified

for a total of 1168 students statewide. Bowhunter instructors certified approximately 800 students again this year. Predominantly, they were from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, and the Kenai peninsula.

b. TARGET DATE: Continuing.

c. JOB STATUS: Compared to last year's certification, almost 300 more students were certified this year in the basic course. Bowhunter certifications seem to have stabilized.

d. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None

e. RECOMMENDATIONS: The regional volunteer coordinator concept is good. However, the reality is these coordinators have little time allocated to hunter education and other tasks often take priority. Consequently, instructor support and student certification declines. Continued growth of the program requires a greater portion of the regional volunteer coordinator's time being allocated to Hunter Education.

f. COST: State: 2221.5 Federal: 6664.50

JOB 2: INSTRUCTOR RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

JOB OBJECTIVES: To recruit, train, and support volunteer instructors around the state and to maintain at least 125 active instructors.

a. ACTIVITIES: The third statewide volunteer instructor training workshop was held in May. Seventy instructors attended the workshop. Fishing activities were commonly cited as the reason for not attending. Mr. Larry Lufkin, volunteer instructor from Washington state, presented information on setting up and running a field course. Additional instruction on firearms was presented by some of our own volunteers. Awards were presented to the top ten instructors, and regional efforts of instructors were recognized.

b. TARGET DATE: Continuing.

c. STATUS OF PROGRESS: A total of sixty new instructors were recruited into the program. Approximately 10 instructors left the program for a variety of reasons. A probation period has been implemented for new instructors. This probation plan is working well, resulting in new instructors reading the program manual, a significant improvement.

d. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None.

e. RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue the instructor training workshop but hold it earlier in the new year to keep attendance high. Set clear standards of performance so that new instructors do not "inherit" bad habits from some of the current instructors.

f. COST: State: 6880.50 Federal: 20,641.50

JOB 3: STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

JOB OBJECTIVES: To encourage student participation in the hunter education program; to ensure that students enrolled in hunter education courses receive a minimum of 10 hours of instruction on outdoor survival, wildlife management, hunter responsibility and ethics, and proper handling of hunting equipment; to certify 2000 students per year in the basic hunter education course.

a. ACTIVITIES: During this period 1168 students were certified in the basic hunter education course. An additional 800 were certified in the bowhunter education course. A total of 79 basic HE courses and 38 bowhunter courses were conducted. Of the 79 basic courses offered, 60 had live fire and 40 had a field course. Courses averaged higher enrollment this year with 14.78 students per course. Enrollment in bowhunter courses was essentially the same as last year.

b. TARGET DATE: continuing.

c. STATUS OF PROGRESS: The number of students enrolled in the hunter education program continues to grow. Increases in the program's funding has helped make the goal of 2000 students per year possible.

Minority participation in courses is as follows:

Female:	82	courses	277	students
Alaska Natives	36	courses	203	students
Black	17	courses	22	students
Oriental	10	courses	13	students
Hispanic	12	courses	17	students
Handicap	5	courses	6	students

Alaska has adopted a 10 hour minimum course for hunter education certification. During this year, courses averaged 14.5 hours, a drop of 3 hours per course from last year. The total number of instructor hours (for the lead instructor only) was 1150, down from 1210 a year ago.

d. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS: None.

e. RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue to provide instructor training workshops and up-to-date training aids. Continue to persuade instructors to schedule their courses in advance. Encourage instructors to use revised and updated teaching systems and course modules.

f. COST: State: 3663.5 Federal: 11,990.50

JOB: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

JOB OBJECTIVES: To write an annual performance report describing active projects of the previous year.

Personnel:

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Thela Divens:	PCN 2141/ 6	mo/PFT.
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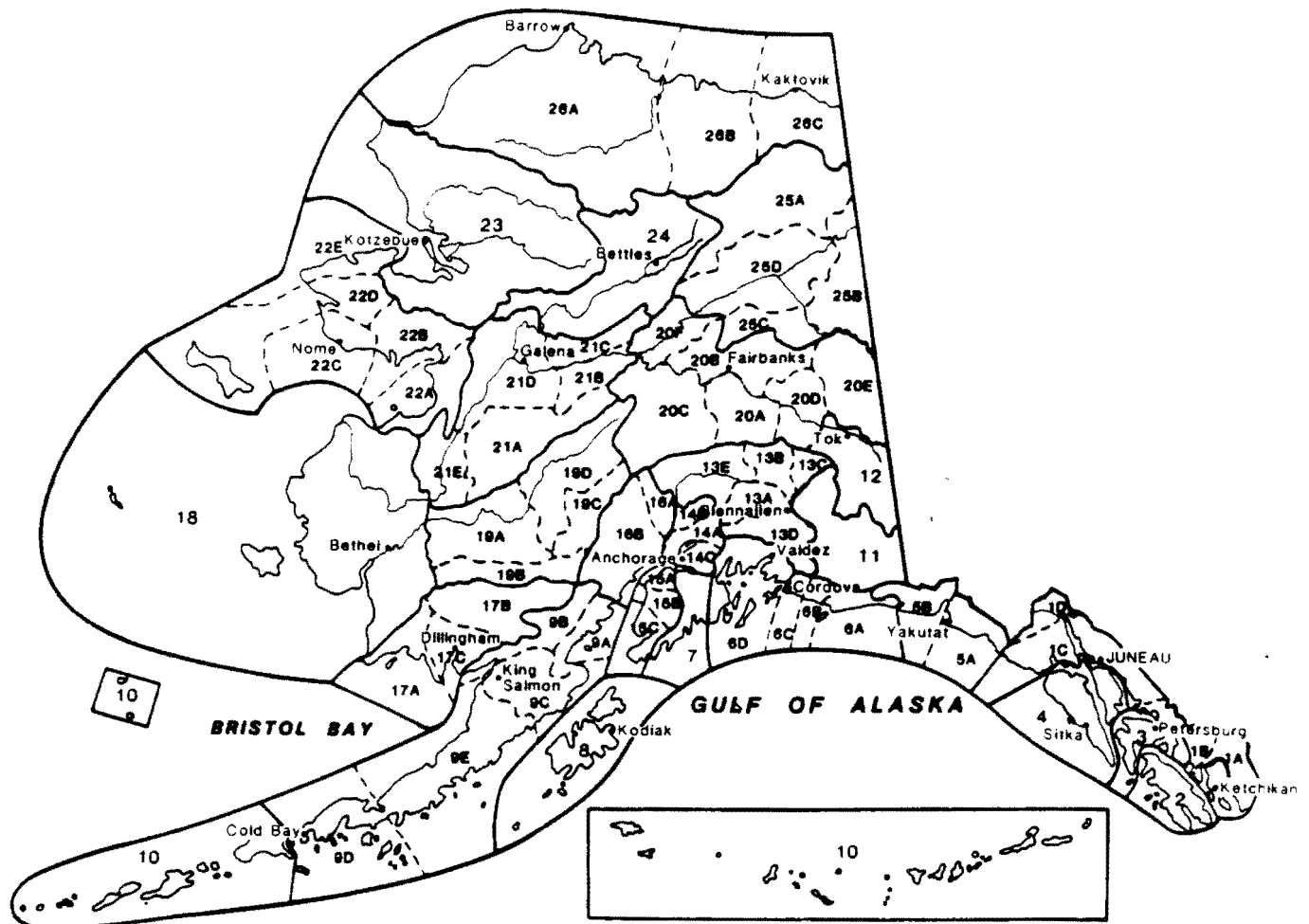
SUBMITTED BY:

John Matthews
Wildlife Biologist III

NOTES



Alaska's Game Management Units



Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sales of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a for-

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ment of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be reponsible hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid.