

GRANT AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

TO: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION
HADLEY, MA

FROM: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ANNAPOLIS, MD

GRANT AGREEMENT: W-65-S-19

GRANT TITLE: HUNTER EDUCATION

TOTAL COSTS: \$795,459

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 600

Job Title: Hunter Education Administration

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide administrative leadership for all work units for hunter education as mandated by natural resource law and the voluntary bow hunter and muzzle loading and wing shooting education programs and provide regional reporting and documentation of progress.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 601

Job Title: Hunter Education Student Training

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide basic and advanced hunter education training to residents of Maryland as required by Natural Resources Article, Title 10 Section 301.1. To assure that each year 200 classes are offered and 7000 students instructed with a corresponding percentage increase coupled to any respective increase in license sales.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 602

Job Title: Hunter Education Instructor Training

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To recruit, train and maintain a staff of qualified instructors to be used to teach the student classes sufficient to train approximately 7000 students with at least two classes in each county annually.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 603

Job Title: Hunter Education Information and Education

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To inform the public of the need for hunter education, the problems associated with the sport of hunting and the availability of hunter education training.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 604

Job Title: Hunter Education Conference and Seminars

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide administrative leadership to the program through the education of staff and selected volunteers. Conference and seminars on hunter education allow staff/volunteers to exchange information and learn latest techniques/trends in hunter education.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 605

Job Title: Alternative Forms of Hunter Education Delivery

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To continue the implementation of the Independent Study Hunter education program, and to design and implement an Internet Hunter education Course.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 606

Job Title: Hunter Education Bow Hunting Student Training

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide basic bowhunting education training to residents of Maryland on a voluntary basis.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 607

Job Title: Bow Hunting Instructor Education

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To recruit, train and maintain a staff of qualified instructors to be used to teach the student classes throughout the state with the goal to reduce hunting accidents while bow hunting and increase hunting success harvesting the resource.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Recommend continuation of the job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 608

Job Title: Hunter Education Muzzleloader Education

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide education in use of muzzle loaders to students and instructors in an advanced course.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Continue job.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 609

Job Title: Hunter Education Wingshooting "First Shot" Training

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To provide advanced youth shotgun shooting education training to hunters on a voluntary basis. To recruit, train and maintain a staff of qualified instructors to be used to teach the student course throughout the State with the goal of improving basic shotgun shooting skills and reduce the wounding loss of migratory and upland game birds in the State.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

Lack of student interest in program

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Continue the job and utilize the shotgun shooting education program at youth hunter programs and National Hunting and Fishing Day events.

JOB PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Maryland

Project Title: Hunter Education

Job No.: 610

Job Title: Trapper Education

Principal Investigator: Walbeck

Job Objective:

To implement a statewide program of Trapper Education as mandated by recently enacted regulations requiring certain persons engaged in trapping furbearers to complete an approved trapper education program prior to purchasing a Furbearer Permit.

Activities/Findings:

See Appendix 1.

Reasons for deviations (if any):

None.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Continue job.

Appendix I

Hunter Education

The Natural Resources Police, Safety Education Division, administers the mandated Hunter Education Program. The Division staff is directly responsible for the coordination of 784 volunteer instructors who team-teach the Maryland Hunter Education Course. The 10-hour course provides instruction on the principles of safe hunting practices, hunter ethics and wildlife management to first time hunters.

The Maryland Hunter Education Program is 75% federally funded through the Pittman-Robertson Funds. In FY 2008, 4,671 students attended 152 public hunter education classes at various locations such as sportsman's clubs, 4-H programs, State Parks, community centers and fire departments (break down by county included in the appendix). All classes have a live firing component and require students to have practical exercises with students demonstrating to the instructor their ability to safely handle a firearm. The practical exercises also give the students an opportunity to experience simulated hunting through shoot/no shoot situations.

Ten new instructor-training programs were offered throughout the State with 66 new instructors brought into the program in FY 2008. In addition to the basic instructor workshops, the staff will go to any new team's location and provide training for new teaching teams. Eight new teaching teams were created in Frederick, Allegany, Cecil, Kent, Wicomico and Caroline counties.

There were 20 instructor updates held in FY 2008 with 403 instructors in attendance. Topics of instruction included a program update and presentation of the new testing and practical exercise procedures.

There were 4 Range Officer Training Programs held with approximately 25 instructors attending. The Range Officer program is the NRA Range Safety Officer Program. All coordinators are certified as NRA Chief Range Safety Officers to teach the course.

The 2 Internet web sites developed by the staff to provide information to the public on the Hunter Education Program and to provide communications with instructors continue to be very successful. Many students register for courses through email. In addition, material orders by instructors are placed through email. Forms and other documents including Hunting Incident Reports are now posted for instructors to use and view at their convenience. The public web site continues to be popular, with most students indicating that they found out about the class from the Internet. Several instructor teams now do student registration on the Internet.

Improved communications is an ongoing initiative. The 3 coordinators have improved communications, providing a smoother running program with fewer crises to deal with by the staff. Newsletters are providing instructors with updated information on program changes and events. The staff continues to use the Access database of instructor

information for more detailed sorting of instructor information to allow for more targeted mailings as needed.

Maryland hosted the U.S.F.W.S. Region V Hunter Education Coordinator's workshop at Kent Narrows. The program was well received and provided a variety of programs and presentations.

In cooperation with the Izaak Walton League, 2 seminars in Hunter Ethics were offered in Western Maryland with approximately 40 instructors attending. This excellent program was led by experts from throughout the country in hunter education and ethics. Instructors provided outstanding reviews of the program. The Izaak Walton League will offer the program again next year.

Additional funding from Section 10 monies had a significant positive impact on the Maryland Hunter Education Program. These monies fund the Western Region Coordinator position and his vehicle. The Instructor Academy and the new Trapper Education program are funded by Section 10 funds. Numerous purchases were also made in training materials, supplies and teaching aids for instructors.

In the summer of 2004, the Hunter Education Staff attended an International Hunter Education Wingshooting clinic as a pilot program designed to promote improved shotgun skills. From this program evolved Maryland's "First Shot" Wingshooting program for youngsters ages 12-17. The program was designed as a 2-day workshop that introduces hunter education graduates to basic shotgunning skills, distance estimation, shotgun patterning and responsible wingshooting. A workshop was held in FY 2006 to train additional instructors and grow the program. Twelve instructors were certified and several programs were set up. Due to a variety of setbacks, the program was put on hold until the spring of 2007 when it was redeveloped by the new Wingshooting Coordinator. The program was designed as a 1-day program, but again, few participants signed up. The program will be redesigned as an element of youth hunter days and youth programs offered by conservation organizations. The First Shot trailer has also been converted into a mobile hunter education workshop trailer to transport the tree stand display and hunter education program display, as well as the First Shot equipment. In FY 2008, the program was offered as part of the Women in the Outdoors Program at Woodmont IWLA. Twelve people participated in the program. It was also part of National Hunting and Fishing Day held at Schrader's in Caroline County. Many youngsters had the opportunity to receive basic instruction in shotgun shooting. In addition, the Tree Stand Safety Display was at this event. Section 10 monies fund this program.

The Hunter Education and the Wildlife and Heritage Service staff jointly developed a statewide program of Trapper Education as mandated by recently enacted regulations requiring certain persons to complete an approved trapper education course prior to trapping. The staff developed a Policy and Procedures Manual, a final examination, modified a student manual and workbook and completed all the details necessary to implement the program. Two instructor workshops were held to certify instructors and plan the program. Thirty-three instructors were certified and 6 teaching teams were

created throughout the State to teach the 1-day course. Students have 2 options to complete the course. They first must obtain a textbook and workbook from DNR and complete the workbook. They can attend either a challenge test, which is offered at Natural Resources Police Offices by the NRP Reserve Officer Coordinators, or take a class offered by the volunteer instructors. The program was developed in FY 2007 and was implemented in FY 2008. There was minimal participation despite over 20 testing opportunities and at least 10 classes offered to the public, only 10 students completed the program.

At the direction of the Natural Resources Police administration, the Hunter Education Staff developed and implemented a new final exam and modified the existing exam. New testing procedures were also developed at the direction of the administration. The new procedures were presented at the instructor updates and were not well received.

Tree stand accidents continue to be the majority of hunting incidents reported to the Natural Resources Police. The staff has initiated the following to make the hunting public more aware of the proper use of tree stands:

1. A tree stand safety display was created and used at the State Fair and National Hunting and Fishing Day.
2. Two tree stand seminars were held for instructors. They were taught by Virginia Hunter Education Instructors who have a special interest in tree stand safety.
3. A tree stand PowerPoint presentation was developed and provided to instructors.
4. A tree stand safety seminar was held for the Montgomery County IWLA.

We will continue to make tree stand safety a priority issue with student classes, the media and at public events.

Ground blinds have become an issue. Maryland has implemented regulations requiring that ground blinds be marked with hunter orange. The Hunter Education Staff has developed a short PowerPoint presentation for use in classes explaining the importance of having a ground blind marked with orange.

The staff continues to replace approximately 2,200 Hunter Education cards each year. A 1-day turn around is the norm for most requests for replacement cards. While the process has been computerized, a tremendous amount of staff time is required to deal with researching and processing the cards as well as dealing with persons requesting replacement cards—especially persons for whom we have no record of taking the course.

The Bowhunter Education Program was completely reorganized in FY 2007 utilizing the Internet Bowhunter course combined with a field day. A 1-day training seminar was offered to all bowhunter instructors with 65 in attendance. Teams were formed statewide utilizing those instructors who wished to be a part of the program. In FY 2008 there were 3 classes offered with 28 students. Lack of publicity is an issue relating to lack of students in this program

The Muzzleloading program had 2 courses with 9 students. The new muzzleloading book was created by several volunteers and staff and is now being used for the program and is popular with the instructors. Again, lack of publicity and the staff's inability to approach the media is a detriment to the program

The Independent Study Hunter Education Program continues to grow slowly. The staff worked with an instructor to create our own Independent Study workbook, which is now used for the course. The staff worked with Kalkomey Enterprises to implement the Internet based Hunter Education Program. The course will be on line July 1, 2008.

There were 17 hunting accidents in Maryland in FY 2007. A copy of the accident report is attached and the information is provided to all instructors for use in their classes.

Another year of positive changes occurred in Maryland's Hunter Education Program in FY 2008. We will continue to improve the Hunter Education program through the following initiatives in FY 2009:

- Continue with the Instructor Leadership Academy, reformatting the program.
- Hold at least 15 Instructor updates throughout the State in the spring of 2009.
- Recruit and train new instructors and instructor teams in areas of need. The staff has changed its recruitment policy of accepting anyone who meets the requirements. Now there must be a need for the person either on a team in the area or as part of a new team. This has reduced the number of unattached instructors going through the training process and becoming certified with no place to teach.
- Continue our "Back to Basics" management of the Hunter Education Program.
- Hold a multi-day Hunter Education Planning meeting for the Hunter Education staff to develop and plan the above initiatives.
- Implement an Internet based Hunter Education Program as an alternative form of delivery for the Hunter Education Program.
- Work with the Wildlife & Heritage Service to continue the implementation of the Trapper Education Program and ensure that classes and testing options are available for those who require trapper education.

Hunter Education Performance Codes
Maryland FY 2008

1511	Student Training-number of students and cost	7,800	\$58,406
1513	Student live firing-number of students and cost	7,800	\$7,956
1515	Advanced student training-number of students and training	37	\$3,490
1521	Volunteer hours of service: total hours of all volunteer effort and total in-kind value	15,401	\$393,210
1523	Volunteers trained- both new and in-service and cost	579	\$25,754
1561	New Ranges constructed with 4-C funds	0	0
1562	Ranges operated and maintained with 4-C Funds	0	0
1563	Educational Facilities: total number of capital projects funded with 4-C funds	0	0
1571	New Ranges constructed with Section 10 funds	0	0
1572	Ranges operated and maintained with Section 10 funds	0	0
1573	Other Section 10 enhancements: total number of non-range related enhancements using section 10 funds	6	0
1581	HE Administration, coordination and indirect costs		\$306,643
	Total		\$795,459



Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 Natural Resources Police
 Hunting Incident Report
 FY 2008



Age (shooter or responsible person)	Two Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Under 10 years				
10-19 yrs.		1		1
20-29 yrs.				3
30-39 yrs.	1	2		2
40-49 yrs.		1		
50-59 yrs.		1		2
60 + yrs.		1		2
unknown				
Totals	1	6	0	10

Causes	Two-Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Careless Handling		2		
Fall From Tree Stand				10
Victim mistaken for game	1	1		
Victim covered by shooter		2		
Finger on Trigger		1		
Totals	1	6	0	10

Distance From Victim to Shooter	Two-Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
0-10 yds.		1
11-50 yds.	1	2
51 yds. & over		3
Totals	1	6

Victim Wearing Hunter Orange	Two -Party	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Yes		3
No	1	
N/A		1
Unknown		2
Totals	1	6

Weather	Two-Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Clear		3		1
Partly overcast	1	2		
Pre-Dawn		1		
Unknown				9
Totals	1	6	0	10

Species Hunted	Two-Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Deer	1	2		10
Squirrel		1		
Dove		1		
Geese		1		
Rabbit		1		
Totals	1	6	0	10

Hunting Device Used	Two-Party		Self-Inflicted	
	Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal
Rifle	1	1		1
Muzzleloader		2		2
Shotgun		3		1
Bow				5
Unknown				1
Totals	1	6	0	10

Narrative

A 22 year-old Queen Anne's County dove hunter was shot by his father. They were 150 feet apart when a dove flew between them. The father did not see the son through the rows of corn. Victim received approximately 30 pellets in his side and arm. Non-fatal

A 64 year-old Garrett County bow hunter fell 15 - 20 feet to the ground while attempting to enter his tree stand. Victim received a fractured pelvis. Non-fatal

A 50 year-old Wicomico County deer hunter, while exiting his home made wooden tree stand, stepped on a dead branch believing it was a screw-in step. The branch broke and the victim fell 20 feet breaking both his legs. Non-fatal.

A 34 year-old Dorchester County deer hunter, while walking into the woods, put a cap on his muzzleloader. The firearm discharged and the projectile struck a person in the arm sitting on the porch of an adjacent house. Victim received broken arm. Non-Fatal

A 19 year-old St. Mary's County deer hunter leaned against the rail of his homemade tree stand 36 feet off the ground. The nails pulled from the tree, the victim exited the tree stand. Victim received fractured pelvis & crushed vertebrae. Non-fatal

A 63 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter fell 20 feet from his wooden tree stand when the stand failed to support him. Victim and parts of stand fell to ground. Victim was flown to Shock-Trauma with unspecified injuries. Non-fatal.

A 29 year-old Frederick County deer hunter, not using a safety harness, lost his footing while attempting to shoot a deer. Victim fell 20 feet from his tree stand breaking his arm and sustaining other minor injuries. Non-fatal.

A 51 year-old Frederick County deer hunter lost his footing while climbing down the metal ladder leading to his homemade wooden tree stand. Victim received fractured wrist, hip and femur, two fractured ribs and six fractured vertebrae. Non-fatal.

A 39 year-old Allegany County squirrel hunter was shot by his 12 year-old hunting partner who was walking behind the victim with his finger on the trigger. Victim's ankle was shattered. Non-fatal.

A 39 year-old Baltimore County deer hunter fell from his tree stand after losing his balance. Victim received compression fractures of his back. Non-fatal.

A 21 year-old Frederick County deer hunter fell 16 feet from his ladder- type deer stand sustaining 3 broken vertebrae. Victim admitted to having 2 drinks "a couple hours" earlier and there was no evidence of a safety harness being used. Non-fatal.

A 30 year-old Prince George's County deer hunter fell from his homemade wooden tree stand when he was attempting to descend to the ground. He lost his grip, fell and landed on his feet. Both ankles were shattered and a leg was broken. Non-fatal

A 24 year-old Queen Anne's County deer hunter fell 15 feet when he entered his tree stand and the strap holding the stand to the tree broke. Victim received 3 fractures to his ankle and a shattered heel. Non-fatal

A 47 year-old Allegany County deer hunter, walking into the woods without hunter orange, was shot by a 32 year-old hunter. The shooter heard noise, saw movement through the trees and shot the victim without identifying the target. Fatal.

A 40 year-old Talbot County goose hunter was shot by his hunting partner when the shooter, from outside the blind, shot at a wounded goose. The victim in the blind was in the line of fire. One pellet entered his eye and lodged in his brain. Non-fatal.

A 64 year-old Garrett County deer hunter was shot in the abdomen by another hunter who mistook the victim for a deer. Shooter was charged with negligent hunting. Non-fatal.

A 63 year-old Caroline County rabbit hunter was shot by his 63 year old hunting partner when the shooter stumbled and accidentally discharged the firearm. Victim received 6 pellets to the scalp, which did not require medical attention. Non-fatal.