

GRANT AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

FROM: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ANNAPOLIS, MD

GRANT AGREEMENT: W-65-S-20

GRANT TITLE: HUNTER EDUCATION

TOTAL COSTS: \$679,128

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 the 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 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):

The Trapper Education program is now administered by the Maryland Hunter education program staff.

Recommendations for the continuance of job:

Continue job.

## **Appendix I**

### **Preface**

The reduction in staff in the Safety Education Division resulted in 1 administrative staff person doing the job of 3. The main priority is serving the public, which primarily deals with 25-30 replacement card requests a day as well as handling the telephone and other responsibilities dealing with data entry of classes. The proofing of student data entry is not completed in a timely manner as it is on the bottom of the priority list. The Hunter Education supervisor position was eliminated in the spring 2009, adding additional duties and responsibilities for the entire staff. The goal for FY 2010 is to hire 2 additional Hunter Education coordinators for central and southern Maryland to ease the workload and area covered by the current staff.

Numbers for this report are provided by DNR's Information Technology (IT) section. This continues to be a problem because of the outdated database program used to capture instructor and student course information. The IT section continues to work on upgrades to the database system, but this is a very slow process, requiring many resources.

### **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 approximately 1,000 volunteer instructors who team-teach the Maryland Hunter, Bow Hunter, and Muzzleloader Education Courses. 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 Program. In FY 2009, 6,801 students attended 233 public hunter education classes at various locations such as sportsman's clubs, 4-H programs, State Parks, community centers and fire departments. 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.

Five new instructor-training programs were offered throughout the State with 72 new instructors brought into the program in FY 2009. In addition to the basic instructor workshops, the staff will go to any new team's location and provide training for new teaching teams. Four new teaching teams were created in Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, and Wicomico counties.

There were 25 instructor updates held in FY 2009 with 293 instructors in attendance. Topics of instruction included a program update and presentation of the new testing and practical exercise procedures.

There were 5 Range Safety Officer Training Programs held with approximately 68 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 and instructors place orders for material through e-mail. 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 2 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.

Because of scheduling, budget restraints and personnel vacancies, the staff did not attend the Region V conference this year.

The Ethnics in Action workshop was cancelled by the National Chapter of the Isaac Walton League.

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 Trapper Education program are funded by Section 10 funds. Numerous purchases were also made in training materials, supplies, equipment and teaching aids for instructors.

The First Shot Program was offered at the National Hunting and Fishing Day held at Schrader's in Caroline County and the DNR Wildlife and Heritage Youth Hunt Day program. Seven hundred students participated in the First Shot program. 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. Students have 2 options to complete the course. They first must obtain a textbook and workbook from DNR and complete the workbook. They can either attend a challenge test, which is offered at Natural Resources Police Offices by the Hunter Education Coordinators, or take a class offered by the volunteer instructors. The program was developed in FY 2007 and was implemented in FY 2008. There has been minimal participation despite numerous testing opportunities and classes offered to the public. The Maryland Hunter Education program staff now oversees and administers the Maryland Trapper Education program.

In October 2008, the staff developed a new test and registration sheet to consolidate the certification of written test scores and field exercises. The staff also conducted chief instructor training state wide regarding the change in test and registration procedures. A new manual and PowerPoint program was developed by Kalkomey Enterprises.

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 National Hunting and Fishing Day.
2. Two tree stand seminars were held for instructors. They were taught by the Maryland Hunter Education staff, and designed and developed to improve class instruction.
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 2,500 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. Teams were formed statewide utilizing instructors who wished to be a part of the program. In FY 2009 there were 10 classes offered with 73 students. Lack of the education requirement is an issue relating to lack of students in this program.

The Muzzleloading program clinic had 4 courses with 49 students. The new muzzleloading book was created by several volunteers and staff, is now being used for the program, and is popular with the instructors. Again, the lack of the education requirement has resulted in low attendance.

The Independent Study Hunter Education Program continues to grow slowly. The staff worked with Kalkomey Enterprises to implement the Internet based Hunter Education Program. Four hundred fifty six students took and passed the Internet course.

There were 14 hunting accidents in Maryland in FY 2009. 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 2009. We will continue to improve the Hunter Education program through the following initiatives in FY 2010:

- Continue with the Earl Zoeller Instructor Leadership Academy, reformatting the program.
- Hold at least 25 Instructor updates throughout the State in the spring of 2010.
- 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.
- Continue the 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.
- Revise, update and distribute a new policy and procedure manual.
- Complete a total field inventory of Hunter Education firearms assigned to teaching teams.
- Develop and distribute Hunter Education instructor identification cards.

Hunter Education Performance Codes  
Maryland FY 2009

1511	Student Training-number of students and cost	6,801	\$50,939
1513	Student live firing-number of students and cost	6,801	\$6,937
1515	Advanced student training-number of students and training	68	\$6,413
1521	Volunteer hours of service: total hours of all volunteer effort and total in-kind value	11,234	\$332,526
1523	Volunteers trained- both new and in-service and cost	658	\$29,267
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	\$18,001
1581	HE Administration, coordination and indirect costs		\$235,045
	Total		\$679,128