

Meeting Date: Nov 20, 2020

Agenda Item No. 11

Agenda Item: Report about Hunter Education
Online Only/Field Day

Bureau Chief Approval: PK

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background: Staff briefed the Commission in July 2020 about the cancellation of instructor-led hunter education classes due to COVID-19 and the transition to an online-only platform with the field day waived. There was substantial student response to this transition with an increased number of students completing the online course becoming certified, and thus eligible to purchase a hunting or combination license.

The table below updates information presented in July, showing the dramatic increase in students completing online-only hunter education with the field day waived.

The Commission asked staff to evaluate trends in license purchase in 2020 (online only, field day waived) compared to previous evaluation of license purchase by hunter education graduates (online only with field day, instructor-led). The Commission also inquired whether the elevated numbers of students in the online classes in 2020 was being influenced by nonresidents taking advantage of Idaho's waiving of the field day resulting in exclusively an online platform.

Responding to Commission request, staff will update the Commission about the license purchase trends and the proportion of nonresidents taking the online hunter education class with the field day waived.

Comparison of Hunter Education Course Completions

Month	Year: 2019	Year: 2020
March	318	1,598
April	337	3,085
May	332	2,969
June	269	1,605
July	347	1,560
August	502	1,418
September	666	1,721

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues: This information briefing is to update Commission per their request about license purchase outcomes of the 2020 online only Hunter Education platform and inquiry about the number of nonresident students.

Public Involvement Process: No specific process is underway at this time.

Staff Recommendation: Continue to evaluate if there is any difference in license purchase between students who certified under an online-only with a waived field day platform or students who experienced an online or instructor led platform that included a field day.

Justification: Appropriate to review status and outcomes of programs.