

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

UPDATED APRIL 2016

Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

DISTRIBUTION METHOD

Apportioned based on formula that includes a factor for population size

Governing Guidance

- Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as Pittman-Roberson Act of 1937 (Enabling Legislation)
- 50 CFR 80
- 2 CFR 200
- USFWS Manual Chapters



ELIGIBLE GRANTEES: ALL STATE/TERRITORY FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES WITH ASSENT LEGISLATION

Purpose

To teach students to be safe, responsible, conservation-minded hunters; provide instruction in safe firearm operations, wildlife management, ethics, game laws, outdoor survival, wilderness first aid; and build/operate archery and firearm range facilities.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Basic Hunter Education (BHE):

- Teach the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to become a responsible hunter
- Construct, operate, or maintain firearm and archer ranges for public use

Enhanced Hunter Education (EHE):

- Enhance programs for hunter education, hunter development, and firearm and archery safety. Hunter-development programs introduce individuals to and recruit them to take part in hunting, bow hunting, target shooting, or archery
- Enhance interstate coordination of hunter-education and firearm- and archery-range programs
- Enhance programs for education, safety, or development of bow hunters and archers
- Enhance construction and development of firearm and archery ranges
- Update safety features of firearm and archery ranges

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Wildlife Restoration Trust Fund Includes Revenues from:

- Excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunitions (firearms, ammunition, pistols, handguns, revolvers, bows, archery, arrow components)
- BHE funds: 1/2 of taxes collected on pistols, handguns, revolvers, and archery equipment
- EHE funds: \$8 million from Wildlife Restoration Trust fund

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- Provides reimbursement of up to 75% federal funding, 25% from nonfederal sources.
- 100% federal funding for Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands.
- BHE apportionment available for two years before it reverts.
- BHE reverted funds are provided to the Migratory Bird Program.
- EHE apportionment available for one year before it reverts. Reverted funds are apportioned, the following year, to those States who fully obligated their current year BHE apportionment to BHE eligible activities.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

* If a state fails to obligate all of its current year BHE apportionment on BHE eligible activities, then EHE apportionment funds may only be used for EHE eligible activities.

* If a state fully obligates all of its current year BHE apportionment on BHE eligible activities, then that state may use its current year EHE apportionment on any eligible activity authorized under the Wildlife Restoration Act (WR, BHE, or EHE) AND that state becomes eligible to receive reverted EHE funds the following fiscal year.