

Basic and Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety - WSFR

This information applies to:

The Basic Hunter Education and Safety subprogram and the Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety subprogram

Definition

Basic Hunter Education: Program for the education of hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible hunters.

Enhanced Hunter Education: Program for the the enhancement of basic hunter education programs through hunter and sporting firearm safety programs and hunter development programs and to introduce individuals to the shooting sports and increase opportunities for recreational firearms and archery shooting activities.

50 CFR 80.50

Activities eligible for funding for Basic HE:

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

Availability of funds for obligation:

- Two Federal fiscal years.

Activities eligible for funding for Enhanced HE:

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, archers, and shooters.
- Enhance construction and development of firearm and archery ranges.
- Update safety features of firearm and archery ranges.

Availability of funds for obligation:

- One Federal fiscal year

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the recruitment and retention of hunters eligible for funding for the three subprograms of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act: Wildlife Restoration, Basic Hunter Education and Enhanced Hunter Education?

Yes. Examples of eligible activities that support recruitment and retention efforts include, but are not limited to, the following:

Wildlife Restoration - carry out research and surveys that assess trends in hunter participation, including recruitment and retention, socio-economic studies and barriers to hunting; acquire, lease or manage lands to increase hunting opportunity; develop facilities to support hunters, hunting and wildlife-related recreation; and conduct tests to evaluate the results of recruitment and retention techniques.

Basic Hunter Education - assess the effectiveness of basic and advanced hunter education programs on recruiting and retaining participants; develop and implement model recruitment and retention programs provided the activities involve teaching skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be a responsible hunter; improve public access to hunter education materials and courses; acquire land, construct and operate firearm and archery ranges; acquire, develop and maintain hunter education facilities; and provide technical assistance to target range operators.

Enhanced Hunter Education - develop and implement model recruitment and retention programs; offer shooting skills development programs, such as Archery in the Schools and Scholastic Clays that introduce individuals to the shooting sports; develop and sponsor exhibits at outreach events; increase opportunities for recreational shooting, such as mobile shooting clays and live fire exercises; acquire and maintain facilities that encourage hunting, firearms and archery activities; and communicate positive hunting messages through media.

What if Basic HE funds are not fully obligated during the period of availability?

The Service may use unobligated funds to carry out the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715 et seq.).

What if Enhanced HE funds are not fully obligated during the period of availability?

The Service reappropriates unobligated funds to eligible States as Wildlife Restoration funds for the following fiscal year. States are eligible to

receive unobligated Enhanced HE funds only if their Basic HE funds were fully obligated in the preceding fiscal year for eligible Basic HE activities as listed above and according to 50 CFR § 80.50(b).

What if Basic HE funds are fully obligated during the period of availability?

If Basic Hunter Education funds are fully obligated for eligible Basic HE activities as listed above and according to 50 CFR § 80.50(b), the agency may use that fiscal year's Enhanced Hunter Education funds for eligible activities related to Basic Hunter Education, Enhanced Hunter Education, or the Wildlife Restoration program. (50 CFR 80.60)

What if Enhanced HE funds are fully obligated during the period of availability?

No special provisions apply. (50 CFR 80.60)

May an activity be eligible for funding if it is not explicitly eligible in this part?

An activity may be eligible for funding even if this part does not explicitly designate it as an eligible activity if the State fish and wildlife agency justifies in the project statement how the activity will help carry out the purposes of the Wildlife Restoration Act and the USFWS Regional Director concurs with the justification. (50 CFR 80.52)

Are costs of State central services eligible for funding?

Administrative costs in the form of overhead or indirect costs for State central services outside of the State fish and wildlife agency are eligible for funding under the Acts and must follow an approved cost allocation plan. These expenses must not exceed 3 percent of the funds apportioned annually to the State under the Acts. (50 CFR 80.53)

What activities are ineligible for funding?

The following activities are ineligible for funding under the Acts, except when necessary to carry out project purposes approved by the Regional Director:

- Law enforcement activities.
- Public relations activities to promote the State fish and wildlife agency, other State administrative units, or the State.
- Activities conducted for the primary purpose of producing income.
- Activities, projects, or programs that promote or encourage opposition to the regulated taking of fish, hunting, or the trapping of wildlife. (50 CFR 80.54)

May Basic Hunter Education funds be used to support shooting sports programs that do not have components that teach the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be a responsible hunter?

No. In order to meet the eligibility requirement for Section 4 Basic Hunter Education funding, programs must teach the "skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be a responsible hunter." See the link in the resource section below for guidance on adding hunter development components to shooting sports programs to make them eligible for Section 4 Basic Hunter Education funding.

Learning Aids

[Basic HE and EHE flow chart 1 PDF](#)

[Basic HE and EHE flow chart 2 PDF](#)

Related Pages

[Wildlife Restoration Program](#)

Resources

[Wildlife Restoration Program](#)

References

50 CFR 80.50

50 CFR 80.60

16 U.S.C. United States Code, 2010 Edition Title 16 - CONSERVATION CHAPTER 5B - WILDLIFE RESTORATION 669h-1. Firearm and bow hunter education and safety program grants.