



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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Good Afternoon All,

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the first day of June!? May was productive and there is plenty of news to report. You all did a wonderful job this Spring helping hunters, both young and old, by engaging them in class and teaching them to be safe, legal and responsible hunters! Thank you!!!

**Student/Age Breakdown:** Speaking of our students, I had Chris and Kris get me the numbers for our students in 2014. I was curious what our age structure looked like. From Event Manager, we had 18,648 students. I know that's not everyone, because we don't have everyone using EM yet. Here's the quick and dirty results:

- 47% of our students are under the age of 20.
- 41% of our students are between the ages of 21-45.
- 12% of our students are 46 and older.

**Shout Out:** Matt Dunfee is one of our volunteer Hunter Education Instructors. Like many of you, he has a full-time job. Matt works on the national level researching Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation or R3. He's giving us half a day at the Masters Workshop to share with us what his research has revealed. I've heard him share on this topic before and I think it's **valuable** to have the instructor core understand why agencies need to change "how they've always done it." Thanks Matt for sharing! In the June Updates I'll share his presentation via an attachment for everyone to look over.

**Hunter Education Bill:** Gov. Hickenlooper signed the Hunter Education Bill and we are working hard to begin the process of implementation. Here's the basics of what the bill says:

- Gives Parks and Wildlife Commission the authority to create regulations to allow alternate requirements to obtain certification (i.e. apprentice license, test out, etc.).
- Allow veterans, active duty, reserve and national guard personnel to test out of Hunter Education.
- Defines Apprentice Certificate for folks 10 and older, hunt with a mentor 18 or older who had HE card or is age exempt, for one year.
- Allows for verification of HE Card so hunters don't have to carry card while in the field.

**IHEA Peer Review:** We received the final Peer Review report from IHEA. They had a lot to say and I'm very thankful for their thoughtful input! I'll be sharing some of it at Masters and after the HE staff have had a chance to "chew on it" for a bit, I'll make it available to all. Generally, our strengths are:

- Overall high regard for Denver HE and DWM staff.
- High quality, dedicated volunteer instructor corps.
- Receptive to change.
- Successful hunter education track record and high return on investment.



Their recommendations covered topical areas such as: Administration; Research and Evaluation; Instructors; Curriculum; and HE and R3 Marketing and Promotions. There's a lot to go over and process! What we know is that the working groups we have identified are all on target and seen as a need in the Peer Review.

**Random Updates and Reminders:**

1. Our test is not an open book/notes test.
2. Our test is written at the 3rd grade level. We don't need to "prompt" students that what you're telling them is/could be on the test.
3. No one should be wearing any DOW logo'd shirts, hats, vests or name tags.
4. Small game is a wonderful way to hunters to "extend" their hunting opportunities due to longer seasons and higher bag limits. This also allows the new hunter to hone their skills!

Hunter Education would not be possible without the dedicated core of Instructors (both volunteer and staff) that we have. The Peer Review team highlighted that and we know that to be true! Thanks for all you do to continue the hunting heritage in Colorado!

**Todd Schmidt**  
Hunter Education Coordinator



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