

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

Chair: Kellie Tharp (AZ)

Vice Chair: Tabbi Kinion (AR)

March 11, 2022

Attendees: 31

Agenda/Notes:

Welcome/Introductions- Kellie Tharp (AZ) & Tabbi Kinion (AR) 10 min

Updated 2022 Education Curriculum Resources from the Conservation Education Strategy - 30 min.

- This was part of a MSCG that was recently completed. We updated the CE Strategy toolkit to make them more relevant to our educators. Updated methodology and aligned with current education standards.
- You can find all the sources on the AFWA website: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-informs/ce-strategy/north-american-conservation-education-strategy>
 - Free for download for anyone
 - The sources reviewed from the website:
 - [Conservation Education Core Concepts](#)
 - [Field Investigations Guide: Using Outdoor Environments to Foster Student Learning and Recreation](#)
 - [Fostering Stewardship through Conservation Education: A Best Practices Guide](#)
 - [Landscape Investigation Guidelines](#)
 - [Sustainable Tomorrow](#)
 - The older guides are still available on the AFWA website, in the archived section.
 - How would you like to see this promoted? [discussion]
 - Online training modules
 - Possible webinars
 - Join Project WILD monthly meeting to train some Project WILD coordinators

One Health and Education Discussion - 15 min

- <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/index.html>
- There is a connection between fish and wildlife health and human health
 - We need to be part of that conversation
- There are a lot of work being done in various AFWA committees, as well as work being done in other agencies and NGOs that help make that connection and the importance and need for us to be part of the conversation; not working in silos

Sportsman's Alliance Conservation Adventures – Rob Sexton

- Conservation Adventures Program (<https://conservationadventures.org/>)
 - the design of a HS curriculum that weaves in conservation and the recreational activities that fund the NA model that meet the educational requirement for graduation
 - Launched in Ohio and PA; will be launched soon in Iowa, TN, KY, IN
 - Involves a consumable text book; hard core science lessons taught through the lens of conservation

- Example: instead of dissecting a pig, they can butcher/dissect a deer
- A lot of physical science involved in the course
 - Example: why do boats float, etc
- Build these scientific concepts in the practical world
- Working with a lot of state agencies to have some of this education in the schools
- This can be adopted as a full course or as a module of an existing course
- There has been a demand to have different version of this—example—having a version appropriate for college students; haven't made any decisions yet. Still testing this version out before making improvements
- Looking to make more connections with state agencies
- Will be working with Project WILD coordinators in every state this is adopted in
- In the process of building a professional development aspect of this program- to fulfill some educators requirements
- There is no cost to the agency; the schools purchase the textbook (hard copy or digital)—books are ~\$28 each which is considered very affordable for schools
- Second edition will be more well aligned with education standards
- For more information or questions, please reach out to Rob Sexton at rtsstrategies@gmail.com

Kalkomey Update - 10 min.

- Founded in 1995; provide a number of education and certification program (ie. Hunter education, boater education, etc); provides classroom materials, online materials and software solutions
- Have a NEW Interactive Hunter Education Program
 - IHEA-USA approved, fully interactive
 - Currently used in Florida, Texas and Iowa
 - www.ilearntohunt.com
 - Have enhanced interactive delivery: course personalization, student decision making, active participation, increase retention, 50+ assessments and challenges, app-based option (iOS & Android)
 - Offering a free demo- reach out to ggulliver@kalkomey.com
- Continued Education & Resources- connecting with subject matter partners to bring you more courses
 - More for your students: deer hunting 101, Turkey hunting 101, duck and good hunting 101 → www.todayshunter.com
 - Firearm Fundamental Course → www.ffcource.org
- Hunter Education Intent Survey
 - Launched mid-fall 2021→ Learning more form your students
 - ~120,000 survey participants so far

2023 Conservation Education Conference Discussion - 20 min. Tabbi

- Had one in 2021- should be have another one in 2023, and if so- what should it look like?
 - Online vote: Yes = 12 No = 0
 - Virtual or in person or hybrid: Virtual = 1, hybrid = 8, In person = 3
 - Tied to AFWA or NA Conference or separate: AFWA = 1 (if hybrid), NA Conf = 0, Separate = 6

- What month? Jan = 4, Feb = 3, March = 1, April = 2, May = 2, July = 1, October/early Nov = 1

Topics?

- New CE Strategy documents - definitely, ✓
- OneHealth Initiative
- Climate Education
- Resource Sharing:
 - Conservation Adventures
 - Kalkomey
 - Federal Agency Programs
 - State agency best practice programs
- Project WILD training
- Creating agency relevancy through education ✓
- DEI... relevance... highlight what agencies are doing to meet this need.
- Techniques, practice for hybrid learning--such as equipment, room set up, going live outdoors for combined in-person and virtual audiences
- Accessibility: how to adapt programming for both physical and mental disabilities
Creative programs that integrate learning with application (freshwater snorkeling to teach watershed stewardship, citizen science, etc.
Breaking down silos- R3, Hunter education, aquatic and fishing education,
- How to best integrate all the “programs” so they work for our partners - usable for educators in different settings
- I’m happy to volunteer (connections to CRU USGS program grads/PhDs; outreach, DEIA, etc.), dchilds@usgs.gov I love online! Federal budget constraints, we can’t travel!!! : tie CONF to Project wild, relevancy road map, one health, fish/hunt , room for open brainstorming (app development; discuss funding for app)

Who is willing to be part of planning this? (put name, organization, and email, please)

- Tabbi Kinion, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, tabbi.kinion@agfc.ar.gov
- Kelly Reynolds, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, kreynolds@fishwildlife.org (I think Elena would be happy to work on this too!)
- Jen Dennison, Ohio Division of Wildlife jen.dennison@dnr.ohio.gov
Kellie Tharp- AZGFD

Tanya.poole@ncwildlife.org, NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Patty Allen pallen@fishwildlife.org– I’m happy to help however I can

- Kim Winter, USDA Forest Service, NatureWatch Program kimberly.winter@usda.gov
- Rachel Penrod, FWC Rachel.penrod@myfwc.com
- Lindsay Rogers, Nebraska, lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov
- Dawn Childs, dchilds@usgs.gov : 2021 CRU YIR, we train future conservation workforce on 41 universities in 39 states.
- Melissa Felty (Alderson), Melissa.Alderson@tpwd.texas.gov (possibly not to plan but can led a session for many of the topics listed above; would be happy to present)
- Barb Gigar, Barb.Gigar@dnr.iowa.gov

Lightning round- Come prepared to share innovative ideas, success stories, and other exciting ways that your state or organization is delivering education programs- 10 min

- Forest Service is putting together a new conservation education strategy
- Sign up to try out the upcoming Flying WILD online professional development course. See "What's New" at <https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild> ; [click here to register](#)
- Regional meetings are great too. I like to see what the folks around me are doing and how we can collaborate
- <https://archerytrade.org/conservation-initiative/>
- Bowhunters United
- Iowa moving for Recreation Safety Officers to regional outdoor skills specialists who are 100% education - looking to promote our OS programs and CE programs together; hopefully more promotion/support for WILD and related efforts; currently 2 - hope to expand with retirements of current RSOs
- Lindsay in Nebraska.... Starting to do more Urban Wildlife Education and engaging underserved audiences.
- FWC developed an educational scavenger hunt on our WMAs called WildQuest. Participants complete missions using their mobile devices and an app called Goosechase. Each mission provides education on habitats and species or outdoor recreation skills, www.FloridaWildQuest.com - targeting informal ed, "game-ification"
- Trying to get approval for a Climate Adaptation workshop with Project WET. NCWRC is still being a bit funny about committing to talking about climate change.

Wrap-up/closing- 5 mins