



IKES ON TARGET



PHOTO: JAY CLARK

IWLA Strategic Plan: Chapter Outdoor Recreation Survey

Our Plan

The Izaak Walton League's Strategic Plan, unanimously approved by delegates to the 2013 IWLA National Convention, seeks to advance conservation and outdoor recreation across America. The League's five-year plan has goals that support our mission: "To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife."

Our founders knew that people who enjoyed outdoor recreation would be more likely to take up the cause of conservation. Today, our chapters continue that tradition, providing people with a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

Achieving Strategic Plan Goals

The implementation of the League's new strategic plan includes specific actions the national organization, divisions, chapters, and members can take to achieve our shared conservation and outdoor recreation goals. They are essential to translate our broad, long-term goals into concrete actions we can take on an annual basis. One of these goals is to engage more people in sustainable outdoor recreation.

Promoting Outdoor Recreation

To connect more people with hunting, fishing, shooting sports, boating, camping, and the great outdoors, League staff will be reaching out to chapters across the country to identify concrete ways we can work together to achieve this goal.

The first step is a survey to determine chapter interests, needs, and goals around outdoor recreation. The **Chapter Outdoor Recreation Survey** will be sent to all chapter presidents later this summer.

Your chapter's participation and completion of this survey will be crucial to identifying the resources chapters would find most useful to expand participation in outdoor recreation.

The national organization is committed to supporting members and chapters in achieving our outdoor recreation goals. League staff will use results from this and other previous surveys and other information to develop the resources members indicate will be most valuable.

Working together, we can achieve our shared goals – including providing opportunities for a growing number of people to safely and responsibly participate in recreational shooting sports. Achieving this goal will help the League stay "on target."

On Target: Featured Chapters

In each issue of *Ikes On Target*, we highlight chapters that promote shooting sports.

Under 500 Members –



Photo courtesy Rick Cerwick

Warren County Chapter (Iowa)

Located outside of the city limits of Indianola, Iowa, this chapter has doubled in size in less than 4 years – growing to more than 350 members. Chapter leaders attribute much of their success to continuing activities for hunters and recreational shooters.

The chapter organizes spring and fall trap leagues and maintains an archery course and 100- and 150-yard benched rifle range.

Annually, the chapter supports hands-on, advanced hunter training for kids and hosts the Youth Hunter Education Challenge, a statewide event sanctioned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

It recently hosted the 2014 Iowa Division State Annual Convention's Trap Shoot, with the largest number of youth shooters – 30 girls and boys (see photo) – and another 45 adult shooters from other IWLA chapters in the state, including **B.F. Carroll**, **Boone Valley**, **East Fork**, **Des Moines**, **Grundy-Tama**, and **Waterloo**.

The Warren County Ikes are involved in a major effort to build three new trap houses and expand their rifle/pistol range along with constructing a new trap building.

www.warrenikes.com

Over 500 Members –

Howard County Chapter (Indiana)

Chartered in the city of Kokomo in 1924, this is one of the oldest active chapters in the country. With more than 550 members, the chapter operates a variety of shooting facilities, not only for members but as an attraction for new members as well.

Along with a traditional archery course, the chapter maintains a handgun/rifle range with covered positions at 10, 25, and 50 yards. Members can also shoot rifles or slug guns off open benches at 100-yard targets.

The chapter grounds include several trap and skeet fields open 7 days a week. It organizes seasonal clay target shooting leagues that are open to public participation.



Photo courtesy Howard County Chapter IWLA

The chapter is all about “natural” settings when it comes to sporting clays. It has an extensive trail system with a variety of multiple stands that traverse into the woods and through several meadows in this part of the Hoosier State.



Check out their online YouTube video that features their challenging sporting clays course – also open to the public.

www.hciwla.org

Possible State Range Funding?

The Pittman-Robertson Act (P-R) – officially known as the Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 – generates hundreds of millions of dollars each year for wildlife conservation, hunter education, and recreational shooting from excise taxes assessed on domestic-made firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.

The Law: This law authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with state fish and wildlife agencies on a variety of projects related to wildlife management. Among the projects that can use P-R funds are construction, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges. States are not required to use P-R funds on shooting ranges.

How It Works: Normally, as P-R funds are apportioned among the states, they may use some of these funds to pay up to 75% of the costs of a hunter safety program and the construction, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges.

The other 25% of funds for a project must be derived from state agency funds, such as license fees paid by hunters.

Possible Funding: Although P-R funds are directly available only to state agencies, these agencies often make the funds available to individuals, organizations, or local governments for qualifying programs. States have their own criteria and application processes for these funds. The 25% cost-share can often be provided through materials, labor, or other in-kind contributions.

P-R funding though certain states may be available for shooting ranges such as on IWLA chapter grounds. Those states where the League has a presence include: Colorado, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

If an applicant is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, there may be requirements for public access if P-R funds are used for a shooting range. Also, these applicants may be required to provide the 25% match.

Specific grant eligibility and requirements for shooting range development will vary greatly by state. In addition, the availability of grants for shooting ranges may not be well advertised.

For more details, contact your state fish and wildlife agency (outdoor or hunter education division) or search the agency's Web site.

Special IWLA .45-70 Rifle Offer

A special order form was recently mailed to each chapter president for a one-time offer to any chapter interested in purchasing a limited-edition **Henry Repeating Arms/IWLA .45-70 Lever-Action Rifle (Model H010)**. This embellished hunting rifle will have an IWLA logo laser engraved into the walnut stock.



August 29, 2014, is the deadline for chapters to send a completed form, \$625 payment, and copy of local FFL document to the IWLA office.

For more details, contact IWLA Chapter Relations at (800) IKE-LINE (453-5463) ext. 216 or ehower@iwla.org. Please do not contact the manufacturer directly regarding this offer.

NRA Shooting Range Conference

The next National Rifle Association **Range Development and Operations Conference** – a four-day industry seminar focusing on fundamental aspects of building and maintaining a shooting facility – will be held September 20 - 23 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Attendees will receive a multi-disciplinary perspective on major topics such as:

- Developing business and master plans
- Public hearings and zoning boards
- Environmental issues/ sound abatement
- Insurance and grants
- EPA lead standards
- Range maintenance and safety

The conference is designed to educate gun range owners and operators about managing existing and proposed range facilities, and to identify potential problems associated with engineering, environmental issues, and safety.

Search www.nrahq.org/shootingrange or contact Kara Schlifke toll-free at (877) NRA-RANGE (672-7264) or range@nrahq.org.

Editor's Note: If you can't make the trip to Ohio, the NRA also offers a **Range Development and Operations Online Course** designed for range owners and operators.

Sportsmen's Bill Meets Gridlock

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 recently fell to partisan gridlock. The Senate bill (S. 2363) – hailed as a broadly supported bill in a deeply divided Congress – was a chance for hunting, shooting, and fishing groups to move long-standing priorities through Congress.

Its primary sponsors are a Democrat from North Carolina (Kay Hagan) and a Republican from Alaska (Lisa Murkowski). It has 46 cosponsors well distributed among both parties. It includes diverse provisions ranging from authorizing electronic duck stamps that fund wetland conservation to opening more public lands to target shooting, hunting, and fishing.

Although the bill had a little “floor time” in early July – meaning members of Congress discussed the bill – it was quickly buried under proposed amendments from all sides.

The Senate voted to not continue debating the bill by a vote of 41 for/56 against, largely due to disagreements over whether and which amendments would be voted on. There were amendments on a wide range of issues, many of which had nothing to do with this legislation.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act met a predictable end in a partisan Congress. It may be taken up again this year, but that is less and less likely given the limited legislative days left and the bickering that broke out when it was introduced.

Sponsors of some provisions may try to move their bills forward separately. For example, there was a hearing in late July on S.1554, The Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures (HUNT) Act, which would allocate 1.5 percent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to providing access to existing federal public lands. The League supports moving separate components of the Sportsmen's Act forward and is working with other sportsmen groups to support some of these efforts.

Your National Staff In Action

National staff recently represented the Izaak Walton League at the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) annual conference – a gathering of state fish and wildlife agency education administrators, volunteer and professional educators, conservation non-profits, assorted hunting equipment manufacturers, and teaching aid vendors.

Staff also attended the National Shooting Industry Summit, hosted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, to learn more about trends and issues related to increasing shooting sports participation.



As a member of the Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports, the League is working with other hunting and recreational shooting groups, the firearms and archery industries, and state fish and wildlife agencies to develop a national strategy to recruit and retain hunters and recreational shooters. This diverse coalition understands the value of a national strategy that engages not only traditional hunters and shooting sports participants but new audiences as well.

With chapters where people can safely and responsibly engage in shooting sports – and members who can mentor new participants – the Izaak Walton League can play a big part in the future success of this strategy.

***Ikes On Target* is a quarterly publication mailed to current chapter presidents and designated shooting sports coordinators.**

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Check out www.iwla.org/shootingsports today!

