



CONSERVE AND PROTECT

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
DEDICATED FUNDING FOR
OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

Comments Received - Updated September 11, 2018

9-10-2018	Individual Comment
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My idea for a funding source is the Wildlife Center at the Carefree Highway location. There are many valley wildlife rescue organizations that do quite well with their onsite programs, tours, seminars for a nominal attendance fee. Look at the programs that Randy with AZGFD puts on with the scorpions and bats. They are very well attended and educational as well as fun. The new facility will need some more dressing up, but there are some great educational animals there that currently are not being used much to educate the public. Sam does some wonderful presentations with the schools. So let the Wildlife Center operate that way as well, only on a fee basis. When the facility was at the Adobe Mountain Wildlife Center, it did many programs and open houses and drew good crowds. People loved coming to see the animals there, although there was no fee at that time, many people were very generous and gave donations to these events.

9-8-2018	Individual Comment
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If the Department believes that education/marketing is more practical than legislative solutions for protecting the North American Model, then selling special tags is not a sound method of fundraising for that pursuit. It would set a dangerous precedent. Instead, the Department should consider selling a special bonus point.

The Department could sell an annual bonus point that would be good for every genus. Participation in the special point program would be voluntary, and the point would expire with the end of every calendar year. The cost should be high enough to produce significant revenue, but not so high as to be prohibitive for most sportsmen. A good price point would be \$25-30 per year.

9-8-2018	Individual Comment
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PERSPECTIVE ON THE NEED FOR DEDICATED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION



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I've been procrastinating sending this because it's a sore subject with me and many other people. It's reminiscent of the HB 2072 tag grab in 2012 and has engendered a good deal of suspicion among regular sportsmen. A special interest group made up mostly of people that have long had an agenda to make available more tags outside the normal draw process, called "Conserve and Protect" had the gall to usurp that name of the successful Game and Fish education program. Many of the same people were involved in the HB 2072 fiasco. There's a lot of mistrust and I for one think the deck is stacked and it's already a foregone conclusion what is to happen unless an effort is mounted to derail it.

Even this committee that is taking these emails was supposed to be a committee of sportsman at least one of each commissioner's choice and a couple at large. I attended the commission work session and the commission meetings talking about this. The committee and its meetings were supposed to be official and subject to open meetings laws. Then at the last minute one commissioner made a motion that the committee be made up of Game and Fish personnel selected by the director. I've seen no open meeting notifications, no agendas, and certainly no minutes of what meetings have taken place.

The same commissioner also made the motion earlier that there be no fee increases.

The same commissioner tried to sneak an increase into the last omnibus bill to change the special tag allocation from 3 to 4. That is been taken to mean that the impetus for another tag grab has been set in motion.

It is clear where this one commissioner's efforts are intended to end up. Thankfully, there are five commissioners, most of whom are open-minded.

I personally believe the department needs to do a better job of educating the general public, but I do not believe the sky is falling. I do not believe that the Humane Society of the United States will be running another initiative in the near future and even if they did I'm not sure of any success, yet this boogie man is being used as the rationale for implementing a new system of tag auctions and/or raffles.

At the commission work session near Kingman where the "Conserve and Protect" group's proposal was first made public by its president, Pete Cimellaro, commissioner Brake made the comment that the process was putting the cart before the horse. That is most certainly the case. What should be happening is that



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a detailed "business" plan should be put together describing what education is needed and for how long it will be needed. That would help determine the amount of funding needed. I also believe if it is truly a priority to do more general public education, the funds should be prioritized out of the general budget so that there is not a locked in amount available from a "dedicated source". Many years ago the department really had an effective "Information and Education (I&E)" function. No dedicated funding was involved. The notion that it needs a dedicated funding source is just another way to justify more tags taken out of the general pool and allocated for auction or raffle. Any such scheme that is supposed to raise any substantial amount of money would depend on having premium tags available for the program; such as sheep, early rut elk tags, strip or Kaibab deer tags, buffalo tags etc. Such a program would not raise much money selling javelina tags, turkey tags, general deer tags Etc.

I am adamantly opposed to any new tag distribution scheme that would allow people of means or anyone else to bypass the single tag / species per year rule now in effect or the limitation on one desert bighorn sheep, one Rocky bighorn sheep, or one buffalo per year per lifetime.

The department's annual regulations have a page dedicated to the support of the North American Model of wildlife management. This can be found on page 9 of the 2018-19 Regulations. It reads in part "Hunting and angling opportunity for all. Opportunity to participate in hunting, angling and wildlife conservation is guaranteed for all in good standing, not by social status or privilege, FINANCIAL CAPACITY, or land ownership" (emphasis mine). I believe that anyone able to buy a tag at an auction or buy 1000 or 100 tickets in a raffle is given advantage based on "financial capacity". The existing draw system puts all on an equal plane at a modest price.

If we are concerned about how groups like HSUS might try to curtail hunting in the future via the initiative process just think how they might react to new laws that allow additional premium animals to be hunted by wealthy people. If I were in one of their groups I would most certainly run a referendum on any law authorizing such a process as "Conserve and Protect" is pushing. A referendum requires fewer signatures than an initiative. Their ads would claim - look at what Game and Fish wants to do now, they want a pimp the state's wildlife to the highest bidder or the person able to buy the most raffle tickets. I suspect that many average hunters feel so strongly about additional auction or raffle tags that they would sign on to such an effort. Where would the department be then if such



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and effort were successful?

If the department truly needs additional funds for this activity, education, the first choice should be a small increase in application fees or tag fees. This activity should be set at the appropriate priority level within the department and funds allocated accordingly. There has been about an 8% increase in the cost of living since the last price was set for application fees and tag fees. A small increase is easily justified. I guess technically a fee increase is off the table so call it a new fee like other agencies do to get around limitations. Whether a fee increase should be on the table or not most certainly depends on how important this education activity is and whether or not there is already a train that has left the station headed for additional tag sales.

Another thought is to more effectively market the conservation license plate that is offered to the public. Most people have no idea it's even available.

A fellow who has been following this process closely has generously offered to develop software that would allow the department to sell information relating to the odds of drawing a particular tag. Third parties sell such information that they derive from departmental data.

While I view a "conservation stamp" that would be required to hunt big game as an abridgment of the fee simplification objective, if it is an alternative to simply increasing the fees for tags and applications, I support it. It can be called a "surcharge" that would be a percentage of the underlying fee. That has the advantage of increasing the funding from non-residents in proportion to their cost of the underlying fee. It could alternatively be a fixed cost stamp.

In any case, please reject the "Conserve and Protect" proposal to pimp out more tags. That alternative is already dividing the sportsmen. I've read the comments to date and that proposal is the ONLY one that people have specifically asked you to reject. That should tell you something.

9-7-2018

Individual Comment

Like many other sportsmen in Arizona I am concerned by the repeated and sustained attempts by HSUS and others to destroy the conservation heritage of



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this great state. I know that we as sportsmen must find a way to better inform the general populations of this state about the methods we have for ensuring that AZ wildlife is here to stay.

I have some suggestions on ways that the funds for such an effort might be raised.

1. Develop an enhanced portal experience which provides supplemental data on drawings, bonus points, success rates and trophy trends. This is something that private firms are already providing at fee's that range from \$25 for bonus points to \$150 for publications and detailed information. Nearly all of these sites are analyzing, and repackaging data provided in raw form by the department. The department is uniquely suited for providing this data in a form relevant to each hunter's bonus point situation. The base infrastructure is in place for such a service in the form of the portal, the raw data is already existent within the department and the departments records provide a ripe database for marketing to specific users. I believe strongly that this is a concept which should be pursued. I also know that many sportsmen from around the state have volunteered to assists with this effort.
2. Create an education / heritage / conservation stamp that allows hunters to participate in population management seasons.
3. For each game species hold one raffle per year with ticket prices less than \$20. The prize of the raffle would be 10 bonus points for the specified species. This will prevent the creation of any new tags. The opportunity to execute the raffle can be allocated in similar manner to current commissioner tags.
4. I support a small (\$1-\$5) increase in general/combo license fees.
5. Hold an annual big buck/bull/tom/boar contest for each species. Allow hunters to buy a ticket to join the competition when applying.
6. Create a trail camera registration/permit process. Use the funds generated for education.
7. Do a revenue drive each year and simply call every license holder and ask them for a small donation for education.
8. Create an education stamp that requires 1 additional dollar for every big game tag application. Waive this fee if the hunter reports their harvest data from the year before.
9. Add \$1 to OHV registration.
10. Run a special on lifetime licenses for children under the age of 5 and use the proceeds to fund education.



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11. Create a statewide sales tax of .01% that funds conservation. Run the campaign in coordination with non-hunting conservation and public lands groups.
12. Host a conservation event every year and invite well known hunting personalities to donate their services for one day and use the funds generated to inform the public.

I hope that the committee finds that these suggestions are helpful. In addition to these suggestions, I also want to stress, strongly, that I am opposed to the further commercialization of wildlife and hunting privileges by allocating tags for these purposes. We have started down a slippery slope by designating tags for raffles and auctions already. Although those funds have provided vital resources to improve habitat, there is a risk that it progresses into a system where tags become the source on which we rely for all funds. I believe that it is necessary to set the standard now that we will not further capitalize our wildlife. I believe that with the previous few opportunities that exist to hunt Western big game, a tag raffle system is simply ripe for corruption. Despite the best intentions of those who create such a system, other states have provided insightful examples of the challenges presented in keeping such a system transparent and operating properly.

Thank you for spending the time and energy required to create this necessary funding and address the needs of wildlife in this state.

9-7-2018

Individual Comment

I know this is supposed to be a forum for ideas for dedicated public outreach dollars but I really question the underlying assumption that dollars are needed for this in the first place. I am a person that has lived in Arizona nearly his whole life, a dedicated Arizona hunter for almost 40 years and an MBA graduate of the Arizona State Business School that was cited in your presentation. I really feel this "messaging campaign" is a manufactured problem to justify the same outfitter sponsored individuals setting up more non-profit entities to enrich a handful of guys that have been squeaky wheels in AZGFD meetings for over a decade. I also feel that using the word "education" to describe this is extremely dishonest. I also suspect the social media marketing aspect of this aligns with a group in Utah (called Big Game Forever) that spams politicians with emails when a member of the hunting public innocently joins a conservation group or mailing list. Allowing a



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third party to handle “messaging” with dedicated funds derived from scarce publicly owned assets is a scary thought especially when that group has taken more positions to support hunt commercialization and land transfers.

I believe public sentiment toward hunting is built by non-hunters interacting with people that hunt in a reasonable and sporting manner. I have found that when people understand the work that goes into scouting and that we eat the meat they view hunting in a positive light. My job requires me to interact with people in some of the most liberal and urban parts of the country, I am probably the only hunter that most of them know. I find that these people are supportive when they realize there is a biological benefit to the sport. This is something that can only be conveyed person to person, it cannot be conveyed through mass marketing. The best way to influence non-hunters is by creating more responsible new hunters, siphoning tags from the public draw undermines the ability to create new hunters and transfers opportunity to the type of hunters (outfitted trophy hunters) the public is least sympathetic to.

So here are some suggestions and ideas...

- The annual AZGFD expo is a fabulous event. AZGFD should start charging a small admission fee (\$5.00 or less). Discounts on tickets could be offered for people that further hunting outreach on social media or bring a friend that buys a license at the event. This event is also a fantastic marketing opportunity for vendors, AZGFD should maximize revenue generated from the vendors.
- Arizona Wildlife Views is a fantastic program, are there opportunities to generate revenue or spread access to this program to broader markets? It seems Arizona Wildlife Views epitomizes the best kind of outreach.
- Arizona already has a funding mechanism for REAL youth education and some of those dollars seem to build up every year due to limited leadership available to run new events. AZGFD should hire someone to maximize the outreach and efficiency of those programs as new youth hunters often bring new parent hunters.

The recent outfitter welfare related to striking down the passive trail camera ban and the implementation of the point guard program without a provision to protect against tag transfers on group applications are examples of the hunting industry speaking over the interests of actual Arizona hunters. The public sale of hunt data collected with passive trail cameras and the ability to use proxy applicants to transfer tags to clients using point guard is outfitter welfare and not in the best interest of the hunting public. And the suggestion that the same hunting industry



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sponsored people that pushed for an expo 5 years ago can be trusted to generate outreach dollars with public tags is preposterous. Arizona hunting tags should not be used as a funding mechanism for this in any way, not by auction or by raffle. It is akin to pawning your wife's wedding ring at the pawn shop. Any educated person with a conscience should recognize that setting up yet another non-profit group to liquidate hunting tags and then allowing that group to lobby and manipulate the tag supply chain is a recipe for abuse and undermines the future of hunting and wildlife conservation.

9-7-2018

Arizona Cattle Growers Association Wildlife Committee

The Wildlife Committee of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association fully supports the Arizona Game and Fish Commission's work to create a strategic plan to educate Arizona residents on the necessity of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's continued management of all wildlife in the State of Arizona.

We agree that a plan to fund this effort with a sustainable source is prudent and integral to the continued success of a strategic plan. With that being said, we are not submitting a specific plan from our organization to address funding, but, we are submitting this letter with some crucial points that need to be considered, addressed and are essential to the success of the project in its entirety and the success of a proposed committee, to the likes of an Education Partnership Committee:

*In the development of any strategic plan of action, it is sometimes difficult to determine how to generate and manage funds without a strategic working plan in development and open for discussion.

*The Arizona Game and Fish Department is, in all appearances, the most qualified "first responder" in this pending issue. That said, the legalities, financial limitations and the extent of involvement need to be defined and clarified, as to who in AZGFD can be involved in this campaign and what resources can be allocated to this project. AZGFD has staff, technology, research, statistics, media materials highlighting the successful management of wildlife and other existing resources in place that could immediately be inserted into this project to help execute the overall plan.



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*Funding options can also include grants and donations from outside foundations and organizations; however, these funding sources require the grantee to have a mission, a strategic plan and a business plan, along with a firm commitment and a proof of working/funding partnerships. We recommend that a grant writer be brought on board; a qualified volunteer or a paid position.

*It is critical that all parties with interests that align with the proposed campaign's mission come to the table and agree on all key aspects of the best possible campaign. The AZGFD, the hunting and fishing community, rural landowners, and the ranching community have a common ground, a common goal and a common challenge that must be met. The campaign cannot be run or dominated by any one entity.

We recommend a small committee representing each of the aforementioned stakeholders be formed to establish a 501(c)3 corporation with a written plan for the campaign and to provide oversight to ensure it stays on track with its stated mission, purpose, and goals.

This foundational committee should consist of representatives who are stable and reputable "influencers," from organizations that support the mission of the proposed nonprofit corporation and are willing to contribute funds, fundraising and other volunteer time to its success.

*it is critical that the aforementioned vested interests agree on the structure, the funding, the methods, the overall message, the processes and the implementation to ensure a strong, positive and unified message in public education and outreach of the organizations represented on this committee.

*Ultimately, we would ask that all parties standing up for the cause be kept in communication, provided with resources and encouraged to spread the word and educate.

The opposition's cause is driven by emotions. Our cause, in contrast, is driven by our responsibility to preserve and protect our wildlife and wildlife habitat through scientifically proven methods.

The Wildlife Committee of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, which represents private landowners and stewards of prime wildlife habitat, respectfully requests to be involved in the development and execution of the educational



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strategy and final plan that the Commission develops and requests influential participation on the proposed committee to create the 501(c)3 corporation, and inclusion on that corporation's board of directors.

The overall success of an educational plan will greatly benefit the wildlife of Arizona; and likewise will benefit all parties that are genuinely interested in the best possible management of the wildlife of Arizona.

9-7-2018

Individual Comment

First, I would recommend increasing the bonus point fee to \$20.00-\$25.00 per species for both residents and nonresidents. Second, I would have a dedicated AZ Game and Fish license plate. We don't need the Sportsman for Wildlife plate, which is a group that I do not support in any way and certainly won't drive around advertising for. Third, consider resident permit fee increases.

The ideas from CAPAZ make me sick. This is nothing but the Sportsman for Wildlife snake with a different head. It seems to me like they are wanting to start another Expo, similar to the one in Utah. That would generate them gate ticket fees and vendor fees. Another disgusting attempt to turn a profit off of a public resource.

We don't need more raffle or auction tags! The rich and the outfitters have already claimed Utah and New Mexico, we need to keep them in check in Arizona for the sake of future generations of hunters and anglers.

9-7-2018

Individual Comment

First, please, please, please do not pull any more tags or somehow create more tags for any proposal. Tags should be based on sound biological data. Do not fall for CAPAZ. They are the ones who will benefit, not Arizona's wildlife or its residents. I would like tags to be available for my kids to hunt in the future and for everyone, not just the super rich.

One source of funding could be an AZGFD license plate. The current Sportsmans



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for Wildlife Conservation license plate revenue is at the discretion of the director of ADOT - as I was told in an email from ADOT. License plates are renewed every year and would be a continuing source of income. A design contest could create a lot of publicity for the new plate and attract not only people who hunt and fish, but boaters, OHV riders, birders, hikers and anyone who enjoys the outdoors that Game and Fish help manage. Also, I do not support the Sportsmans for Wildlife Conservation and was glad I looked into where that revenue goes before purchasing that license plate. Many people would easily recognize the AZGFD plate and know exactly where their money is going.

9-7-2018

Individual Comment

I strongly urge the Az. Game and Fish Department and Commission to create a permanent funding source to be used for Education and Public Awareness. The recent ballot initiative attempt by the HSUS only confirms what we've known for some time, that there are groups in our country with a goal of eliminating sport hunting which is one of the cornerstones of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. Their activities also threaten the ability of Wildlife Departments to manage wildlife in their respective states based on science and not emotion and the ballot box.

The issuance of additional Big Game tags that can be raffled each year is a great idea, and can offer a permanent and sustainable solution to funding these needs. The success of the existing Special Big Game Tag program that funds the HPC is a perfect example of how this kind of program can work. Utilizing volunteers to serve on the over site committee, as well as representatives from the Public, Department and Commission, will ensure that the funds raised are spent judiciously with input from all parties concerned.

One concern I have heard from several interested sportsmen is that they fear issuing additional tags may impact the success of the existing Special Big Game Tag program and the raffle tags issued each year to the Az. Big Game Super Raffle. They do not want to see the funding flowing each year into the HPC program be reduced because of these extra tags being raffled each year. Those of us involved with these programs have thought this through as well. One option would be to offer some of the "new tags" only to those that have previously purchased a Super Raffle tag for the same species. For instance, if an Arizona Strip tag(s) for mule



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deer were offered to those that have already bought a raffle ticket through the Super Raffle for mule deer, they could buy additional chances for these "Education Tags" for the same species. I believe this would be very effective for the premium species like Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Elk and Antelope, even Bison. This concept could stimulate the Super Raffle instead of competing with it, while raising much needed funding for Education and Public Awareness.

Since the ballot initiative threat spearheaded by the HSUS showed up in Arizona, a lot of concerned sportsmen and groups have formed and supported a new organization, Conserve and Protect Arizona. In my opinion, this group has brought the best funding source plan to the table and stands ready to implement a plan moving forward if these tags are issued. I'm convinced that involvement from a diverse group of wildlife groups, the Department and Commission and others throughout the community in this process will result in a very successful program that can be fine tuned each year.

One only has to read about the challenges that keep popping up in other states around the country to realize these challenges are only increasing each year. We desperately need to create this funding source as soon as possible to make sure the Department, Commission and NGO wildlife conservation groups can continue to manage and protect wildlife throughout Arizona, as well as protect the hunting and angling heritage it provides.

9-5-2018

Individual Comment

I am really torn over this issue and fear that it will divide sportsmen.

In one camp we have those that believe the only way to fund this program is through the sale or raffle of a new category of special tags and that by some miracle the issuance of these additional tags will not reduce the number of tags available through the normal draw process.

In another camp we have those that are fearful of issuing additional tags and rather suggest that any number of other ideas be pursued including using PR funds, raising application fees, a super bonus point, a conservation bonus point, habitat stamps and/or exploiting a wide array of other marketing opportunities.



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I believe the solution must be a carefully crafted amalgamation of the two camps.

It cannot be one versus the other or it will divide sportsmen and severely weaken the very foundation the program hopes to build upon.

So my suggestion is to create a fully transparent budget where a portion would be funded from a new special tag program and a portion would be funded from the sale of a new C&P application stamp for all big game applicants. Sunset or adjust in 5 years.

Other states utilize a similar application stamp program to raise funds through their big game application process. We should do the same.

Estimating 200,000 big game applicants per year x \$10 stamp would raise \$2.0M annually.

I realize this might require a lot of work to implement and to administer but it would go a long way to uniting sportsman and their respective camps.

9-5-2018

Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.

RE: ADBSS support of CAPAZ Plan and Recommendation

On behalf of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) please accept and distribute this letter to the entire Commission.

ADBSS is a 501(c)3 organization, founded in 1967 and dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of Rocky Mountain and desert bighorn sheep in Arizona. From a few dedicated individuals, ADBSS has grown to nearly 1000 members.

While bighorn sheep is the focus of our organization, as sportsmen-conservationists, we recognize the interrelationships between all of Arizona's 800+ species of wildlife. We also understand the importance and necessity of wildlife management remaining under the purview and authority of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. (Department)



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With that in mind, the ADBSS Board voted to support the recommendations and plans that will be submitted by Conserve and Protect Arizona (CAPAZ) for the education and outreach to Arizona residents.

We wholeheartedly concur with the need to educate Arizona's residents about what the Department does, who manages all game and non-game wildlife species in the state, and who primarily funds these management efforts. Hunters are now a minority of Arizona's population, and this, coupled with the ever-changing demographics in our state, make it critical to preserve our heritage for the future generations.

After successfully rebuffing the Humane Society of the United States' effort to transform scientific wildlife management into ballot box management, the need to begin this program with discretionary, consistent and dedicated funding on a perpetual basis is now more important than ever. Since the 2020 election cycle is approaching fast, we need to begin this effort as soon as possible.

As the public process you outlined to the Department moves forward, please make note of our support.

9-5-2018

Arizona Deer Association

RE: ADA support of CAPAZ Plan and Recommendation

On behalf of the Arizona Deer Association (ADA) please accept this letter for the entire Commission.

ADA is a 501c-3 organization, and since 1996 its primary purpose was dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of deer herds in Arizona. From a few dedicated individuals, ADA has grown to over 350 members, now endeavoring to help both Coues' and mule deer in the state.

While deer is the focus of our organization, as sportsmen conservationists, we recognize the importance and necessity of wildlife management remaining under the purview and authority of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. (Department) We also strongly believe that Arizona's residents need to be educated about what the Department does, who manages all wildlife in the state, and who the primary funders of those efforts are. Hunting is a vital wildlife



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management tool, and we believe education is critical to preserving our collective passions for future generations.

With that in mind, the ADA Board voted to support the recommendations and plans that will be submitted by Conserve and Protect Arizona (CAPAZ) for the education and outreach to Arizona residents.

After successfully defeating the Humane Society of the United States' effort to high jack scientific wildlife management, the need to begin this program with discretionary, consistent and dedicated funding on a perpetual basis is now more important than ever and we need to begin NOW!

As the public process you outlined to the Department moves forward, please make note of our support.

9-5-2018

Individual Comment

I am not sure how much money you are trying to raise but why not increase the \$13 application fee to \$20-\$25, or add 2 more auction, and 2 more raffle tags?

9-4-2018

Individual Comment

Arizona Game and Fish Department provides outreach, education and public awareness for more than just wildlife. AZGFD provides education for the Off-Highway-Vehicle and Boating communities also and that has an indirect impact on the state fish and wildlife so that should also be included in the funding considerations. Outreach to the OHV and boating community creates Game and Fish Department awareness to the public. The OHV Industry should be considered as a source of funding. There are many industry grant programs that should be utilized for education in Arizona. The National Off Highway Coalition Conservancy should be contacted for more information about other national funding sources that may be available for education. Also funds should be solicited from all national environmental and animal rights groups.

9-4-2018

Individual Comment



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Is funding not already provided via Pitman-Robertson funding? What is the department's current budget and projected revenue from the PR tax on sale of licenses, permit-tags, firearms and ammunition?

9-4-2018

Individual Comment

#1. Please get an agreement with Ruger and an ammunition manufacturer/reloading company to charge an extra fee when purchasing their product towards a tiered Big game loyalty point for donating to these programs. Ruger is local in AZ and even Dillon in Scottsdale may want to help. You just may help bring in a national ammunition manufacturer into AZ.

#2. Talk to Rusty Bowers about his subdivision near the Rio Salado Shooting Range to put in the HOA covenants and Restrictions that the owners of the lots must be firearm owners and agree not to restrict the use of the Shooting facility (Hold Harmless Agreement for anyone entering the subdivision, adult or minor). Provide the respective lot and homeowners with a lifetime membership to use the facility for any fees. There could be a lot specific surcharge and the City of Mesa could help with the infrastructure development and get rewarded with building permit fees and utility fees. This HOA could develop additional annual fees charging monthly assessment charges for our programs. There is a similar residential subdivision in Nevada.

#3. Just like the public schools, allow the fast food franchises to come in and provide their products onsite at the AG&FD Shooting ranges. It's hot and dry in AZ. Shooting makes people hungry. Just no alcohol. Hold Harmless Agreement for all employees and patrons. I want a Big Mac ...unleaded of course.

#4. An electronic Marquee could provide televised coverage of matches and up to date standings for the various events. Various spots can be sold to advertisers. Must be in a light sensitive location however, like a darkened fabric canopy. No fire sprinklers would be required if the 20 foot separation is attained from other structures and the canopy itself made of fire treated fabric.

#5. Host concerts for national country/rock stars or local professional athletes who donate their concert fees for the promotion of these programs. Ted Nugent, Alice



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Cooper, Archie Bradley. May even get the big game animal foundations to hold events for a share of the proceeds. AZEF, AZ Antelope, NWTF, The outdoor ranges themselves could be transformed into multi-use spectator seating for viewing the performances. No additional acreage would be required. Weather permitting.

#6. Allow an Outdoor focused Charter School to build a specialized campus on leased AG&FD property and formulate a syllabus for integrated outdoor physical education programs for college prep.

9-4-2018

Individual Comment

I have been watching this issue closely and strongly disagree with CAPAZ stance of selling tags to generate income for education. I would much prefer a \$10 or \$20 education fee added on to hunting/fishing licenses.

I feel there is to much room for system abuse if we start selling highly coveted deer, elk or sheep tags to highest bidder. The sportsmen and women that can afford to buy these tags is not the general hunter and this only makes this type of tag allocation a rich person game.

9-4-2018

Individual Comment

Instead of seeking additional funding for propaganda to justify the status quo in wildlife management, why don't you reframe the question: how can the AZDGF earn public trust and find the resources it needs to protect all wildlife for all people, not just find ways to extract more money from a declining number of hunters and anglers to produce more game species and enhanced hunting and fishing opportunities? You might get more people responding, with better ideas, and find a sustainable and honorable path forward for the department that better serves all people and wildlife, now and in the future. You are responsible, after all, for protecting the public trust that is wildlife.

9-4-2018

Individual Comment



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I am suggesting public education & information pamphlets that can be made available at all major sport hunting and fishing outlets throughout the state. Funding for these educational/informational pamphlets could be funded through advertising dollars collected from major sporting outlets and automobile industries who could be allowed to place commercial advertisements in the pamphlets. Major company's like Dodge/Jeep, Ford, Chevy, Polaris, Browning, Remington, Winchester, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Bass Pro Shops, and Cabelas just to name a few. The advertising dollars collected should offset all costs associated with developing, printing and distributing the pamphlets.

9-4-2018

Internal Comment

Create a "Conservation Bonus Point"

Guidelines: \$10-\$20 for 1 annual "Conservation Bonus Point" for each big game species [(similar to hunter ed point); e.g. \$10-\$20 will get you 1 point for elk, 1 point for sheep, etc...]

-Annual points expire after the calendar/fiscal year and cannot be accumulated
-Conservation point applies to all 10 species- just like the funding (no tie to a single species just as conservation benefits all)

Pros:

-Targets discretionary funding
-Potential to grow (not limited)
-Will generate a larger pot of funding than alternatives (auction tags, WM ride alongs, etc.)
-Price point does NOT give any consumers an unfair advantage
-Annual renewal will provide a consistent and predictable funding source for programs to plan
-Does not blatantly violate North America Model like auction tags
-Provides sportsmen a tangible and beneficial product for their contribution to conservation

Cons:

-Sportsmen carrying the cost (again)
-No clear plan of how the funding source will be obligated (sideboards and accountability should be established from the beginning)

Sideboards:

-Develop clear sideboards for funding eligibility prior to implementation (what actions are and are NOT eligible through this new program)
-This needs to be fleshed out thoroughly and I hope the Commission will allow the



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Department adequate time to develop this idea before implementation
-Public Land Owner

8-31-2018

Conserve and Protect Arizona (CAPAZ) Proposed Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) Outreach, Education, and Public Awareness Program with Options for Funding

This plan incorporates the tenants we believe provide a good place to start in the development of an Education Funding Plan for the Arizona Game & Fish Department. We recognize the many facets of this plan still have to be vetted and deemed practical; however we feel all of these items need discussion on their merit.

Mission

Conserve and Protect Arizona works to educate, inspire and engage the people of Arizona, and our nation, to protect our conservation heritage. It embraces the North American Model for Wildlife Conservation and seeks to protect wildlife and its habitat, through science based management. We recognize our state and nation's long held traditions in the Great Outdoors and will strive to conserve, and hold in trust all wildlife for future generations.

Background

This proposal is the culmination of months of public meetings, testimony to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFC), dialogue with the AZGFD, and additional research on the part of CAPAZ, supporting the need for an AZGFD public education program.

Careful consideration was given to the recent actions of the AZGFC and AZGFD, to streamline, simplify, and make it less costly for Arizona's sportsmen and women to hunt and fish in Arizona. For many reasons we recognize it is extremely important for the agency to be consistent with these actions; in particular because of expectations from Arizona's political policy makers and promises to Arizona sportsmen and women.

We also strongly support the decision of the AZGFC to only use license and tag fees for AZGFD operating expenses and not for other purposes.

We view this proposal as a continued work in progress; and more importantly a commitment to insure action is taken to establish a comprehensive education



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program for the AZGFD. Only with such a program in place can we expect the AZGFD to continue to be Arizona's wildlife management authority and management agency for all of Arizona's wildlife.

Important Tenants of the CAPAZ Education Funding Program

Those who are willing to participate, not mandated by the AZGFD, should fund the Education Program.

Legislation needs to be developed and put in statute to insure the program is permanent and focused on the intended goals of the program. This would be similar to the legislation developed for the Special Commissioners Auction permits.

An **Education Partnership Committee** must be established, similar to the Habitat Partnership Committee, to administer the program. Administration should include recommending all funding expenditures, setting goals and monitoring the success in attaining those goals. Commission, Department and User Representation is essential for complete program transparency.

The Education Partnership Program should not impact the current Habitat Partnership Program. Efforts to insure this will not happen should be utilized to mitigate any issues that may arise.

Partner with the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle (AZBGSR) to increase AZBGSR funds and establish a new funding source for the Education Program. Where possible, the Education Program should coordinate with the Arizona Big Game Super Raffle, to maximize benefit and revenues of both fundraising efforts.

Tags

The program should be built on the concept of **multiple options for the users** in how they engage supporting the conservation education effort.

These options should be in the form of a tag lottery, **not by creating additional auction permits.**

Application and tag fees should be set at a level lower than the current application and tag fees set for the regular AZGFD tag lottery. We would recommend a fee of at least five dollars but not to exceed ten dollars for each individual application. As the program develops, we are confident appropriate fees can be established to administer its needs.



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Buyer must have a valid AZGFD hunting license to purchase education tag lottery chances.

Education Program tags should not count against the annual bag limit.

Education Program tags should not count against the once in a lifetime restriction.

Tag transfer could occur when any of the approved Department criteria is met.

Weapon specific seasons should be utilized for this program.

Limits on the number of chances that may be purchased by an individual buyer should be used to protect integrity of the program.

None of the new Education Program tags created under this program should be like the Special Commissioners tags, which are 365 days in length. Instead, they would be for regular established seasons like those in the hunt regulations or slightly extended seasons for promotion.

If Education Program tags are extended for promotion and sale, they should have days added at the end of the regular season rather than adding days before the season.

Sources for Tags

Taking permits from existing AZGFD recommended permits should not support the program. Instead, additional permits should be added to support the program; and these permits should not have a biological consequence to the resource. Permits created by this method should not exceed one hundred tags in total. One hundred tags is far less than 1% of the total number of tags the AZGFD and Commission currently authorizes in its three annual drawings

Additional sources of education tags can be found in tags returned to the AZGFD from the Point Guard Protection program.

Another source of tags would be from those returned to qualified non-profit organizations. The number of tags returned in this program continues to grow, and the tags should be utilized if at all possible.

Tag Funding Options



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Create a Special Super Tag

These would be few in number, not more than ten in total. One tag should be created for each big game animal, except mountain lion.

These Super Tags would be made available to all of those applying online for the three annual regular AZGFD tag lotteries. At checkout, the applicant would be asked if they would like to purchase a chance for one or more of these special hunts.

This option, or similar options, have been used in other states and is very successful!

Create Tags and Tag Packages based on what hunters want

After creation of the Super Tags, we believe it is necessary to broaden our creative process to think out of the box. This would entail considering all options and giving them a fair hearing.

People hunt for many reasons and some will hunt anywhere they can whenever the opportunity presents itself. We have others who wish to hunt only in Arizona. It even gets more specific, because some only want to hunt close to home with family and friends. Other hunters only want to hunt certain animals.

With all of that said, this is where we should think about Regional tags, so people could hunt in their backyard. We should think about grouping tags of the same species together for the family and friends hunt. Why not consider grouping tags together of different species for individuals to hunt close to home. Some hunters want to hunt specific units; this also should be something to look at.

As more people look at the proposals being sent to the committee, hopefully even more creative suggestions will be detailed. This should be a collaborative process, which invites suggestions from those who choose to be involved.

Partner with In-State Sportsmen's Organizations to promote additional raffles.

Currently the Special Commissioners tags are given to applicants who qualify, for them to promote and auction or raffle. The funds raised go into the HPC program.

We believe it would be possible to do the same with education lottery tags. Sportsmen's Conservation Organizations (SCO) would be willing to apply for, promote, sell opportunities and draw winners at their annual fundraisers. These



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could be individual tags or tag packages.

We believe this will also increase the number of organizations involved in conservation education fundraising and reduce competition for the current Special Commissioners tags.

Special Event for Auction and Raffle Tags

We would like to suggest that an event be planned and developed to showcase Arizona's Conservation Education and Habitat Partnership programs.

This would be held annually, perhaps in conjunction with some other AZGFD event.

Existing Special Commissioners Auction permits could be sold; Education Lottery Tags could be drawn, and it would provide an opportunity for individual SCO's to come together and partner in support of Wildlife Conservation Funding.

We see this event as an opportunity to showcase what we do as individuals; but more importantly, collectively it shows how the Commission, Department, and Sportsmen and Women, work together for the benefit of Arizona's wildlife.

In Conclusion

Conserve and Protect Arizona cannot overstate the need for this AZGFD Education program. It is essential that the citizens of Arizona understand why we have wildlife and who takes care of it.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department must be recognized as the states wildlife management agency with authority over all eight hundred plus species.

Arizonans also need to understand the critical role hunters and anglers play in supporting the Department's mission. Without their continued support with funding, advocacy and volunteers for projects the Department's ability to fulfill its mission will be diminished.

Without our telling this story we risk losing too much; and Arizona's Wildlife cannot afford to have that happen.

PS: Once again thinking out of the box, CAPAZ is working to develop a program to raise additional education funding from anglers. As you might guess, it would be



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another Opt-in program, not a mandated one.
Right now, the first step is establishing the AZGFD Education program, and CAPAZ is all-in. Let's make it happen!

8-30-2018

Internal Comment

- The "Dream Package";
- Double the price of Point Guard – put the extra revenue into the outreach fund;
- Revise the conservation membership package – donate a portion of revenue from sale of memberships;
- Partner with the Arizona Lottery on an AZ Game and Fish lottery ticket, with a portion of ticket proceeds going to the outreach fund;
- Sell naming rights or "sponsor" status for certain AZGFD properties (the new AZGFD Wildlife Center, Sipe wildlife area, Robbins Butte, BASF Main Range, etc.);
- Voluntary parking donation at Expo (\$5 per car, like Winter Range);
- Auction or raffle off a "day with an AZGFD wildlife manager (or biologist)"; could do several of these;
- Partner with a microbrewery (or winery) to create an AZ Wildlife brand of beer (or wine), with a portion of sales going to the outreach fund.

8-29-2018

Individual Comment

I believe environmental education is important enough to our state that the funding should be provided through a dedicated funding source allocated by the Arizona Legislature. This issue is the responsibility of all Arizonans and not just funding sources dependent upon the charity of others.

8-27-2018

Individual Comment

The funding outline I am proposing draws from some models that have been successful in other States. It accounts for any potential biological impact on wildlife, and retains fairness in the current draw process. This should allow for the



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Department to raise substantial funds as well as create opportunities for sportsmen and women.

The Department should take a two tiered approach, which is based upon raffling of game tags and an outreach event. The tags the Department utilizes should focus on versatility for the buyer, which would limit the need for extensive use of more prized tags. They should be offered in conjunction with an event that brings sportsmen and women together to celebrate Arizona's outdoor heritage and promote education.

If we draw heavily from the allotment of leftover deer tags that exist after the initial draw process, every resident and out of State buyer would see no negative impact on draw odds. From those deer tags, the Department should issue the raffle tags in such a manner to promote and create appeal for those tags. I strongly suggest a decent amount of January rifle deer tags.

We should also create a trifecta tag similar to Wyoming's, but is limited to all antlered animals. The winner would get the opportunity to hunt one bull elk, one whitetail deer, and one mule deer. Again, there is a substantial amount of leftover deer tags to draw from.

All raffle tags should create enhanced season dates and unit choices, and priced accordingly. These season dates could be an extension of 1 week to 2 months, and units could be grouped into larger collectives. The price of the raffle ticket would correlate to the greater opportunity presented by each tag. Prime units, such as the strip for mule deer, could be excluded from these general raffle permits, which would allow the current Arizona Big Game Super Raffle to keep its appeal.

What I would suggest for a tag allocation is as follows: Bighorn sheep, 1 permit. Bull elk, 9 permits. Cow elk, 8 permits. Pronghorn antelope, 3 permits. Bull bison, 3 permits. Cow bison, 3 permits. Whitetail deer, 25 permits. Mule deer, 25 permits. Javelina, 20 permits. Turkey, 20 permits. No permits for bear or mountain lion. Each species would allocate one permit for a "Super" type of raffle. One permit each from the bull elk, whitetail deer and mule deer should go to a "Trifecta" type raffle. A decent amount of the whitetail and mule deer should go to January rifle. This represents a total of 117 permits, spread out amongst various species.

While these raffle tickets should be sold year round through the portal, the Department should also conduct an event that coincides with either the



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beginning or the ending of the current Game and Fish expo to sell and conduct the raffle. That way, the venue is already booked and much of the setup has been done. This event should charge a nominal door fee, and be family friendly. The Department should bring in food and alcohol vendors, and charge them a vendor fee. Other vendors could include outdoor related companies, such as taxidermists, firearm and bow manufacturers, and also be charged a vendor fee. During this event, live auction, silent auction, and other raffles could occur, as well as direct purchase items. The raffle and outreach event should generate substantial funds for educating the general public on how wildlife conservation works in Arizona.

8-27-2018

Internal Comment

An "**Arizona Hunter's Dream**" package would be comprised of three special hunt permit-tags (awarded by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission) that statistically are the most difficult to obtain through the department's annual random draws -- bison, bighorn sheep and pronghorn.

How it works: At the time of online application, each applicant would have the opportunity to purchase one chance to win this once-in-a-lifetime package for only **\$50**. There would be no limit on how many chances an applicant could purchase. The winner(s) would be permitted to hunt all three species for 365 days (dates to be determined) in most game management units statewide.

By the numbers: If only 25,000 applicants purchased one chance at \$50, revenues would total **\$1.25 million** annually. Those revenues would double to **\$2.5 million** if only 50,000 out of an estimated 150,000 licensed hunters took a chance to win the "Arizona Hunter's Dream."

Exciting options:

- Instead of preselecting the three big game species (bison, bighorn sheep, pronghorn), allow the winner to choose the three species he or she would prefer to hunt.
- To build even more interest and excitement, consider awarding a package of three hunt permit-tags as a grand prize, two hunt permit-tags for second place, and one hunt permit-tag for third place. A maximum of only six hunt permit-tags would be needed to generate the annual funding needed.
- This proposal could be heavily marketed throughout the year, with a drawing and webcast to take place (date to be determined) at department headquarters.

In conclusion, this proposal for a dedicated funding source meets three important



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criteria: appropriateness, sustainability and feasibility. Thank you for your consideration.

8-25-2018

Individual Comment

I have a few ideas for the funding source. While, admittedly, I don't know where money from state trust land permits goes or how it is used, I think there should be more focus on ensuring the general public buys a permit to use lands. Hunters are covered from the purchase of their hunting licence and I still buy a state trust permit too just give more support. I think a lot of non hunters don't even bother buying a state trust permit because 1) people don't even know it exists, 2) there are no consequences and/or 3) nothing educating them as to why it is important to do so (ie - what are they supporting when they buy one). One way of making it easier to communicate to more of the population would be to make buying/renewing your permit an option during the annual vehicle registration process just like how getting a specialty plate or registering to vote are options. I'm never an advocate of increased policing of anything but if people want to use our public lands, they need to also support it, not just talk about it. So, while state trust permits may not solve the "dedicated funding source" question, using the vehicle registration process for this fund would be a good place to start getting the word out and collecting dollars.

8-24-2018

Individual Comment

Do support az wildlife drop boxes in front of native species at the zoos it will not be millions but coins and dollar villas are up. The boxes are cheep to make and could most likely be donated and require little to no active work other then someone checking them

8-24-2018

Individual Comment

Not sure how much money could be generated but I think all hunters are nervous



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about deer and elk and cwd and its ability to be transmitted across species boundaries.

A lot of Arizona hunters hunt these species here and out of state.

I wonder if money could be made by setting up a cwd testing service for all submitted samples of deer and elk and charge an appropriate fee for doing so. The dept could abandon its free surveillance effort and instead charge for this service for deer and elk.

I don't want my family eating these critters if I know they have the disease. I bet other hunters have the same concern. With AZ's elk and deer so far it hasn't been an issue and hopefully never will. That isn't the case with cervids killed in surrounding states.

8-23-2018

Individual Comment

Wanting this funding without "Mandatory Fees" is almost unachievable. But there are ways to get the funding through "voluntary fees."

First of all: Start with the AZGFD expo weekend every March. Instead of it being free to the public, charge \$2 or \$3 per person. I bet attendance doesn't go down at all. Bring in TONS of food truck vendors who have to give a portion of their revenue to AZGFD during that weekend. Raffle off hunting gear at the expo. There's hundreds of thousands of dollars that can be made at the expo alone instead of it being a giant revenue NEGATIVE on the annual profit & loss statement.

2nd: Conserve and Protect Az, and AZSFWC has also come up with a plan to generate these funds....just do it. Hunters will voluntarily throw money at those options.

3rd: An education stamp for \$5 to \$10 per year, people will complain about, but they will pay it. The Commissioners need to change their minds on that option.

Because the CAPAZ plan (that I and several other people in the hunting community support) will be less popular. A \$10 annual education stamp for everyone with a hunting license (\$5 for fishing licenses) truly is the lesser of 2 evils.

8-22-2018

Individual Comment

I saw your Facebook post recently regarding finding creative ways to get funding.



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As I wildlife photographer I have some ideas. How about creating monthly photo contests. Each submission costs \$15. The winner has a chance to be featured on your social media platforms as well as a limited edition T-shirt or something along those lines. Let me know your thoughts.

8-21-2018

Individual Comment

I read or heard the idea of a wildlife stamp similar to the Federal Duck Stamp which would not be required for a license holder or hunter but available to all. Properly promoted to all who enjoy our wildlife and outdoors. Have an annual competition to design the stamp and make it available online and someplace all could find to purchase. Possibly find a sponsor or foundation to underwrite the production cost.

8-21-2018

Individual Comment

A dedicated source of funding for outdoor education and opportunities aimed at encouraging youth and young adult involvement? This idea is more important than ever! Put the idea before the state legislature and begin a campaign. Perhaps funded through a gasoline tax or through fees paid by developers or through land sales? The state lands use permit is another source.

Lord knows, the wholesale destruction of habitat and open space to accommodate unrestrained and unsustainable population growth (mostly resulting from former CA residents) settling in AZ can somehow be tapped into? Is there a development fee that can be enacted? Of course, pro-development forces will howl at this suggestion.

Furthermore, a dedicated source of permanent funding for the AZGFD supported by a line item in the State's annual budget would go along way in increasing salaries commensurate with their education and dedication, and add a line item for education funding as suggested above. Who specifically should we send our support letters?



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8-21-2018

Internal Comment

Have the Department begin to drop ship items such as fishing lures, hats, other swag items where through a partnership with vendors, the Department gets a kick back. Western Native Trout Initiative has started this approach with Rep your waters hats and tumblers.

08-20-2018

Individual Comment

OHV users license could have a small percentage allocated to funding.

8-17-2018

Individual Comment

This is in response to the Arizona Heritage Alliance request for input about AZGF's need for a dedicated funding source for outreach, education and public awareness. While I have no current ideas for an ongoing funding source, I have some experience in assessing what kinds of small, generally uncomplicated events could generate funds. Big galas for high-rollers are outside the resources for most organizations and participants. But people like:

- Small groups
- Unique experiences, such as behind-the-scenes tours or access to places the public doesn't generally get to go
- Fairly short time commitments, say 2-4 hours
- A variety of options for timing—some people like mornings, some afternoons, some are available weekends only
- Feeling they are making a contribution, but most people don't have gobs of money to contribute
- Food

So, with your many conservation partners, asking each to host some kind of small annual or quarterly event or events (could be an annual event, but different each



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quarter), dedicated to the outreach fund, might actually add up to a steady stream of income. If nothing else, the concept may get organizations to think outside the box.

Here's an example with a state park I'm familiar with, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, although I don't know that they have the time or capacity to do this.

Event: Behind-the-scenes tour of the Wallace Garden work, including seeing plans, walking the site, talking with workers about the progress, triumphs and challenges of the work, etc.

No. of Participants: Perhaps 8-10 per guide, and if there are 3 guides (could be active, knowledgeable volunteers), folks could rotate to different areas on a schedule so that each group is manageable.

Timing: Could be most anytime, and include continuing access to the Arboretum before or after the tour. Maybe the tour lasts 90 min. with 30 min. of social time with the participants.

Contribution: Inexpensive, like \$25, but could also add requests to bring easy-to-get supplies for the project, perhaps hand gardening tools, rags, tags and markers for temporary signs. A contribution of labor may also be useful—something easy and time-limited, but on-site and doable as part of the program, like raking, or carrying small potted plants from one location to another. The contribution of labor could be entirely optional, but I bet a number of folks would respond positively, depending on what's requested.

Food: Could be requested from the participants (bring a snack to share), or solicited from a local restaurant as a donation, or included in the price of the program. It doesn't have to be fancy, just an opportunity for participants to gather a bit at the end and share the experience in a slightly different way. You can ask for feedback and evaluations then, plus ideas for further fundraising.

Once these programs are started, they become easier and easier, especially if they are predictable dated events (second Sat in Mar, for example), will generally get a following, will generally attract volunteers (who like the predictability and short term commitment), and will generally grow.

Best wishes with whatever ideas you get!



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08-17-2018	Individual Comment
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I believe if we created a program that operated similar to how the governor's tag works, only in this case it would be open for anyone and it would be a lottery. It would allow each person in the State of Arizona with a Hunter ID number to enter one lottery ticket per species of animal. In the drawing there would only be one tag that would be pulled for each species of animal Statewide. The winner of this tag would have his or her option of choosing to hunt anywhere in the state at any time during the year. Each species ticket would have to be purchased separately. I believe a cost of around 5 to \$7 per ticket would be low enough that you would have a large percentage of hunter participation.

The cost of losing one animal per species Statewide per year is of no consequence to the greater picture of conservation and wildlife biology. However the dollars received through this program could impact conservation greatly for the State of Arizona. I hope you will consider my idea. Thank you for all you do at the Arizona Game and Fish.

08-17-2018	Individual Comment
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An annual Habitat-Outreach Stamp when purchasing a Hunting License.

08-17-2018	Individual Comment
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Form the activities under a separate title, and incorporate as an IRS 501,c.3, so that donations may be tax deductible.

Request changes to Arizona tax rules so that the organization can benefit through "donations for education".

The Midway Foundation helps these projects as well as do other retail and manufacturers that have grants and make donations.

Perhaps a special lottery ticket dedicated to the ""fund"".



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08-17-2018	Individual Comment
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1. selling Game and Fish maps as apps on phones with downloads and marketing them to hunters countrywide since the state is a trophy state.
2. selling more calenders and marketing
3. Market governors tags worldwide...including european and russian and Chinese market...tags will go way way up...even into the millions.
4. start marketing Tshirts , and camoflauge clothing
5. the bonus point protection program is awesome...keep it up
6. start educating kids in schools with presentations about Az wildlife and fishing
7. tax the logging industry for GF funds.
8. let go more buffalo tags for hunters instead of the Fed govt culling them...
9. start sending out AZGF cameramen out with Az guides on trophy hunts and market the TV shows on the internet...if Jim Shockey can do it...so can Travis McClendon, or Russ Jacoby

08-13-2018	Sub-Committee for the Arizona Wildlife Federation, Alternative Education Funding for Arizona Game & Fish Department
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2-Working Sessions Held-July 9 & 25th 2018
 Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, Phoenix Az

RECOMMENDATIONS
Participants have included:
 Chris Mitchell, AWF-Co-Chair/Region 4 Director Yuma Rod & Gun/President
 Glen Dickens, AWF-Co-Chair/VP-Ops/Conservation/AAF VP/AGFD Retired (77-97)
 Brad Powell, Az Wildlife Federation President/Executive Director Trout Unlimited
 Amanda Moors, Az Wildlife Federation Region 6 Director/ Az Whitetail.Com Owner
 Jim Lawrence, Az Mule Deer President/AWF Director at large
 Terry Herndon, Az Mule Deer Executive Director
 Steve Clark, Az Elk Society Executive Director
 Kerry Baldwin, At large member/AGFD retired I&E Branch Chief/Pima County retired Natural Resource Division Manager
 Larry Audsley, At large member/Former AWF SE Az Director/AWF Public Lands Coordinator
 Brian Groseclose, Safari Club Tucson Board member/To be appointed AWF



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Director at Large

Scott Garland, Az Wildlife Federation Executive Coordinator

Bob Vahle, Az Wildlife Federation Region I Director/AGFD Retired

Betty Dickens, Volunteer Recorder/Facilitator

MEETING GOALS/ KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- We reached out for clarification of the AGFD's public input process to Tony Giles, Division Manager, Information, Education, Recreation, and Legislation and Laura Canaca, Division Coordinator, Education, Recreation, and Legislation (Note appendix #1 for those questions/answers received.)

- Discussion about "why are we here"?

Concerns shared about original proposal from AZSWC & Conserve and Protect Arizona

including additional hunting species tags for funding. Also acknowledging the recent 2017 initiative threat by HSUS to eliminate all wildcat hunting.

- Recommendation(s) should directly support the current AZGFD Information & Education Program.

- NO support for "Utah Model" – E.g. Tags of any type beyond current per species 3 auction/raffle tags.

- Explore ideas to generate \$1.5M additional funds for AZGFD.

\$1.5M should not just "fall on the backs" of hunters. Think about how fisherpersons can contribute

- Ask if the Idea/Recommendation addresses, HOW to think about wildlife versus WHAT to think about wildlife.

- Perception that AZGFD's General Accounting needs additional operating funds - \$10M – How may alternative funding also support operation & HPC programs?

- "Critter Groups" – Subcommittee participants will provide feedback to respective organizations – Message: AWF has formed an exploratory subcommittee to address AZGFD's Commission's action for the Department to pursue options for Dedicated Funding for Outreach, Education, and Public Awareness.

- Answer if the recommended options will require Rule Making versus Legislative action? It appears that bonus points and stamps require Commission approval and the rules process and will not require Legislative authority. This point is independent of the standard annual AGFD budget request to the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting and Legislature's Joint Legislative Budget Committee for appropriation of the funds that require legislative approval such as License/OHV and Watercraft Funds.

- We do support complete AGFD Department Transparency-what is the official



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process and what is Staff being asked to perform by Commissioners?

WHAT IDEAS/TOPICS WE DO NOT SUPPORT:

· TAGS – No addition Raffle, No additional Auction, No Landowner. Much concern/discussion was expressed about a “competing” tag raffle due to the fact that the additional opportunity to purchase less expensive raffle tags will undoubtedly cause “consumer/purchaser drift” from the single year-long tag opportunity thus directly affecting the funding available for HPC projects.

One example; currently the antelope raffle tag in the 2018 Super Raffle brought in \$53,740 at a per ticket cost of \$20 per ticket. If say 6 antelope tags are put forward in a “New Raffle” at \$5 per chance ticket buyers for the same \$20 would be able to purchase four, chances at 6 tags VS \$20 for just one chance. Simple logic and consumer behaviors strongly suggest that a significant percentage of the single tag buyers will move to the new opportunity thus taking revenue directly from the existing antelope HPC program or creating a diversion of HPC available funds. This past year that same \$53,740 is equal to 35% of the funds available for the entire 2019 project year to fund multiple statewide antelope HPC projects.

· No newly added dollars or dollars raised by the events surrounding additional tag purchases managed by independent entities – All new funds including promotional funds raised must be managed only by the AGFD.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FUNDING IDEAS SUPPORTED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE: (NOTE: not listed by priority and to achieve the \$1.5M goal may require a combination of options suggested.)

1. Super Bonus Point / 1 per year / Only 1 species / Permanent until drawn/ Mirror application fee (fee is \$13 per applicant for residents and \$15 per applicant for non-residents)

- o Voluntary
- o Does not target one specific species
- o Would be valid in the next drawing as are bonus points currently purchased
- o Only requires Rules change by Commission approval
- o More than 1 super point per year may be like Utah program-not desirable for Arizona we support a single Super Bonus Point.

ESTIMATED REVENUE:

In 2017 there were a total of 275,531 Big Game applicants and 59,417 persons purchased a bonus point only total 334,948 applicants/bonus point purchases. Presuming just 10% of the 334,948 purchase a Super Bonus Point at \$13 **new**



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revenues would equal \$435,432. If 25% chose to purchase a Super Bonus Point or 83,737 persons **new revenues would equal \$1,088,581.**

2. Increase resident and non-resident application fee from \$13 to \$15 and \$15 to \$17

ESTIMATED REVENUE:

In 2017 there were a total of 275,531 Big Game applicants and 59,417 persons purchased a bonus point only total 334,948 applicants/bonus point purchases.

In this model all 334,948 purchases would net an additional \$2 each, thus **new revenues would equal \$669,896.**

3. Conservation/Education Stamp for each hunting/fishing or combination license - \$2 or \$4

ESTIMATED REVENUE:

Based on license sale number from the most recently available annual report of 2015-16 data listed below there were a total of 348,434 licenses sold. In this model if the stamp fee **was \$2 new revenue generated would equal \$696,874. A \$4 stamp would generate \$1,393,748 in new revenue.**

Resident General Fish	148,086
Nonresident General Fish	17,924
Resident General Hunt	53,985
Resident Combo Hunt/Fish	102,754
Nonresident Combo Hunt/Fish	25,688
TOTAL:	348,434

4. Support for an advisory type committee to the AZGFD

All participants are supportive of a Commission appointed advisory group to assist the AZGFD with funding priorities, membership/makeup to be determined.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSED: (not currently recommended by sub-committee)

- Raffle Tags
- OHV Environmental Stamp – Department only has partial authority (i.e. Sheriff Dept., State Lands)
- Buying Bonus Points for Kids <10 years old
- State Fee for Outdoor Outfitters / Antler Collection Fee / Public Land “Collectors”



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- Allocate/designate a specific portion of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation License Plate fund for AGFD Education
- Create State Fish License Plate Fund
- Allocate/designate a portion of the Environmental License Fund (NRCD control) for AGFD Education"

APPENDIX #1 AGFD RESPONSES 7/23/18

EDUCATION FUNDING AZGFD Questions from AWF study Sub-committee Preliminary AGFD Response

What does the Department see as the major Goal(s), Objectives and Measurable Outcomes of the new Education/Outreach program?

The goal is for consistent, long-term, discretionary funding for education, outreach, and public awareness to build and maintain an informed public that supports and advocates for the Department, its mission, and management authorities.

Can you clarify in detail the current input process, timelines and dates associated with the Commission motion for public input?

Preliminary Process/Timeline Summary

- July - Benchmarking, info gathering, committee org.
- August - Webinar presentation and solicitation of public input (tentatively scheduled for Aug. 9)
- September Commission Mtg - Present range of alternatives based on public input, vetting, and benchmarking
- September/October - Additional solicitation of public input
- November/December Commission Meeting - Present recommended alternative(s)

Will there be internal Department committee meetings that are not open to public? *All formal meetings to solicit public input will be open to the public.*

Where would the new program be placed within the Department structure? *TBD (based on Commission direction and alternative selection.)*

How much does AZGFD see as increased baseline revenue desired for such a program? *Rough estimates based on preliminary research, expert feedback, current outreach efforts, and goals: between \$1.5 - \$2 million.*



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How much does the current I Support Wildlife program generate annually? How are those funds spent? *Have to get back to you on this one.*

With Project WILD now back under Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies control and management, does the Department plan to become the State sponsor again? If not, why Not? *No. The Department evaluated project wild and based on costs, participants, customer needs/feedback, and changing educational standards, the Department implements its Focus Wild Arizona.*

Is it true that the Department cannot use PR and DJ funds to provide basic conservation education programs, information and activities as part of Hunter Ed and Aquatic Ed any longer? If it can, what are the parameters that are allowable use? *The Department receives PR and DJ funds to support hunter education and aquatic resource education. Those funds are used to support everything from fishing clinics, classroom courses, formal classes, hunt camps, etc.*

What is the relationship between Conserve and Protect Arizona and the Department? *None.*

08-10-2018

Individual Comment

The first thing I would need to know is what is the \$ size of the need. Take 1/3 and tack it to auto registration. Which covers most people who could access the outdoors. 1/3 as a sales tax increase. Which is basically a flat tax. 1/3 added to hunting and fishing licenses along with boater registration fees. A broader base spreads out the burden to all within our society.

08-10-2018

Individual Comment

Pitman Robinson has worked extremely well but only hunters and fishermen pay the bill.

It is time to tax the sale of backpacks, hiking boots, mountain bikes, binoculars, and all the things that outdoor enthusiasts use to enjoy wildlife. It is time they help



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pay the freight on conserving our wildlife. I would think a very small, fraction of 1% dedicated tax on these items sold in Arizona would supply the funds needed. The Arizona legislature needs to step up and introduce the legislation.

08-10-2018

Individual Comment

Please implement a Heritage stamp for \$5 a year. That is a small amount to pay to keep you from giving out more prized big game tags to groups that live off of exploiting the resource. If you do give tags expect the average hunters to resist and go to the legislature for relief. Other states use the Heritage stamp method and have for decades with no impact on hunter participation. Thanks.

08-09-2018

Individual Comment

Are you able to access funds for this effort through the Heritage Funds? Have you considered corporate sponsorship from businesses like Bass Pro Shop, Sportsman's Warehouse or other outdoor businesses that would benefit from continued success from the AZGFD? Thanks for your continued efforts to improve fishing and hunting in our state, as well as habitat work to benefit all wildlife.

08-07-2018

Individual Comment

increase the price of buffalo tags, let more out

07-31-2018

Individual Comment

In the past there was some discussion about creating a bonus point for those who volunteered on a verifiable basis to help with wildlife based projects. Similar to that



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suggested program, I propose creating a sportsman's point that mimics the current loyalty point. If the hunter purchases a yearly \$10 sportsman's stamp, after 3-5 consecutive years, they will receive a bonus point (dollar amount and time can be adjusted by the department for maximum effectiveness). A hunter can maintain that extra bonus point by continuing to purchase the stamp. Undoubtedly the percentage of hunters using this program would exceed 75%, higher among non-residents, but it would still be on a volunteer basis. This would bring in a tremendous amount of revenue without sacrificing a single hunt permit or allowing a small group of individuals to gain virtually unlimited control of the department.

07-31-2018

Individual Comment

Why done you take some of the \$15.00 you charge everyone to apply for the big game drawings every years as this has to generate millions of dollars with little or no cost to the department.

07-30-2018

Individual Comment

I am suggesting public education & information pamphlets that can be made available at all major sport hunting and fishing outlets throughout the state. Funding for these educational/informational pamphlets could be funded through advertising dollars collected from commercial advertisements placed in the pamphlets by major company's like Dodge/Jeep, Ford, Chevy Polaris, Browning, Remington, Winchester, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Bass Pro Shops, and Cabelas just to name a few. The advertising dollars collected should offset all costs associated with developing, printing and distributing the pamphlets.

07-30-2018

Individual Comment



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Why don't you guys use the money from the game camera lobbyists that bought the boards votes to not enact a restriction on the cameras. Im sure the companies will be glad to donate funds to az game and fish since wild life now takes a back seat to big business,!