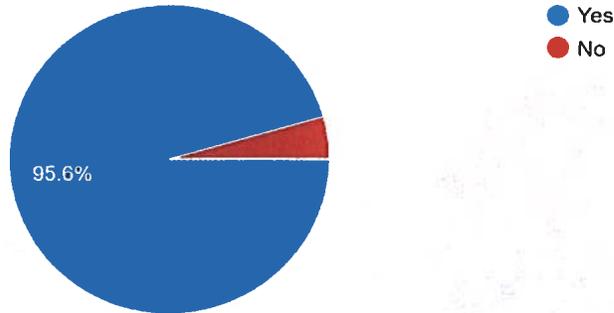


Questions - Dedicated Funding for Public Awareness and Education

452 Responses (Public Comment Period 10/19/18 - 11/18/19)

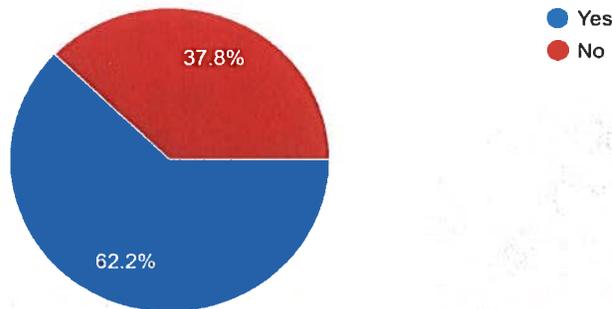
Do you participate in Arizona's Big Game draw?

450 responses



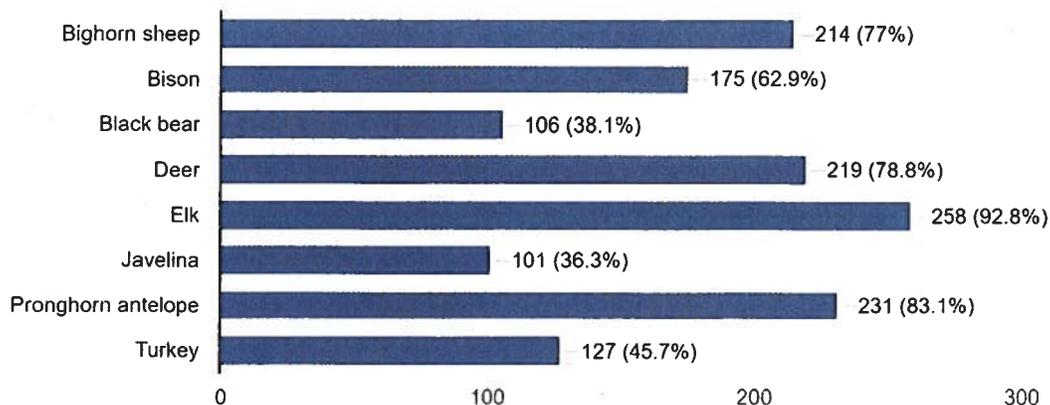
Would you support adding a new Bonus Point option to the current system to facilitate this strategy?

452 responses



Which Big Game species do you think the new Bonus Point(s) should be available for each year? Check all that apply.

278 responses

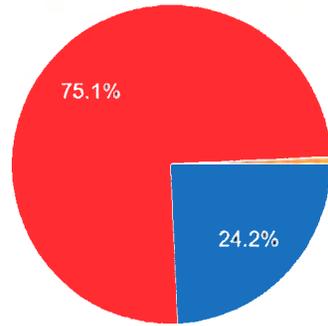


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If offered, how long do you think the new Bonus Point should last after it is purchased?

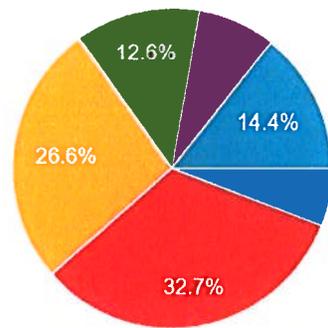
281 responses



- I think the new bonus point should expire after 1 (one) year.
- I should be able to keep the new bonus point until I am drawn for that species.
- I don't have an opinion.

How much are you willing to pay for a new Bonus Point for a single big game species?

278 responses



- \$0 - I would not purchase an additional bonus point.
- \$13
- \$20
- \$25
- \$30
- I would be willing to pay an amount not listed above. (Provide amount in next question.)

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Please provide any additional related comments or suggestions.

185 responses

One of the Arizona's concepts of conversation is.....hunting and angling opportunity for all. So if we decide to raise money for wildlife education then it needs to be in form of something that all sportsmen and women can participate in and not a auction tag system that only the rich can afford.

Depends how it would be set up. You have more problems than the bonus point system. The bow weight, the age for hunters for big game. and the mechanical arrow launching devices that are not actual bows. You should do better research.

Adding costs to the public to hunt limits those that can participate. It narrows use to those that have the higher incomes to take advantage of the addition bonus point.

I think the \$10 to \$20 range is best for Super Bonus Point. WY charges \$30 for a preference point, but some think that is to high.

it's a bad idea , that would be almost impossible to manage , the potential to corrupt the system is far too great

I presently live in Ohio, But I have purchased 40 acres in Arizona. I have spent vacations in Arizona since before I was five. All my mothers family live in Arizona. Even though I live in Ohio, I will be moving when I get things cleared up here. Already I am interested in Arizona and its wildlife. I feel people should fund programs doing good work with no benefit to them personally. This should be done out of an awareness and doing things for my state and the wildlife in it. Especially the hunters and fishermen. Without the AZGFD doing what they do, they would have no fish to catch or wildlife to benefit them and their families. My husband was a fisherman and he always contributed to the local society that helped clean up the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. Wildlife do not have their own spokesman, so we have to be there for them. Humans have done enough to ruin their lives, we should at the least contribute to their saving and welfare. From what I see and read AZGFD has done a lot to educate us from bats, water life, large and small game, birds, and the environment. We, as residents, should shoulder our responsibility. Thanks to AZGFD for doing what they can.

Today, the answer to your questions is maybe. You have not provided enough information.

You should not tamper with points currently held.

You should make it easier for youth to be drawn.

What ever system you develop should not reduce resident or repeat out of state folks who have always hunted in AZ chances.

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Make it like point guard. Make it a small enough amount that 90% of people will buy it

This shouldn't be about how much money you have to get to hunt

Would support extra bonus point per each species

If a bonus point can be purchased, then once again, I would feel disenfranchised from the whole system. I can barely afford the permit costs. Now you are considering another cost. Please enlighten me as to how this will help me to achieve my big horn sheep tag?

I am very concerned that raffling or adding special tags would be going down the path of the European model of wildlife conservation where only the more wealthy sportsmen can hunt big game. Adding super bonus points or raffle tags would open us to corrupting the system allowing outfitters and the wealthy to dominate big game draws.

I would prefer a small increase in license fees, or adding a conservation surcharge to specific area or hunt tags. For example, add a small surcharge (\$20 - \$30) to early rut bull elk tags while keeping all other elk tags at the current level. These ""Premium Hunts"" could be added to most species where a specific hunt time period or area increases the chance for higher success or trophy potential.

I would also support AZGFD sponsored license plates as opposed to the current wildlife plate sponsored by an outside organization. "

I didn't understand what the question was. Adding a bonus point? To what? Why?

We don't need this

wishing i knew how to get into game hunting with out having to spend alot of money.

Any additional bonus points will create a system in which new hunters have the odds greatly stacked against them.

This is, of course, a tough issue. I certainly don't have 'the answer'. As a hunter and fisherman I understand the desire to inform the public about wildlife. However, much of the public, not just hunters (those paying for a bonus point) benefit from proper game management. Because the public at large benefits, the public at large should pay. While I believe it is unfair only for hunters to cover the cost, I believe it is also unsustainable. At some point the 'average' hunter will decide to spend their discretionary dollars elsewhere.

Price should be the same for residents and NR. WY has this arrangement, but prices are high (elk \$50, deer \$40, pronghorn \$30 approx.), and the BPs are only good for 2 yrs. Not impressed. I have suggested the current AZ model to NDOW (NV) officials a long time ago, and they indicated they are thinking about it, but nothing has materialized. I think AZGFD is on the

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right track, and it is time to get something done to bring wildlife and habitat education to Arizona's ever-exploding population. Thank you. p.s. I am a former long-time AZ resident.

Areas are over permitted for the amount of game available, especially in your drier regions, ie. Southern & south east Az. Too many hunts. Not enough done to help the wildlife, ie. Water catchments. I live rural, I see 1st hand what is happening.

The implementation of the bonus point concept further enhances the opportunity for a small minority of hunters and further moves us toward hunting as an elitist activity and hence less acceptable to the vast majority of the public that is neither pro nor con hunting is of little interest to the vast majority of hunter

There is much skepticism about whether or not bonus points help you draw sooner than later among many hunters. It is also my belief that most hunters would shell out twenty bucks if they thought it might help. Even to the slightest degree.

While I think the need for this program is without question, I think most support will once again be forthcoming from sportsmen license holders. While diversity and inclusion are nice pc phrases, the reality may be that for the 90+% of folks that don't hunt or fish they really don't care enough about wildlife to the extent that they would be willing to financially support this program. I know the desire is to fund this program in a voluntary manner but I don't think you'll ever get there that way. A \$2 across the board license fee increase, including all categories, youth, hunt, fish, resident, non-resident, military and any others would get you pretty close. Another possibility would be an additional \$2 fee for each game application, again for all categories and all tags/stamps. I don't think most sportsmen would object to one of these proposed fees if they knew that it was across the board and they saw the subsequent program being managed in a viable, successful manner.

The super bonus point being offered is a great idea. It should be equivalent to 2 bonus points, renews every year, cost \$200, apply to all species, and only have a limited number of 10,000 offered up to the public. It is enough of an enticement to get folks to buy it, yet affordable enough for nearly anyone to buy it. If it is not renewed, then it is available for anyone to buy, first come, first served, online only. People with the funds to pay for it and renew it every year will do so. This will generate the \$2,000,000 needed to fund the public awareness and public education campaign needed.

reduce the number of permits for non-resident hunters

If the bonus point were to remain until drawn, I recommend the bonus point purchase be 25-50% of the tag fee. This would link point-to-species and generate additional revenue. If this option is not available, I recommend the super bonus point expire after 1 year

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Not sure what this new scheme is. Where is the explanation?

Letting hunters "buy" bonus puts those who can't afford it at a disadvantage! You can't have a "random" draw when the deck is stacked.

Thank you Commission for not moving forward new tags beyond the current allotted HPC program!! I am happy to see the Marketing Department's efforts and look forward to support their initiatives and more important to support discretionary opportunities to support AZGFD's Conserve and Protect. I support a stamp as well and know it will be a successful Marketing program that will help a stamp to succeed. Keep up the great work. thanks

Preferred over other options discussed but can't support additional cost to hunters who already foot the entire bill as it pertains to wildlife conservation

I'm concerned that the department relies too heavily on the draw process to generate revenue. I feel many of the hunts have way too many tags issued, thus lowering the quality of the hunt.

Consider giving the option of buying up to 3 bonus points per specie per year.

Thank you for working to keep my privilege of hunting available to me and my kids!

I have been hunting in AZ for 45 years. At first it was a \$3 application fee. Now it's \$13. You want to use your atv off-road you need a stamp now. It is never ending. Buying bonus points is only helping to make this more of a rich mans sport. How about the person with 3 kids putting in. Now he has to buy tags across all species to stay competitive in the draw. It is never ending. I think this is looking for a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Sounds like the good idea fairy has arrived. If you think you need to raise revenue add 20 cents to the cost of shooting at Ben Avery and other AZGF ranges. Put up a booth at any of the sports venues, Diamondbacks, Cardinals etc with a display and donation jar. Offer a voluntary conservation stamp for \$2. Please don't tie it to the permits or draw system in any way.

I am not in favor of increasing expense to have an opportunity at a decent hunt. My personal opinion is we have way too many hunts in most units, causing stress on animals for several consecutive months without any relief. This additional expense option will become mandatory if implemented in order to have a chance for a tag in a unit or for a species that does not, in what again is my opinion, have too much opportunity and vast reduction in quality and pressure.

I would like to see bonus points squared at the same time this is implemented and do away with the bonus pass as there is zero opportunities currently in the prime units for sheep to draw a tag if you do not have maximum points.

Thank you for dismissing the previous auction tag suggestion and thinking of something outside the box! Great job!!! I will strongly support the Super bonus point option.

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Good to see the department looking at other ideas rather than just taking tags to raffle off.

Hunting should not be pay to play. I dont appreciate being nickel and dimed and we have a complicated enough draw system already.

This whole funding issue is unnecessary. Groups should be working on amending the Arizona Constitution to remove the regulation of hunting from the initiative process. However, offering a bonus point is better than skimming off tags for a private group to promote its own banquet and interests.

Better than stealing tags for Conserve and Protect, but still not a great idea

I support this as long as the extra bonus point is for that years draw only and does not carry over. I see it as essentially doubling the app fee and using half for education, on a voluntary system. I like the idea of paying extra at application time or whenever for education, but know there are legal issues in an app fee only. Again, bonus point for that draw only. Thank you.

Charge the bird watchers

We do not want more auction tags. This bonus point idea is great!

It's still my opinion, a conservation stamp, from hunters and non-hunters, would generate significant revenue for the education program. It's time ALL residents of Arizona that enjoy wildlife start footing the bill. Reaping the rewards from the hard work of hunters and conservation groups is unfair.

This won't scratch the surface of the \$2 million required annually to fund this education program.

I appreciate all of the hard work. Keep it up! The super bonus point is a great concept

If the bonus point expired after 1 year the price should be less, around \$10. If the point did not expire until drawn it should cost more, around \$25.

There should be a resident and nonresident fee, with nonresident fee being higher, like \$50.

Limiting it to one species and not making the point expire each year makes no sense mathematically or from a marketing stance. The draw is already too gimmicky. All but the top tier BP holders will ditch the gimmick after a couple years and the revenue will be very low. \$13 is way too low for a point that never expires. \$100 might be more realistic, but then becomes a game for "haves and have nots." One point per species for that year is best. If I apply for deer, elk and antelope, that's three purchases as a customer instead of one--others may apply for more species. At \$5 per point that would be \$15 every year, at \$13 it would be \$36. I would

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be good with either or anywhere between, I can afford it to further education. However, a family may need it to be less--and I would be good with that too.

there was no page 2; More effort should be directed towards consideration of legislative measures to increase educational/outreach funding from non-consumptive users. Sportsmen and especially women comprise a small percentage of Arizona residents yet the current proposal recommendations look to extract additional funding from the annually shrinking pool of Arizona hunters/anglers. A more permanent planning solution would be to legislate or incentivise funding from the exponentially larger pool of Arizona residents.

Just increase the cost of the license

Draw is unfair for our state residents now. AZGFD is all about the money now. With out of state tags.. Also we need more Archery cow tags.. MORE COW TAGS. NOT EVERYONE IS A ANTLER HUNTER

More archery cow tags

I am open to optional revenue sources to keep the department funded however I am very against the option of allowing people to "buy" there way back towards the top of bonus point pool. Even though I am in a position to do what you are proposing, I think it is unfair to the many dedicated sportsmen, sportswomen who maybe do not have a good income or bringing young hunters into the sport. An option I would favor is a partial increase of tag fees, partial increase in licensing fees and an increase of the application fee from \$13.50 to \$15.

I do not support auctioning or raffling tags this can be corrupted to easy in my opinion.

I SUPPORT RAFFLE TAGS BUT NOT SUPPER BONUS POINT. WE SHOULD OFFER MORE RANDOM RAFFLE TAGS AND A COUPLE MORE FOR EACH SPECIES GO TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. SUPER BONUS POINTS WILL CAUSE SERIOUS POINT CREEP AND IT WILL SEPARATE THE FAMILY HUNTERS EVEN MORE. THIS SUPER BONUS POINT IS A NON-STARTER FOR ME AND IS NOT GOOD FOR ARIZONA HUNTING. WHY NOT HAVE RANDOM RAFFLE FOR A 10 POINT BONUS POINT PACK? RAFFLE OFF ONE HUNDRED 10 POINT PACKS THAT CAN BE USED ON ANY ONE SPECIES AND DO NOT GO AWAY UNTIL DRAWN.

No

I have been hunting for over 20years and I think that doe should be an option not a draw but if you are drawn for buck you should give a doe tag I feel doe are becoming over populated

"Dedicated Funding for Public Awareness and Education" is what I'm reading on the top of this

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page as I type. Interesting. I get the department needs funding but if it is to "educate the public", why not find some "public" money? Why ask hunters to provide more money? The public seems to be very concerned about our wildlife and wildlands yet most of them contribute nothing. If you are only looking for an extra million or two, their must be grants or other organizations willing to contribute to public outreach. I'd happily pay an extra \$13.00 (total) each year to ensure the department has the budget necessary to manage their objectives. I know the opportunities, wildlife and wildlands we have are fantastic and the public should know about them but I feel hunters can't and shouldn't fund it all. I hope this helps. Brian Eagan

What bonus point change was not made clear.

I could support the idea if you gave information on ideas that the AZGFD had. To place a blanket statement question on here to answer yes or no is probably not the most wise plan. The azgfd conducted a survey on hunt opportunities a few years back, based on your misleading survey, hunters chose opportunity over quality. In turn both quality and opportunity have declined further.

Nice loaded survey, I like how if you answer no at the begginging you can't proceed to the rest of the survey. You need to have a maybe option instead of yes or no. I am open to the idea under circumstances, but if I had selected no, I wouldn't have been able to see some of the options.

I do not hunt or fish and would become a member for conservation reasons quit the program of Apache trout in at Black river tributaries.

provide alternative answer: NA

Additional consideration should be given to Pioneer license holders for bonus points and big game drawings

Only purchase one point per year but can choose any species each year.

I would really like if we just got rid of bonus points and adopted New Mexico's draw system. Some of the challenges for getting drawn for our younger hunters is point creep and they just don't have the money to go hunt out of state ex. Colorado OTC Elk. I believe our younger hunters could potentially just stop hunting if it's to hard to get drawn. Everyone has the same odds in NM year after year and this will improve hunter recruiting and retention. Thanks

I don't like how the hunters have to once again pay for Department programs. It also puts burden and obligation onto hunters to ""keep up with the Jones' "" on bonus points. AZ hunters are already financially strapped to just apply for multiple species and adding one more item to that process is getting too expensive for families that have multiple members and applications. Other alternatives would be to improve and enhance the ""I Support Wildlife""

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program to market the Department to non-consumptive users. Have multiple stickers and programs available (watchable wildlife for birders, reptiles, fishing, hiking, boating, ATVs, etc). Another suggestion is to wait and see how the RAWA funds come available and if they can be used for education rather than bringing about this new fee primarily targeting hunters. The wildlife in AZ is important to all Arizonans -find a better way to have those passionate citizens assist in funding the Department.

one you draw with a super bonus point you should not be able to purchase again for 3 years.

Once again hunters are paying for everything. I would like to see the general public contribute. Perhaps from lottery funds?

My friend told me many years ago that hunting is becoming a rich man's sport so if those can afford to buy another bonus point will have better odd's of getting drawn. Is that fair?

I have a real concern that if super bonus points are offered for OIL species it will only serve to further separate the max point holders from those below them (+2 separation every year). I like the idea of only 1 super bonus point as it allows people to focus on an important species, but it needs to be a species that has enough tags that people that don't buy the super point for that species are not eliminated from the future potential of the max point pool.

If your wanting to get feedback in order to be more responsive to the public, the bonus point would be the reward for submitting input on any given issue; the public shouldn't have to pay you, for you listening to those who are directly effected by what you already do. Besides, you haven't proven yourselves to be open to public opinion anyway; this whole idea of providing more "hunter day opportunities" erodes the quality and quantity of game species, at the expense of putting more \$ in your coffers. If I want to go camping and carry a weapon, I can do that throughout the year with rabbits, squirrels, quail, etc. When I hunt deer, elk, antelope, etc; I want better quality, greater quantity, and less people for my big-game experience! Why not go back to having some deer units be "Trophy" units; limiting people from killing "spikes" and letting the deer population grow up? But the AZ G&F is perceived to be about one thing & one thing only = \$! SAD!

Thank you for being great stewards of this resource. You do good and important work. I value it am and willing to fund it more.

It is hard enough to draw now, without adding another layer of competition.

I understand this is not intended to make the draw process better, rather a means to generate funds instead of raising fees. I am all for funding conservation and contributing to the outstanding work the agency does. All I ask is please don't gouge your customers. We already

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pay hefty resident fees compared to other western states. Thank you.

First of all if someone puts no on the bonus point they should still see page 2 and the questions your asking. As for this bonus point thing your making hunting about money and that's it. Next what are you gonna do sell lots like a lease and the rich get there choice of area. I see deer numbers drop more and more in my home unit of 28 and nothing is getting done before trappers came in for the lions but not anymore. For the bonus point I put in for a unit and someone has more money than me they can bump me out because they can afford it that's wrong.

My two cents is that we can't keep burdening the relatively low % of sportsmen to fund all conservation/education/outreach/etc. The bonus point will raise money but it is a short-term solution and ultimately, we need the non-consumptive public to start spending money on wildlife. I think that can only be done through a % tax which I know the agency has explored before. Perhaps it is time to explore it again?

Would just be more money we pay. I like Colorado they have a 5 Service fee to camp or just go out in woods then it's mandatory and less fee on just hunters

I think the early bull elk season should have a 5 year waiting period once you get drawn for it. The antelope season should also have a 5 year waiting period. It took me 14 years to get drawn for my first antelope hunt. Why is bear season open in October in unit 5 when many of other units are open in September already?

Additional bonus points should be available to AZ G&F Hunter Education Instructor.

The use of a super Bonus point will be mandatory for those with max bonus points. If they were not to purchase, they would be at a disadvantage. I can foresee legal challenges from high bonus point applicants.

I don't think this is a good idea. You are forcing me to purchase bonus points

Inspire the Commission to revisit Conserve and Protect Arizona's tag option to fund this "discretionary" program which really is the only way to adequately fund an education effort and keep the Department's Conserve and Protect message consistent at a time when it is sorely needed.

need to encourage new/youth hunters and continued ownership, use and safety of firearms

I believe that if this is actually an informational effort, not educational (requires the added step of the audience doing something) that what the Department plans to do needs to be better spelled out. As example Colorado Parks and Wildlife uses an excellent TV/publication ads series to get their message out eg "Hug an angler" and "Hug a hunter" -- showing how funds provided by

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license dollars helps all wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of the entire public.

I am opposed to dedicating more big game tags (for all big game species) to be used for raffles or auctions.

I support the AWF recommendation for a dedicated education fund. I also think the Department needs to meet with the "Legalize Marijuana" ballot initiative folks and request that language for a 1% sales tax be dedicated on all Marijuana sold for a general wildlife education fund to be administered by AZGFD be added to the ballot initiative. It is just a matter of time before it is legalized in AZ. Colorado now receives approximately 1 billion in additional tax revenue. 1% is 10 million, the same income as past ballot initiatives on gambling for AZGFD. The boat is leaving the dock.....AZGFD needs to be on board.

I oppose the super bonus point. I disagree with the way our current draw system works. Currently by chance, someone with 17 bonus points putting in for a premium hunt will not be drawn. But, and I've seen it time and time again, a hunter will draw the tag with 1 point and have the "luck" of a repeat hunt. If the bonus points worked the way they were intended the draw would be more fair and hunters would experience better opportunities to hunt. We understand when putting in for premium units, we'll wait. But to see a person draw a back to back hunt is frustrating to say the least. Why not just increase the application fee to \$20? The bonus point, I fear, will take priority and if I'm not buying the sheep point every year, my chances reduce from the current system. Also, what is the education initiative? How will it be implemented? Who will implement it? If we do not use our current resources, what's the point? How about we look back on the foundation of the department....! Law enforcement and biology combined to improve our wildlife, herds and health? With a lesser emphasis on the many new positions that have been created over the past 10 years. The department needs to look at itself to reduce and gain resources from wasted positions and excessive payroll. Get back to basics. Our herds have been depleted in the name of opportunity. It's sad. I personally don't see how the super bonus point benefits me as a hunter.

I pay \$30 for a bonus point in Wyoming; \$50 in Montana. Need more math and statistics than I am able to do to see where \$'s max out. To me this is one of the few areas where max \$ is the sought after result. For sure non-resident applicants will be willing to pay \$25 plus, but don't want to over tax my fellow residents.

I think the bonus point idea is well thought out and good concept to raise additional funds for education for the Department

No estimate of the cost of the proposed program was given. Only expectations of funding based on various participation estimates. The program itself is not defined at all. It has a name but no method. What exactly would these funds be used for? Radio? Magazines? TV? Lectures? How would the public be made aware and educated? This proposal has too many

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vagaries to gain support of the hunters who would be paying for it in my opinion.

If the point is for 1 yr only then charge \$13, if point is kept until drawn then \$20

There no reason to add another bonus point for only a dollar value. So much for hunter retention and recruiting.

By doing so, you are creating segregated between the wealthy and the common hunters opportunity to complete

Poor judgement to allow fundraising to create opportunities for those who have the means to do so by creating even more of a rich man sport to gain advantages.

Bad idea to implement divisions between hunters who cannot afford an additional cost for an equal opportunity to gain a tag! What azgfd is offering is if you pay extra. You gain the advantage over those who cannot

As a young hunter just starting on my own. You will reduce my opportunity to gain tags due to being in college and not having discretionary funds like other hunters. They will be given higher opportunities because of wealth status.

Very poor idea to use personal finance as an unbiased fundraising source to pit hunters against each other through unfair financial opportunities

Open it up to full hunting zones not the half like 7e or 7w make it 7.

I think you should able to buy an additional each year for the species until you get drawn

AZGFD doesn't need 2 million dollars a year from the people who already know about them and support them to increase their popularity with people who can already easily access the department with very little effort.

Make it where you can buy an extra point every year for whatever species you want an they don't expire until dawn. Don't do extra points for sheep that species does not need to be any tuffer to draw.

The top 4 Big Game Species, Sheep, Antelope, Deer and Elk..no additional points

Lower amount of tags in areas where AZGF had almost doubled the amount of tags. Raise tag prices instead of raising the number of tags issued. Too many hunters are making Az hunts over crowded and people will start spending recreational dollars elsewhere. This is a common topic in deer camps. And this view is expressed by everyone.

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Bonus points are based on equality relating to past success.

Absolutely no. To expect the current consumptive user base to fund yet another initiative targeting the general public is both insulting, and short sighted. How about an initiative push to tax outdoor recreation destinations, birding destinations, and outdoor user equipment of all types as has been proposed nationally. As an Arizona native and lifetime license holder I now find myself becoming more and more dissatisfied with AZGFD initiatives and directions, and focus my time and money on other states. I also encourage other current and future sportsman to do the same. Sad but true!

Set kids up for better units. 20B is a bad unit for youth hunts.

Would relegate more advantage to the rich

I am getting old. I get drawn once every decade in Arizona. I will do anything to get drawn before I am 60!

Look to increase non- resident tag fees and if bonus point purchases are available their costs should be more also.

I believe additional raffle tags is the solution for achieving the income goal.

""BONUS POINT"" BACKGROUND: During a 1986 hunt, my guide expressed an idea for a draw system that gave applicants increased draw odds after each unsuccessful year of applying. In 1988, I drafted a letter and sent it to most of the western fish and game departments, including Arizona. In that letter, I described the concept and actually coined the term ""bonus point"". I received letters back from New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Nevada and Oregon. In 1991, Arizona adopted the bonus point system. Nevada and Utah have as well. As a nonresident of Arizona, I have accrued max deer points (22 points), one less than max for antelope and sheep (29 points) and 20 points for elk, so I have been INVESTING in AZGFD's bonus point system for nearly 30 YEARS and am on the verge of enjoying the fruit of that long term investment. Since I don't hunt Arizona on years I don't draw, the thousands of dollars of hunting license and application fees have been paid strictly towards future tag opportunities. I have even flown down to Arizona to take Hunters Safety. If a ""super bonus point"" option is only allowed for ONE SPECIE and those points are retained until drawn, I will be forced to choose which of these four species to move forward on and which three to leave behind. It will DEVALUE a point system people have ALREADY INVESTED in! It will most deeply affect those who have invested the longest. I hope AZGFD sees the ethical and legal problems with this. This would not be the first time AZGFD has devalued points. With the recent change to nonresident tag allocation (5% cap in the bonus pass), my ""certainty"" of drawing certain tags in my lifetime (13B AZ Strip rifle deer for example) has already vanished. That change has already devalued the investment of long term nonresident applicants. The

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new ""super bonus point"" (for one specie) proposal would again further damage that investment for residents and nonresidents alike. For me the problem compounds. As a divorced parent, I have been buying licenses and around 20 points each year for my six children for the past 14 YEARS to eventually create hunt opportunities and memories with them. I have also been applying my wife for the past 9 years. Our family is on the verge of several high quality hunt opportunities that we have ALREADY MADE a huge financial investment towards. The ""super bonus point"" proposal could threaten the investment by forcing us choose a single specie to move forward on. Actually, I am not adverse to paying slightly more (say \$10 per applicant per year) to help with AZGFD's funding through some method, but please make certain that any adopted plan does not DEVALUE THE INVESTMENT ALREADY MADE by your most LOYAL and LONG TERM customers. Here is the way I look at it. Imagine if an investment company offered a retirement savings plan, and drew customers into that plan with certain future expectations. Then 20 or 30 years down the road, just as people began to reach retirement and enjoying their investment, the company cut the benefits down to a fraction of what was originally offered. That would not only be unethical, but likely illegal. I entered AZGFD's bonus point offering with my eyes open to the investment I was making, and under the ground rules laid out by you. Please to not devalue that investment nearly 30 years down the road.

My comment is directed at the I Support Wildlife license. I feel that this is a great idea and opportunity for non-traditional funding. However it is not being marketed or even explained as to where the money is going or what benefits it will produce for AZ wildlife. There is significant potential in this license/donation that is not being tapped.

None

I think it would be good to sell otc Javalina tags year round for around \$15.00, Let people buy as many as they want.

Rather than offering the bonus point per applicant you could do it per applicant per species. In other words one applicant may pay for an extra bonus point for elk but wouldn't necessarily want to pay for one for javalina. If you had it so that the purchase of the bonus point is specific to species rather than like the Hunter Ed bonus point which transcends all species this would allow for more revenue while allowing hunters to choose which species they wanted added bonus points for. This again could lead to additional revenue since it would not be a one time purchase for all species and one hunter may spend money for multiple species bonus points like one for elk, one for bighorn, one for deer if going for a hard to draw unit but not the other species (3 times as much revenue from one hunter). I also think that the bonus point if purchased should remain valid until drawn for that species. There is also the option to allow applicants to purchase a bonus point each year until drawn basically doubling how fast they accrue points but also allowing a larger stream of revenue for the department.

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I struggle with the idea of tapping hunters with another fee. Many of us work diligently to try to recruit new hunters through hunter education and participation in hunter camps to teach new hunters how to hunt. Many of these folks would be disenfranchised further by adding another layer to an already costly and financially restrictive endeavor. Yes its only another \$13 bucks but many we are trying to recruit are at the lower ends of the financial spectrum already and another fee to participate seems unwise. Those at the upper end of the spectrum will not bat an eye about paying for another bonus point. Many of these same folks can afford to hunt out of state, likely we are not in danger of losing them as Arizona hunters except by age. I like the idea of a nonuser fee but that was attempted in the past and was not very successful in raising funds. Is there value in looking at other states for their ideas on this issue or has that been done? I question whether anyone has looked at current programs to determine if there are ways to save \$. Urban wildlife issues are a huge and costly time sink in metro Phoenix and Tucson and generate little positive value to the Department. Might we be able to jettison that to other sources? Why do we need Commissioned javelina catchers; might the municipalities or private sources be contracted by agreement to handle these issues and save \$? It is well and good to have \$ for a public outreach program but with the media so negative towards consumptive use, will the \$ for outreach make a difference? All of these questions rattle around in my head. I certainly don't have answers and am glad you are looking at it, but I question too the effectiveness of your use of your PIO's now. Seems like every day there is a news release about something but there are many issues every week that are not addressed or lack historical knowledge. Example: the killing of desert bighorns exposed to domestic sheep. The article cited an event in other states regarding contagious ecthema but didn't even mention the problem we had here in the Silverbelle Mountains with domestic goats infecting bighorns in the fairly recent past. Or how about recent problems with hunters accessing the ""portal""? No news release yet many phone calls came in from hunters inquiring about why they could not access the portal. I say this not to dredge up junk but wonder aloud if the Department is focused enough on keeping the paying customers engaged and helpful rather than being frustrated and concerned the Department isn't pulling all in the same direction. Adding more information officers with new funding won't solve that problem. Seems like writing news releases with underlying messages about the complications and dangers over abundant mountain lion populations can bring to communities could be an important message right now. I have not seen news releases getting that message out. So, even though I checked the box saying I vote ""no"" on this idea, I could be supportive if I thought it would help change public opinion in a meaningful way. I don't have confidence that would be the case right now.

I have been putting in for the Elk hunt for 6 years straight, and haven't been drawn, Ehat is the reason for that?

I have watched the presentation regarding the various options for raising money for an education fund. I wholeheartedly support the idea of raising funds to educate the non-consuming public about the mission of the Arizona Game & Fish Department and how the department benefits all wildlife. The potential funding mechanisms that have been offered to us

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the hunting / fishing community revolves around two ideas that the Arizona Game & Fish commission has promoted to the public. I will address each of these issues and my thoughts on them. A Stamp: Ideally this is a stamp that could be offered to the non-hunting public for a minimal fee in an effort to have those who do not hunt contribute to the Department. I have worked with several individuals on this item and sadly the results across the nation are almost non-existent. Oregon and Alaska have a program much like this and neither one have shown any real funding towards those particular agencies. Convincing the non-consumptive public is a little like asking which came first, the chicken or the egg. The public does not know what the Department does, thus the need for education. Informal surveys have found that as many as 80% of the non- consumptive public does not even know that they pay NOTHING through taxes to support wildlife. They have to be educated before they will be willing to contribute. Education is a huge key. The Arizona Wildlife Federation "Super Bonus Point". This concept would allow a single species annual bonus point for the species that any hunter would like. The fee would be in the area of \$13.00 each year. Conceptually the Commission wanted this to be a "voluntary" program. Evidently a little bit of historical background may be beneficial to the Commissioners. A concept of a conservation bonus point was presented as far back as 2006. The outcry from the hunting community was fairly loud regarding the lack of time that any one individual might have to spend 16 hours on a work project. No one wanted ANYONE to have more bonus points than they had and there was a reluctance to have 100,000 hunters each spend up to 16 hours on any given calendar year working on a project. The Super Bonus Point has some fairly evident fatal flaws. They are as follows:

- 1) "Voluntary": For any hunter, bonus points are like gold. Taking away anyone's position in the point pool or offering a purchased bonus point will be like mandating that everyone needs to buy a super bonus point.
- 2) Single Species: Buying a single Super Bonus point for a single species will create a war. There are many individuals who have or are near maximum bonus points for Sheep, Elk, Antelope and Deer. If you have to choose a SINGLE species to have your new bonus point added to, it in effect will reduce your chances in the pools that someone else may choose to use their point for. Ideally, purchasing multiple Super Bonus points would be more credible, but then the cost factor becomes unwieldy for those who have children and others in the same pool. If you want to maintain your position in each pool, then a minimum of four Super Bonus points would need to be purchased. At \$13.00 each, the total cost for an individual would be \$52.00 annually. The slippery slope of supposed "voluntary" purchase is thinly veiled as mandatory. Just ask any hunter Commissioners.
- 3) There has been much talk about the North America Model at the Commission meetings. The annual auction tags that are sold each year are a direct contradiction to the basic premise of the North American Model. I know who the buyers traditionally are for several species and their world is far different than most Arizonans. There is no equal opportunity to purchase an auction tag as 99.9% of the public cannot afford to outbid those who do purchase the tags. Suggesting that raffle tags violate the North American premise directly places the Commission in the proverbial glass house. The North American Model would support a raffle tag much more readily than an auction tag.

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The first question would I support an additional bonus point system is misleading due to the following questions that make it appear that whoever wants to pay additional fees will get preference for tags. Any new bonus system should not be based on an individuals ability to pay. This sounds like tags will be auctioned to the highest bidder.

More elk hunts in 16A

In regards to a new bonus point option to provide additional funds for game and fish management I think that an individual should have the option of purchasing ONLY one additional bonus point each year for each big game species in the draw. These additional points would accumulate until the individual draws a tag for that species. People who want to participate have the option and those that don't will still have a fair chance at drawing tags.

Arizona's Hunt draw is both simple and complicated. Adding something for the average hunter to maneuver through is not the best option in my opinion. A better option to me would be to implement a "tax" or fee to outfitters through out the state. Outfitters/guides should be working towards the same goal of education and wildlife management as the AZGFD. Building a partnership between the 2 professions seems like it would be a mutually beneficial relationship. This cost would most likely be passed down to hunters but it would more times than not be passed to hunters that are able to afford the increase in cost of hunting. I am an avid hunter in AZ, I have 3 daughters who love to go with me and the oldest just hunted in her first elk hunt. (She's 13) Hunting is an amazing family activity, gives me the opportunity to teach my children about wildlife, the AZ ecosystem and conservation not only in our state but across the country. This proposed plan would make it more difficult for families that couldn't afford the extra point to get drawn. The economy is recovering but there are still many people that enjoy the AZ outdoors and AZ wildlife that do not make a lot of money. 20\$ a person for a new point may not seem like a lot to most people but for a large struggling family this may turn them off to hunting in our state completely. We have a short window as parents to teach our kids the pros of hunting, hunting ethics, and the effects our ethics have on the environment. Please don't make it more difficult to hunt regularly in AZ.

I do not support adding extra raffle tags through a third party vendor or organization

I'm 71 years old I have lived here my whole life. I can remember when the game and fish didn't have gas to drive to patrol areas assigned to officers. During that time I can remember being checked by game and fish personal on a regular basis both fishing and hunting I was always happy to see them because I believed they cared about our game and catchable fish. In the past 20 years I've noticed fewer and fewer contacts with officers in the field. I know for a fact the budget of the commission has increased ten fold and a large portion of that budget is spent now on non fish and game species. As I understand it now you want hunter and fisherman to again help you fund a agency who's broad base has neglected sport fishing and the declining game in

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this state for last decade. Talk to consumers and ask them if they think they are represented by your dept. I have 25 bonus points for rocky mt. Sheep acquired by being persistent and being old. I don't want any more auctions bonus or any other gimmick to raise your funds to study lizards frogs or otters.

I think the draw should be more like Utah. You can actually get a tag a few years

I also suggest that you offer an extra bonus point every year not drawn

This would force me into buying an extra bonus point to compete with everyone else, which is not in my opinion voluntary and I think there could be a better system which would raise more money.

It's already very difficult to hunt for meat, and spend less money than it would cost to buy that amount of meat in the store, so I don't agree with higher costs. G & F makes millions of dollars per year already on licenses/tags/bonus pts/big game draw. If we give more money, then they will get used to this & that will be the new baseline, standard government. Recommend they use the current large amount of money for the most important needs. Rank order them, look at needs versus wants, select the smart choices. Also, folks have been living by rules & gaining points for years, I don't agree with changing these rules.

Unlimited over the counter javalina tags

I think we should be able to buy Bonus Points for a number of species. It is going to cause a huge issue with guys at the top of the point because many of them have max points for more than one species and it is going to screw it up for the species they don't choose if we have to pick just one..

So what exactly is the proposed change? You never said...

State tax on sale of OHVs and OHV permits.

Many long term applicants, myself included since 1997, have been waiting a long time to try and draw permits in the bonus pass of the Arizona draw. I strongly disagree with the super bonus point program because it changes the predictability of future draws, bonus passes, and point creep among most species in the state. I would rather pay twice as much for my application fee than I would see the system screwed up with another point creep implementation, like the loyalty point did for us years ago.

If the new bonus point isn't permanent like the hunter education point, then it should be renewable after it is used for a minimum amount and stay valid until the hunter is drawn. A reasonable fee would be between \$5 and \$10 dollars. I personally donate \$5 every year that I

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apply for a hunt so I would be willing to do that in order to gain an extra bonus point. Additionally, I feel that to pay for the super bonus point for each species applied for would defeat its purpose, not many would be willing to pay even a nominal amount multiple times. The super bonus point should apply equally to all species applied for, similar to the hunter education point. The only difference would be that while the hunter education point never goes away, once the super bonus point is used resulting in a drawn tag, the hunter must buy another one to apply to applications the next year. Like the bonus point only you may buy when you aren't able to hunt one year, buying a super bonus point would be attractive to many and would probably generate much more funding by providing an additional opportunity in the draw, for a small outlay of money.

The bonus point system is a fractured system. It rules out any new hunters. The draw system should be random, giving every person a fair opportunity to draw.

A mandatory stamp for all hunting and fishing licenses or raffle tags make far more sense. This make solely hunter foot the bill...

This will do nothing but add to point creep and allow those that can afford it to get ahead while those that can't afford it fall behind.

\$10. Per species per year...lets raise some money to educate the uneducated

This would complicate things .

Hunting should not be only for the wealthy !

Bonus points don't change your luck. If you're born under a lucky star, you get to hunt every year. If you're running around under a black cloud like most of us, they don't help much. I much prefer the waiting period after a successful draw and let someone get to hunt who hasn't drawn in a while.

I feel that our current bonus point system is strong enough and we don't need another addition. Trying to extract more money out of the states sportsmen who already purchase licenses, tags, pay app fees is making hunting a rich man's sport. Allow people who put in year after year to be rewarded like the current BP system is, the system is already complex enough.

I would only be supportive of this option if non- residents had the same draw odds as residents

no need to complicate things even more and add more point creep to the system

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This will cause additional point creep and benefit no one but ADGAF. A parlor trick to increase revenue is hardly transparent.

I am hunting right now, with limited access to the internet, so I am unable to read the proposal. I fear it is "Buy additional bonus points". If so, those with extra disposable income will make it impossible for those of us with limited, fixed, incomes to get drawn. As it is neither the wife or I can seem to get a bull elk tag. How hard will it be if somebody who can purchase 10 additional bonus points does so? Those with money will get all the tags. Leave the system alone or you will price the average person out of hunting.

This new bonus point wouldn't change the odds. Everyone would simply buy the point which would increase revenue yes, but people who may not be able to afford the point are going to be put at a disadvantage. The current system can already be used to your advantage which gives others advantages, so why create a new system where you could gain an even greater advantage? I'm not saying that if this bonus point was in place that i wouldn't purchase it, but the point may price some people out.

I would support a small fee for an additional point as long as it is not subject to increases at the whim of any bureaucracy. The animals belong to all residents, not just to the ones with money to burn.

Our family has been part of the Bonus Point from the very first; as a result my son and daughter are at or near the maximum. They have always know that if they stayed committed they would be able to have the hunt they wanted and be able to choose the year they would apply rather than purchase the bonus point and have the time, money, and be able to maximize the enjoyment. To change the system at this time would violate a long term TRIUST with the Department and Commission that there dream hunt(s) would come true.
Please do not change the current Bonus Point System.

Please don't make our point system a difficult process that only makes things harder and more expensive.

Seems to me that it's just another way for the state to gouge the Hunter for another dollar. With being forced to buy a hunting license every year, which I cannot use without a tag) just to build points, I've got thousands of dollars just going to the various western states. I'm now 68 years old and I have money invested in points that I will probably never have the opportunity to draw those tags. Oh for the seventies when families could buy a license and go hunting. "

Nothing additional

This option will force hunters to buy this new bonus point to stay in the maximum bonus point pool. Not voluntary and not fair to long term applicants. Why should hunters be the main

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source for this new fund? Again, not fair. If consumptive users must fund this new fund then at least include fishermen. Perhaps a "Conservation stamp" may be the most fair way to fund new program. Too bad the general public can't help... Better yet, take more time and go back to the drawing board and come up with a better plan.

Taking 50% of the tags away from non resident high point holders a few years ago is appalling and now doing this to them would be make a lot of them burn their points and never apply for your state again. It will also discourage non residents from applying in your state. I hunt all over the west and Arizona is probably the best managed state as it is. Stop trying to fix a problem that isn't there.

Explain the new point or bonus system please.

The fees are already getting pretty high, so adding more money for me I am not in favor of. I'm on a fixed income. "

Adding another bonus point is only going to complicate the draw process and increase point creep.

The longer I retain the bonus point the more I'm willing to spend.

Even better than Buying BP would be to RAFFLE OFF SOME UNIQUE SEASON DEER TAGS!! September rifle and January rifle tags would sell like hotcakes!! Velvet deer hunts and peak rut for Coues and desert Muleys!! Come on I'd buy \$200 worth a year!!

If it is \$13 for extra bonus point you should lose it after that year. Either option I am okay with

Think we have to come up with a better bonus system first. Example: How can a applicant with seven bonus points not get drawn and a applicant with one point get drawn for the same unit? Suggestion: after a successful draw a applicant must sit out a season but still has to buy a point for the following season that he is eligible.

If you need to raise \$, increase the cost of the license or of buying bonus points. Don't devalue bonus points for those of us already in the system.

I like this idea and believe it would be a great revenue generator!

Would need more info.

Good luck with finding something that makes most people happy.

It's already complicated enough for sportsman and AZGFD staff. This also would potentially make for a longer wait time to get drawn! we already have to wait 20+ years in some cases to

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get drawn!

Your question does not say how, why or how much. The last time you put really bad cus word here did this, you ruined hunting, destroyed the bonus points system, gave way to many tags out and depleted deer populations in fantastic units. You confused hunters and now hardly any of us want things the way they are. You are turning into a starving infant sucking raw the tity that is a hunters wallet.

Think it's a great idea to fund to education. Just would rather do it through an additional fee instead of complicating the point system further.

The way it is is fine

Public education is part of the departments duties. Maybe there should be a review of how the currant money is spent before more is asked for.

I don't feel there is a need to add another point to further complicate the draw system that is already not user friendly and watered down by insurmountable point creep.

buy 1 point every 5 years and the second one should be \$200 more than the first and so

In favor of additional bonus point program as long as it permanently shelves the attempts by AZSFW/CAPAZ and similar future groups (run by guys like Pete Cimmarello et al.) to obtain auction tags.

Just do the old trick of asking hunters at checkout if they want to round up to the nearest \$10. For instance. Their fees cost \$137... ask them to round up to \$140... that's three easy dollars and doesn't further complicate an already complicated system.

Quit screwing with the draw

This option is not my favorite. However, if implemented I feel strongly that it should be limited to one species and the point must only be good for one year. If multiple points are allowed, or if the point can be carried forward until the applicant is drawn for the species, it will cause tremendous point creep and interfere with years of point acquisition for those with maximum or close to maximum points for sheep, antelope and the strip. This is very touchy ground, messing with bonus point system has the potential to drive away boats of loyal non-resident customers and lifetime applicants.

Keeping the price of a bonus point "affordable" for sportsmen and sportswomen, especially in a start up project is key. Later, to hit long-range projections the price could be increased since consumers always anticipate price increases. Second, be mindful that this project, going

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forward, may very well experience consumers cutting back on expenses due to economic downturns. So beginning with a higher bonus point price now could easily see the project's revenue fall when the first downturn occurs. Just saying, this may not be a linear revenue generator and it may be better to have a long-range sustainable program rather than spiking up the bonus point price up front.

I would by a super bonus point when I put in for the draw, and a conservation stamp to support education. Both are great ideas to help fund your program. A habitat stamp may also help fund project around the state.

Don't make hunting a rich man hobby. I like the idea but don't make the BP charge extreme.

Why didn't you describe the option? I don't think you should base your decisions on a yes or no answer when you haven't defined the option. I certainly don't think that is too transparent.

The Department continues of think of people who care about wildlife but who do not hunt or fish generically. This is a very diverse group of people so I would suggest the department look more closely at this very large group of people and focus on some segment. More importantly the Department needs to recognize the so called non-traditional users do not see the Agency as the trustee of their wildlife nor their interests. Addressing and correcting the lack of public recognition of the role of AZ G&F in taking care of wildlife they are interested in will go a long way toward bringing a large number of potential constituents to accepting and trusting the Department as the professional trustee of wildlife. The Department does a better job of taking care of the 800 plus species than they do getting that message to the group they call the non-traditional wildlife user.

GOAL 1 Get the birding community to recognize the AZGFD as the Trustee of wildlife they are most interested in.

1. I would recomend the Department aggressively reach out to the organized birding community with specific information on what the Department now does to conserve, recover and protect wildlife of interest to the Birding community.

2. Re-evaluate the "" I Support Wildlife"" effort or the next iteration of the concept to be of value to the birding community. Right now this effort is of more value to me as a hunter than me as a birder. The answer is there has to be a very close relationship between the dollars that I contribute to what is done to conserve, protect and recover the species I, as a birder am interested in. You cannot just say that you are going to do good things with the income from the effort and expect the birding community to respond with their purchase of your products. Remember that the birding community, unlike hunters and anglers, do not recognize the Department as trustee of AZ wildlife. I would go so far as to tie the purchase of the product to specifically named high interest projects."

A super ponus point should be available for each species every year and not be limited to only ponus point