



## **ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

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### Arizona Wildlife Federation Position Statement on Conservation Bonus Points

The Arizona Wildlife Federation opposes the Conservation Bonus Point concept, based on the program details currently available.

To provide some background, in the past few years a new Conservation Bonus Point has been proposed for those persons who would complete a number of hours of volunteer habitat project work on projects approved by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This Conservation Bonus Point would be documented by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and would provide the holder of the Conservation Bonus Point with a nominal advantage in the draw process utilized to distribute hunting tags.

The AWF supports any and all efforts to improve wildlife habitat in Arizona. However, we believe the proposed program is unmanageable, potentially unfair, and carries a huge administrative burden. We believe the burdens of the proposed program would outweigh any benefit to wildlife habitat.

The proposed program would be unmanageable and a huge administrative burden in terms of certification of qualified projects, management of participant activities, management of issues related to participants who do not show up or leave early, and management of disputes from participants. Tracking of participants and hours worked for a program that will involve potentially hundreds of people is a huge administrative task. The administration and management of a Conservation Bonus Point program is not an effective use of our Arizona Game and Fish Department resources.

The Conservation Bonus Point program is potentially unfair in that it provides no benefits to program participants who do not participate in the draw process for hunting tags. People who are unable to participate in habitat projects due to physical infirmities or age, but who do participate in the draw process, will also be disadvantaged by the Conservation Bonus Point program.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation, the state's oldest conservation organization, has strongly supported the Arizona Game and Fish Department since it was instrumental in enacting the 1929 law that established the Commission/Department form of wildlife administration.