

HABITAT STAMP FUND DISTRIBUTION OPTIONS

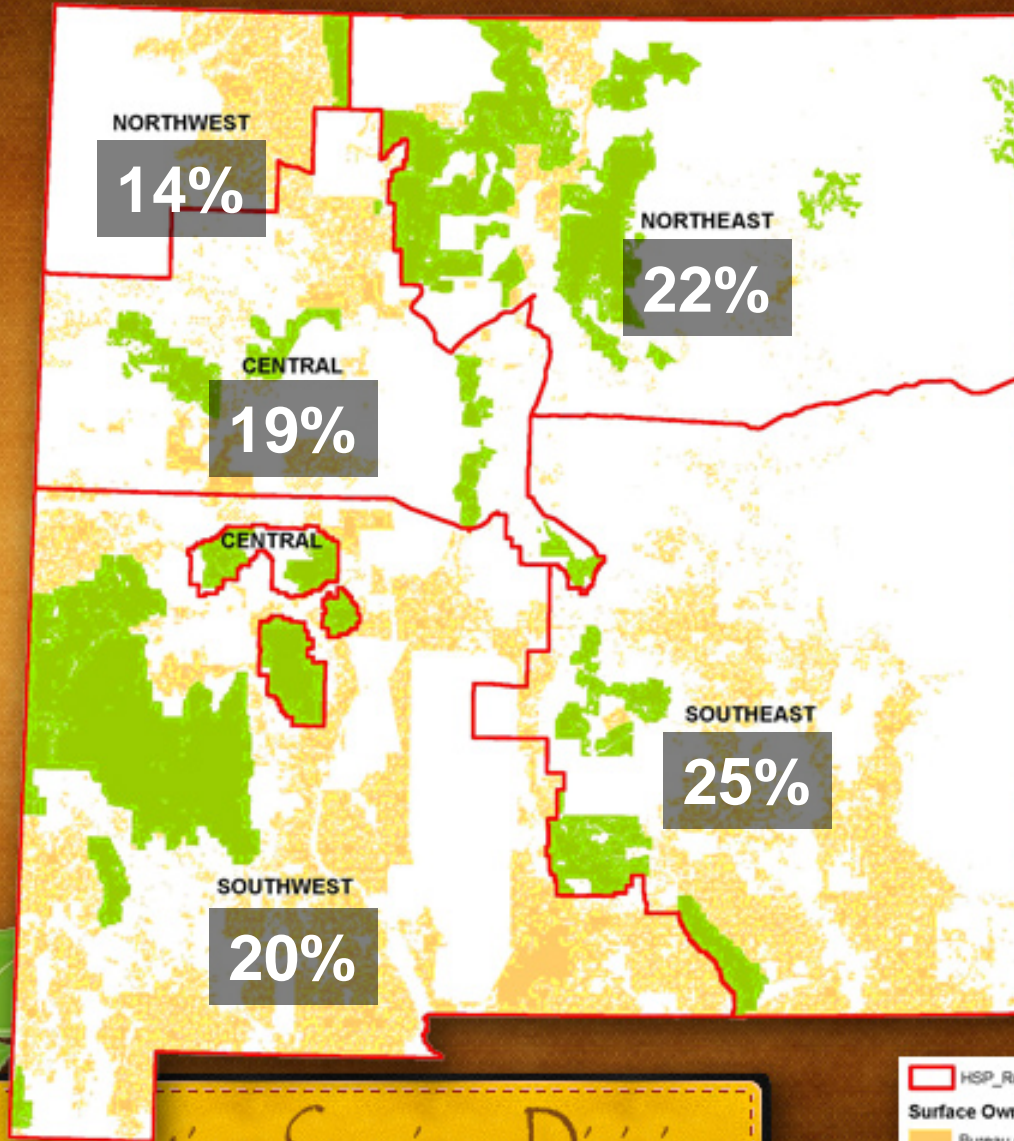


Conservation Services Division

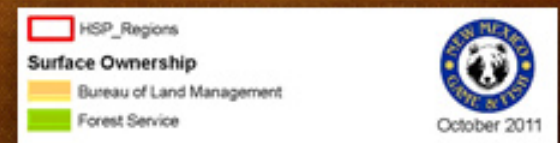


BACKGROUND

Present
HSP
Regional
boundaries,
and
percentage of
HSP funds
distributed to
the regions,
1991-present



Conservation Services Division



OPTION 1

USFS-BLM LAND STATUS PER HSP REGION

- Distributes available funds based on the percent of FS and BLM lands in each of the five HSP regions.

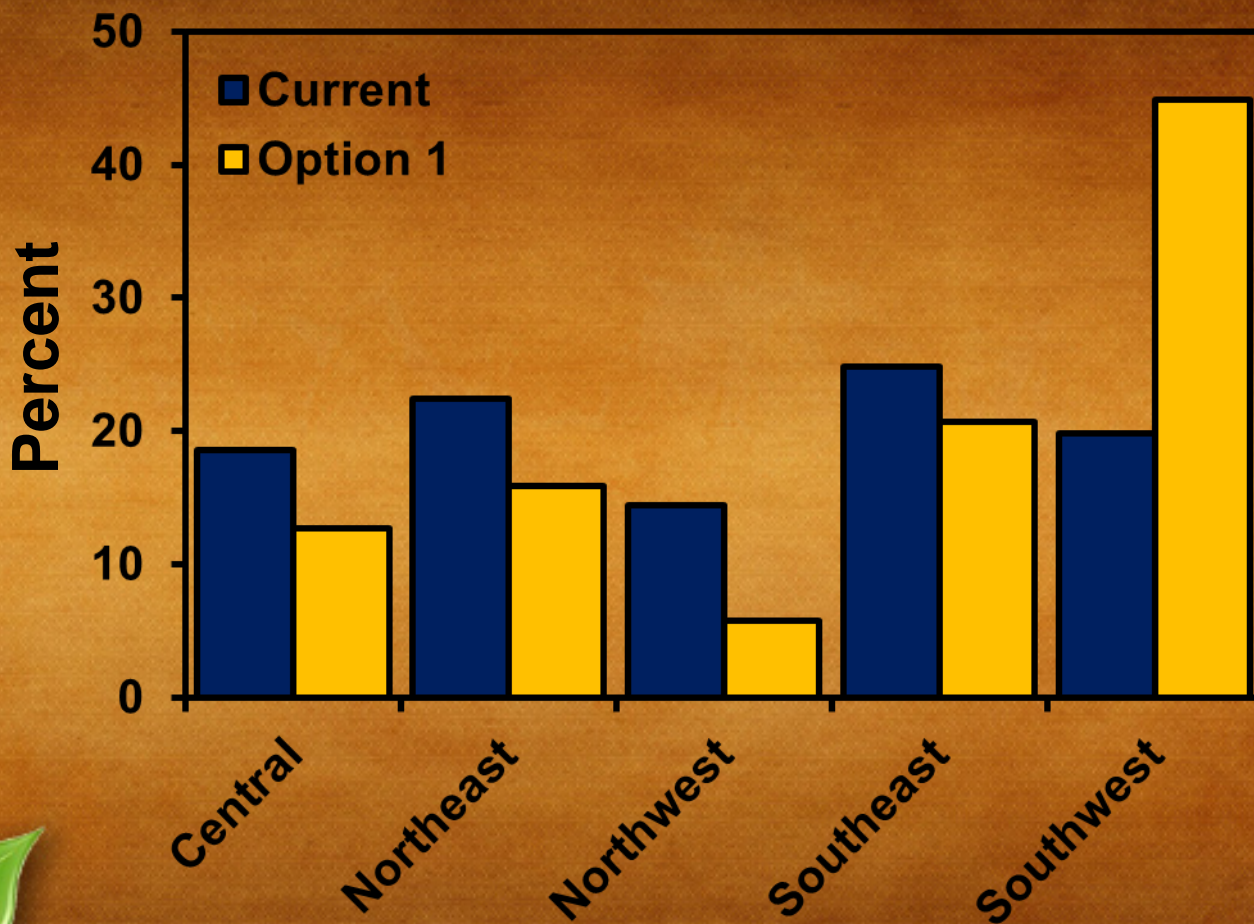


Conservation Services Division



OPTION 1

Percentage of HSP funds distributed to the regions, based on amount of BLM and FS land in each region



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 1

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Objectively distribute funds based on amount of public land in each region.
- Southwest region benefits from increased funding because more public lands is located in this part of the state.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 1

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Objectively distribute funds based on amount of public land in each region.
- Southwest region benefits from increased funding because more public lands is located in this part of the state.

Cons:

- Some public land more beneficial to wildlife than others, but all are treated the same.
- No advantage given to public land in greater need of restoration/improvement.
- Four of five regions experience decrease in allocated funds, which may cause dissatisfaction in those regions.
- Aquatic habitat for anglers not directly represented in the distribution.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 2

DEER-ELK-PRONGHORN HUNTERS & ANGLER USE PER LAND STATUS

- Funds distributed based on the estimated numbers of hunters (deer, elk, and pronghorn) and anglers using public land and the amount of FS and BLM lands in those HSP regions.
- Proportion of FS and BLM land in each region 50% of score.
- Proportion of anglers in each region 25% of score (based on surveys last conducted in 2007-08).
- Proportion of hunters in each region 25% of score (elk and deer hunter numbers derived from current four-year rule, pronghorn hunters from 2007-08 harvest report).

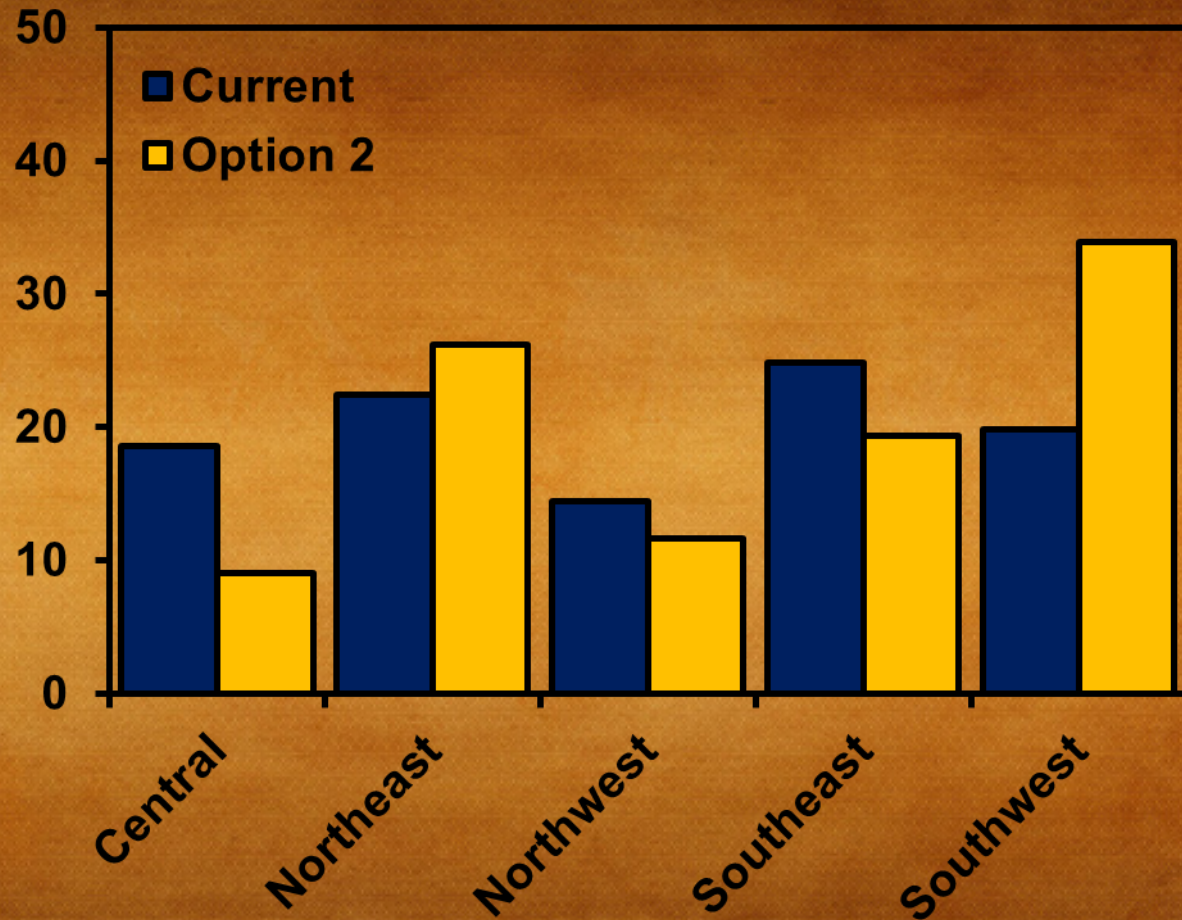


Conservation Services Division



OPTION 2

Percentage of HSP funds distributed to the regions, based on amount of BLM and FS land, numbers of deer, elk, and pronghorn hunters, and numbers of anglers



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 2

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Attempts to distribute funds based on hunter and angler use on public land within each HSP region.
- Anglers would be represented based on historical fishing activity.
- Funds distributed to regions based, in part, on sportsmen who are paying the bill.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 2

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Attempts to distribute funds based on hunter and angler use on public land within each HSP region.
- Anglers would be represented based on historical fishing activity.
- Funds distributed to regions based, in part, on sportsmen who are paying the bill.

Cons:

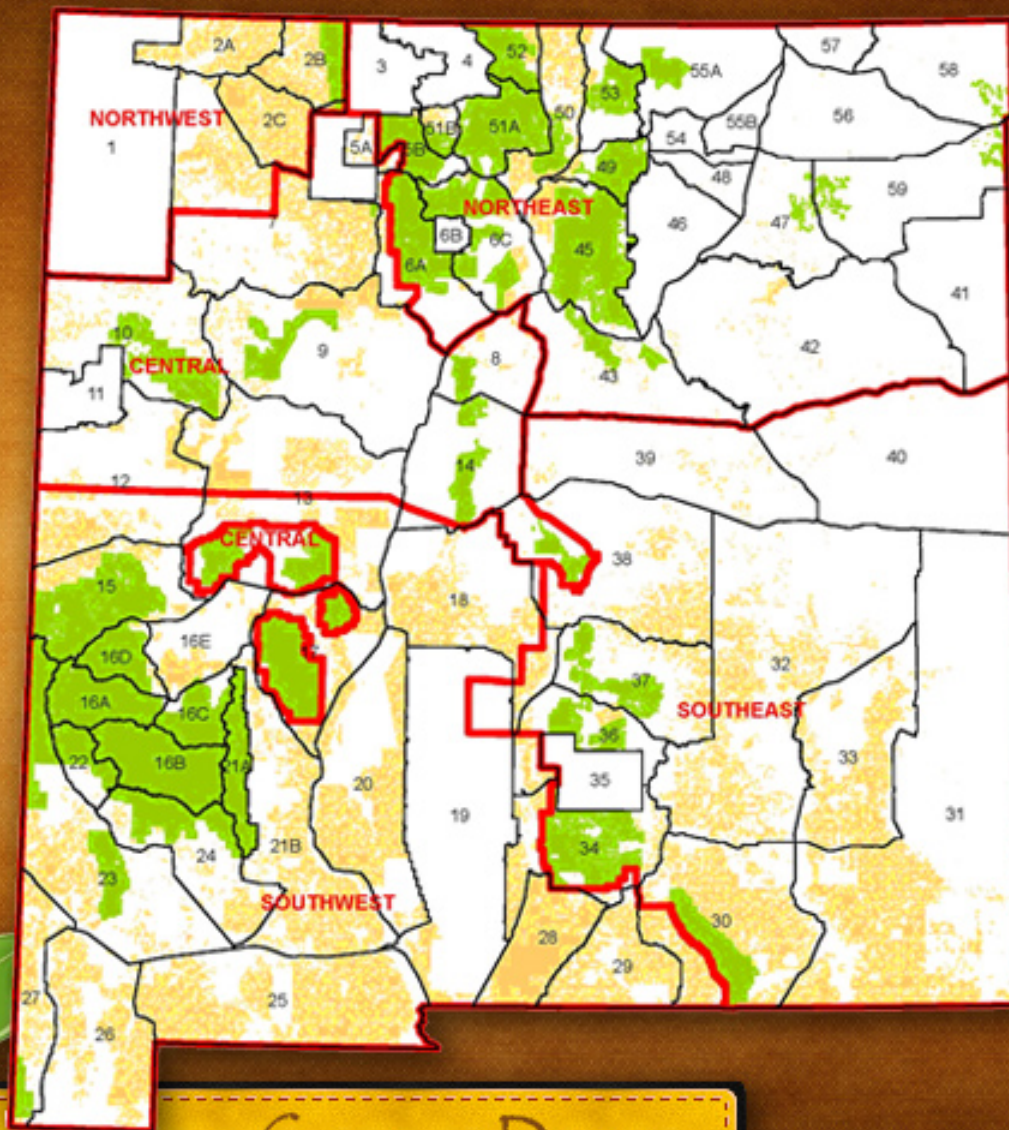
- Some public land parcels more beneficial to wildlife than others, but all are treated the same.
- No advantage given to public lands in greater need of restoration/improvement.
- All hunter data are currently captured from game management unit (GMU) boundaries that in some cases overlap HSP regional boundaries.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 2

HSP regional boundaries overlaid with GMU boundaries



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 2

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Attempts to distribute funds based on hunter and angler use on public land within each HSP region.
- Anglers would be represented based on historical fishing activity.
- Funds distributed to regions based, in part, on sportsmen who are paying the bill.

Cons:

- Some public land parcels more beneficial to wildlife than others, but all are treated the same.
- No advantage given to public lands in greater need of restoration/improvement.
- All hunter data are currently captured from game management unit (GMU) boundaries that in some cases overlap HSP regional boundaries.
- Potential misrepresentation of angler component because lack of annual angler surveys which are expensive to conduct.
- “Public” pronghorn hunter numbers vary annually and are assigned to ranches with varying amounts of federal and State Trust lands. Those licenses cannot be consistently attributed solely to federal public lands.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 3

DEER-ELK HUNTER USE PER LAND STATUS

- Weighs the number of public land deer and elk hunters in rule against the amount of FS and BLM lands in those HSP regions.
- Proportion of hunters in each region and the proportion of FS and BLM land mass in each region are valued equally at 50%.

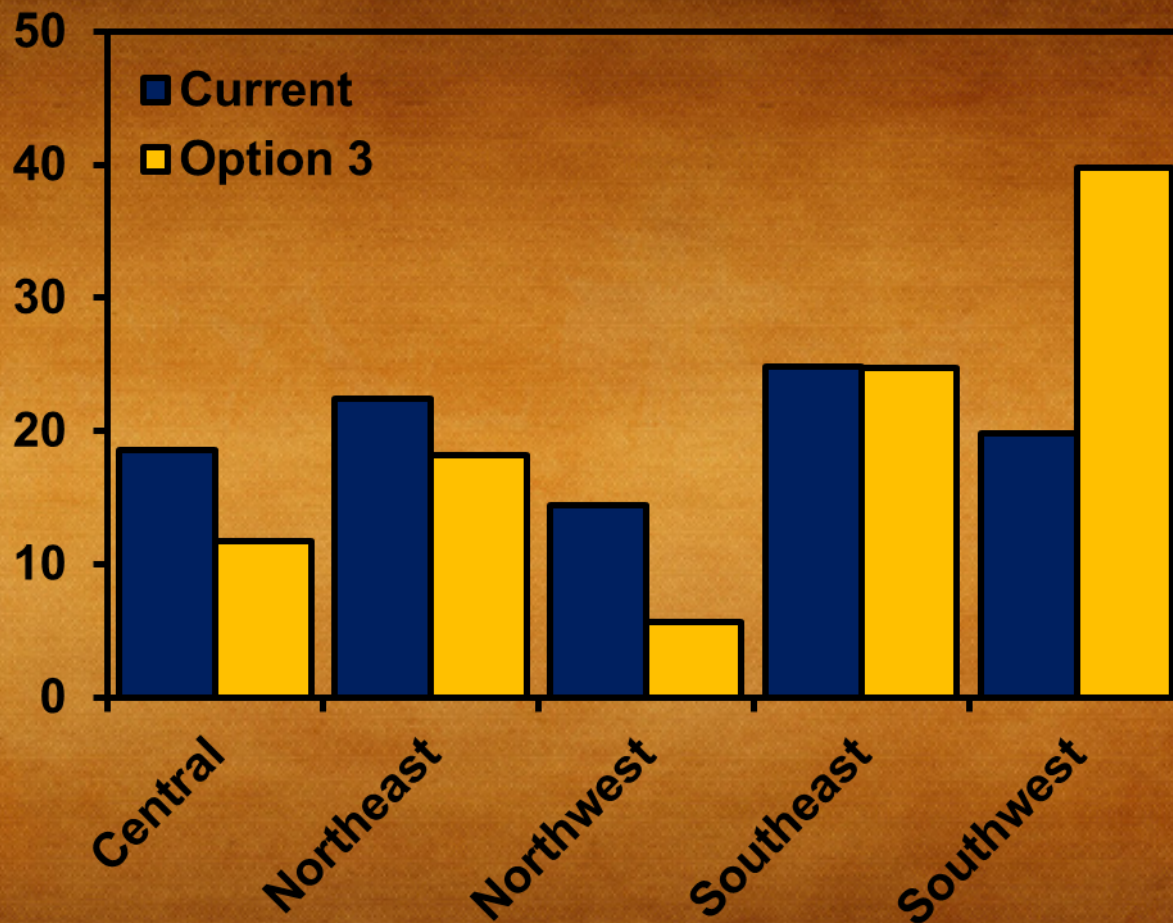


Conservation Services Division



OPTION 3

Percentage of HSP funds distributed to the regions, based on amount of BLM and FS land, and numbers of deer and elk hunters



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 3

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Eliminates some of the difficulties of Option 2 associated with sporadic angler surveys and pronghorn hunter bias.
- Distributes funds objectively based on numbers of deer and elk hunters using public lands in each HSP region.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 3

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Eliminates some of the difficulties of Option 2 associated with sporadic angler surveys and pronghorn hunter bias.
- Distributes funds objectively based on numbers of deer and elk hunters using public lands in each HSP region.

Cons:

- Some parcels of public lands are more beneficial to wildlife than others, but are treated the same.
- No advantage given to public lands that are in greater need of restoration/improvement across regional boundaries.
- All hunter data are currently captured from game management unit (GMU) boundaries that in some cases overlap HSP regional boundaries.
- Anglers are not represented in the distribution.
- Pronghorn hunters are not represented in the distribution.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 4

FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

- Department would focus activities to collecting fees, enforcement of “stamp” purchases, and providing the agencies with guidance on and oversight of wildlife habitat improvement needs.
- Department would annually block-grant each federal agency their portion.
- BLM and FS would receive 57.5% and 42.5% of available funds, respectively, if proportioned by land status.



Conservation Services Division



OPTION 4

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Federal agencies would have dedicated funding to aid in establishing budgets, matching funds, and workforce planning.
- Attempts to fairly distribute funds based upon an objective measure.
- Federal agencies would consult directly with CACs, sportsmen, and the public before implementing habitat improvements.
- Program accountability would be streamlined.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 4

Pros:

- Emphasizes regional citizen participation in the HSP.
- Federal agencies would have dedicated funding to aid in establishing budgets, matching funds, and workforce planning.
- Attempts to fairly distribute funds based upon an objective measure.
- Federal agencies would consult directly with CAC, sportsmen, and the public before implementing habitat improvements.
- Program accountability would be streamlined.

Cons:

- Department's targeted habitat improvement needs on federal lands that weren't selected for HSP funding would need to be addressed through other funding sources.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 5

BEST PROPOSALS

- A representative and inclusive statewide group of stakeholders appointed by the State Game Commission would convene to rank all current habitat improvement proposals on a multi-year basis.
- The best proposals from around the State, as determined by the stakeholder group, would receive funding.



Conservation Services Division



OPTION 5

Pros:

- Tri-agency leadership continue to agree this approach has substantial merits.
- No criteria exist for distribution other than merits of each habitat improvement proposal.
- Review by statewide stakeholder group will identify best proposals to be funded.
- Considers contributions of all 160,000 sportsmen purchasing habitat stamps.
- Large-scale projects have far more potential to improve habitat.
- Greater ability to implement aquatic projects that typically require more financial resources.
- Projects better directed towards improving wildlife habitat.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 5

Pros:

- Tri-agency leadership continue to agree this approach has substantial merits.
- No criteria exist for distribution other than merits of each habitat improvement proposal.
- Review by statewide stakeholder group will identify best proposals to be funded.
- Considers contributions of all 160,000 sportsmen purchasing habitat stamps.
- Large-scale projects have far more potential to improve habitat.
- Greater ability to implement aquatic projects that typically require more financial resources.
- Projects better directed towards improving wildlife habitat.

Cons:

- Not all regions would necessarily get annual funding.



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 5

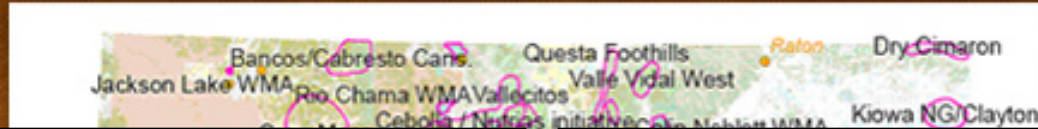
Habitat improvement priorities as identified by Department staff, 2008



Conservation Services Division

OPTION 5

Habitat improvement priorities as identified by Department staff, 2008



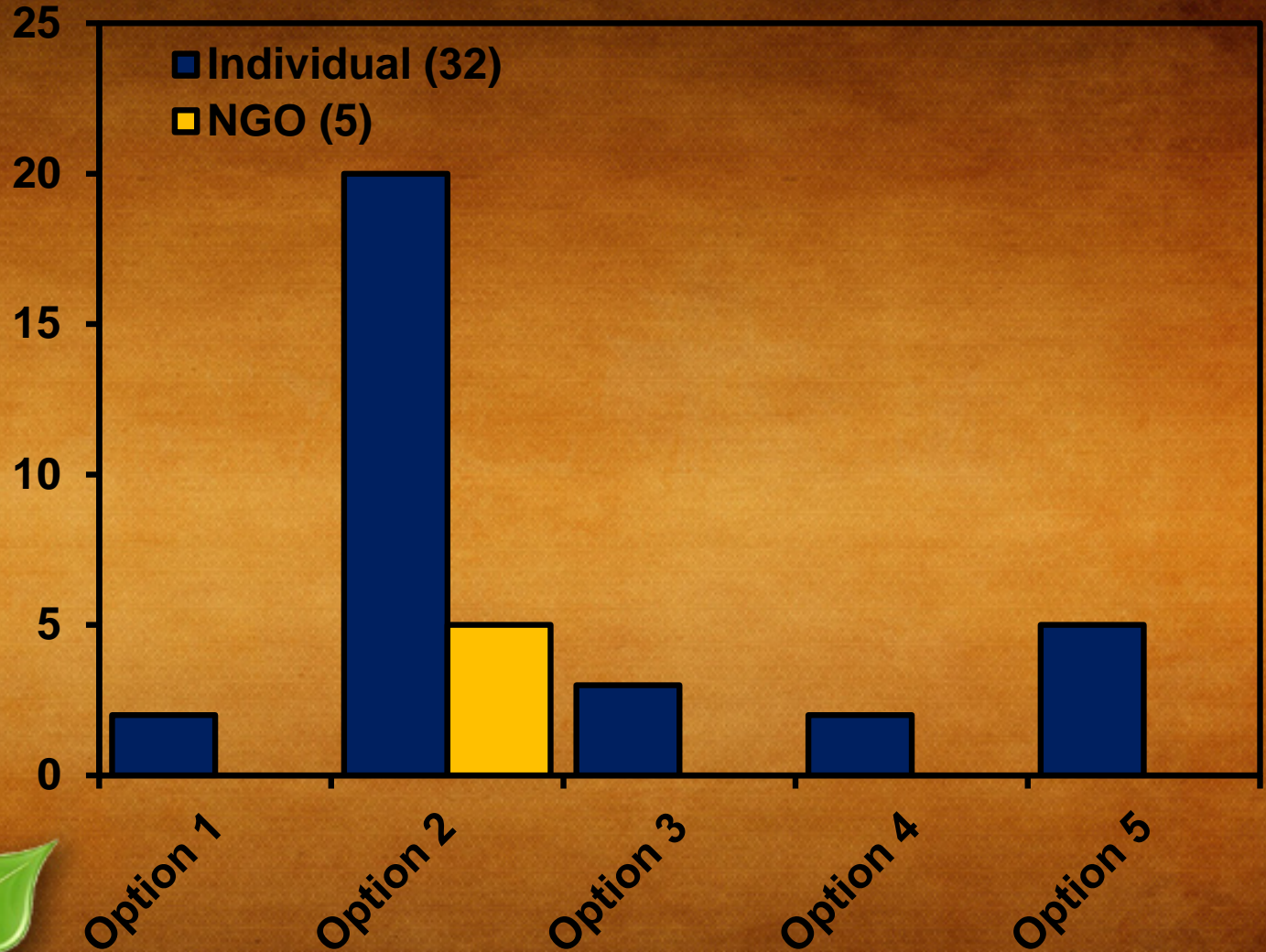
Coronado NF



Conservation Services Division

RESPONSES

Number of individuals and NGOs supporting 5 different HSP funding options



Conservation Services Division

SUGGESTED MOTION

“I move to accept option 5, the Statewide Competitive Proposal Option, for implementation in Fiscal Year 2013, beginning July 1, 2012.”



Conservation Services Division

TIME LINE

Apr 2011 – 5 CACs pre-ranked 2013 proposals.

Sep 2011 – Budgeted for 2013 proposals.

Apr 2012 – Convene 1 CAC, final ranking of 2013 proposals, pre-rank 2014 proposals.

Jul 2012 – Implement 2013 proposals.

Sep 2012 – Budget for 2014 proposals.

Apr 2013 – Convene CAC, final ranking of 2014 proposals, pre-rank 2015 proposals.



Conservation Services Division



Conservation Services Division