

ID#: _____

Flashlights and Forests

To the survey respondent: This survey is being undertaken to study economic behavior. Your participation in this survey is anonymous, and all answers will be strictly confidential. You may withdraw from the survey at any time. You may decline to answer any of the individual questions. However, your thoughtful and accurate answers will help us in our research about economic behavior. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

By participating in this survey, you certify that you are at least 18 years old.

Please note that the research is not designed to help you (the survey respondent) personally but to help in research about economic behavior.

There are no known risks associated with participation in this research.

This research is being conducted by John Horowitz of the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park. If you have any questions about the research study itself, please contact Prof. Horowitz at 301-405-1273 or horowitz@arec.umd.edu.

*If you have questions about your rights as a research subject or wish to report a research-related injury, please contact: **Institutional Review Board Office, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742; irb@deans.umd.edu; 301-405-0678***

This research has been reviewed according to the University of Maryland, College Park IRB procedures for research involving human subjects.

(Survey participant's copy)

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Background information

1. On average, how often do you visit Maryland State Parks or Forests, per year? _____ .
2. On average, how often do you visit other natural areas (not Maryland State Parks or Forests), per year? _____
3. What is your age? _____
4. Education: _____ Less than High school
 _____ High school or GED
 _____ Some college/technical
 _____ BA/BS
 _____ MS or Ph. D
5. Are you a student, currently? _____ yes, _____ no
6. If you are willing, please tell us the correct category for your annual household income.
 _____ \$0 – \$15,000 per year
 _____ \$15,001 – \$30,000 per year
 _____ \$30,001 – \$45,000 per year
 _____ \$45,001 – \$60,000 per year
 _____ \$60,001 – \$75,000 per year
 _____ \$75,001 – \$90,000 per year
 _____ \$90,001 – \$105,000 per year
 _____ \$105,001 – \$120,000 per year
 _____ Over \$120,000 per year
7. If you are an hourly employee, what is your current hourly wage? _____/hour.
8. Your home zip code : _____

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Pen Voting – Practice only

Each person in the room has been given a pen. I would like to know: What is the smallest amount of money I would need to offer for the pen in order for you to vote in favor of returning the pen and receiving the offered payment.

In other words, imagine I offered \$ amount for each person's pen. Would you vote for or against accepting the offer and returning your pen?

I would like to know, what is the smallest number I could put in the blank so that you would vote *for* accepting this offer and returning the pen?

What is the smallest payment I could offer that would lead you to vote in favor of accepting the offer and returning the pen?

Amount: _____ (per person)

1. Fill in the blank above.
2. I will collect the votes.
3. I will draw the possible per-person payment randomly out of an envelope.
4. If more than half of the group has voted low enough to accept that payment, then everyone will return his or her pen and I will make a payment to everyone.

If more than half of the group has voted too high to accept that payment, then everyone will keep his or her pen. No payment will be made.

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Flashlight Voting

Each person in the room has been given a flashlight. These flashlights have Xenon-Plus bulbs, which give brighter light than Halogen or Krypton bulbs. Mercury-free batteries are included. The flashlight has a waterproof, 100 percent rubber casing.

I would like to know: What is the smallest amount of money I would need to offer for the flashlight in order for you to vote to in favor of returning the flashlight and receiving the offered payment?

In other words, imagine I offered amount for each person's flashlight. Would you vote for or against accepting the offer and returning your flashlight?

I would like to know, what is the smallest number I could put in the blank so that you would vote *for* accepting this offer and returning the flashlight?

What is the smallest payment I could offer that would lead you to vote in favor of accepting the offer and returning the flashlight?

Amount: _____ (per person)

1. Fill in the blank above.
2. I will collect the votes.
3. I will draw the possible per-person payment randomly out of an envelope.
4. If more than half of the group has voted low enough to accept that payment, then everyone will return his or her flashlight and I will make a payment to everyone.

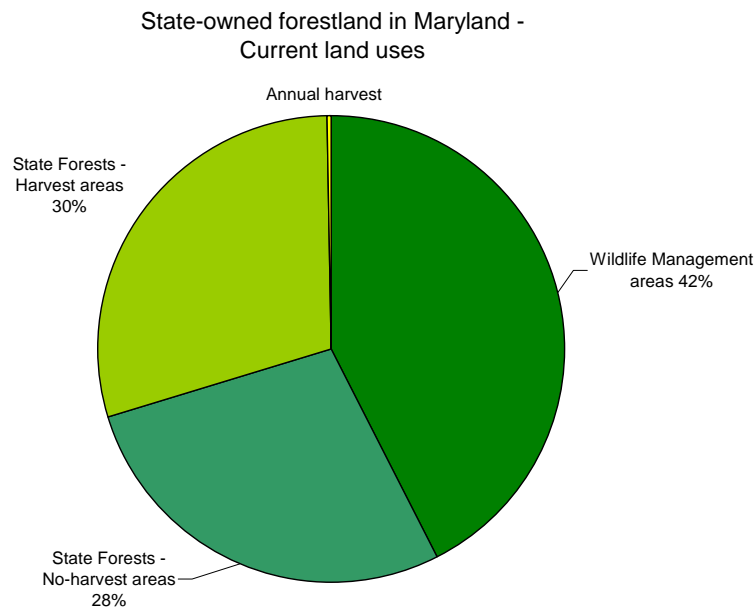
If more than half of the group has voted too high to accept that payment, then everyone will keep his or her flashlight. No payment will be made.

Maryland State Forest Voting – Background Information

The State of Maryland currently manages nearly 195,000 acres of forestland in its State Forests. There are other forests in Maryland that are owned by individual landowners, including farmers, County and Local governments, and the Federal government. There are also some other state-owned forests, such as those in Wildlife Management Areas. This voting exercise applies only to land in State Forests.

Within the State Forests, there are limitations on which areas can be logged. About 101,000 of the 195,000 acres are currently available for timber harvesting. The remaining areas are not available for harvesting. In other words, 94,000 acres in the State Forests are *not* eligible for any logging.

Of the area available to be harvested, about one percent is logged each year.



Forests provide outdoor recreation, water, wildlife, and wood

State Foresters make long-range plans for the forests. By law, State Forests are managed to provide a mix of water, wildlife, wood, natural beauty, and outdoor recreation. All of these items are considered when the State's foresters make decisions about State Forests.

Even in areas where trees are being cut down, items like water, wildlife, and recreation are considered by the foresters when they make the harvesting plans. Some bird and animal species, such as deer and rabbits, benefit from logging, because the forest floor is opened up to sunlight.

When areas are being harvested, strong precautions are taken to minimize the effects on streams. All areas that are logged are reforested, either by planting of seedlings or by natural regeneration.

When State Forests are harvested, companies must pay for the right to harvest the timber. This money goes into State coffers to pay for various programs. Of course, individuals such as loggers and other workers also earn their income from timber harvesting.



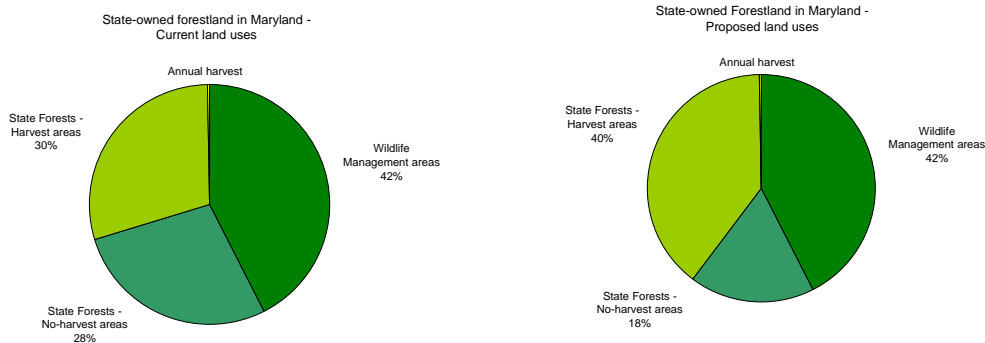
Decisions about Maryland State Forests

Every 10 years, the State re-examines its long-range plan for the State Forests. Economists have asked the State to evaluate two changes: an increase in the amount of State Forest land eligible for harvest by one-third, or 33,000 acres; or a decrease in the amount of land eligible for harvest, also by 33,000 acres.

When Maryland State forest managers decide how much of Maryland State Forest area will be available for logging each year, they must weigh the different impacts on costs, support for the local economy, water, wildlife, recreation, and scenery. How Maryland citizens value each of these components is important to this process.

This voting survey examines the first option, an increase in the land available for harvesting. Under this option, the number of acres that are available for logging would increase from 101,000 to 134,000 acres. The amount logged each year would remain at 1 percent of these acres.

If the logging acreage is increased, it would be possible to send residents a yearly check from the State. This yearly check would be possible because of the revenue from the additional logging.



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Maryland State Forest Voting

Economists have recommended that this decision be based on voting by Marylanders to compare the increase in revenue against the changes to the forest.

I would like to know: What is the smallest amount of money that would lead you to vote in favor of accepting a yearly check from the State* and in favor of an increase in acreage available for harvesting by 33,000 acres?

What is the smallest amount of money that would lead you to vote in favor of accepting the offer and increasing the acreage available for logging?

Amount: _____ (yearly, per adult resident of Maryland)

The procedure is exactly the same as for the flashlights. If more than half of voters would have accepted the available payment, then the harvest area would increase and the State would make the payment to all eligible adult residents.

If more than half of voters would not have accepted the payment, then the harvest area would stay the same and no payments would be made.

**This is a hypothetical situation, a hypothetical vote, and hypothetical payment. This hypothetical situation is being used to help economists make recommendations that reflect people's household budgets and their values for the portion of the State Forests that are eligible for logging.*