

# Federal Duck Stamp Program

## Fact Sheet

### What is a Federal Duck Stamp?

A Federal Duck Stamp is a revenue stamp waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older must purchase and carry with them each year to hunt. It is also a conservation stamp because proceeds from stamp sales help purchase and protect wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. On March 16, 1934, Congress passed and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, popularly known as the Duck Stamp Act.

### What is the Federal Duck Stamp Contest?

Each fall, the US Fish and Wildlife Service hosts the Federal Duck Stamp Contest to select the artwork that will provide the design for the next year's stamp. A distinguished panel of judges reviews hundreds of entries and selects the winner. The Federal Duck Stamp contest, the only Federally-sponsored art competition mandated by Congress, is considered the most prestigious wildlife art contest in the country.

### When and where is the Federal Duck Stamp Contest held?

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest, an annual event held in early October, launches National Wildlife Refuge Week. Although, traditionally held in Washington, D.C., since 2005 the Contest has been moving to different locations throughout the United States to give more people the chance to attend. In 2007, site of the Contest will be Sanibel, Florida where it will take place on October 12 and 13. Future dates and locations will be posted on our website as they become available.

### Who benefits from the Federal Duck Stamp Contest?

- Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamps are, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make

in the future of America's wetlands.

- Artists because the Federal Duck Stamp Contest is an avenue for wildlife artists to share their work and support conservation.
- Hunters over the age of 16 must purchase a Federal Duck Stamp each year if they want to hunt migratory waterfowl.
- Birders and other National Wildlife Refuges visitors annually purchase Federal Duck Stamps to gain free admission to refuges.
- Stamp Collectors, for 75 years, have bought the Federal Duck Stamp because the beautiful stamps are sought after collectibles.
- Migratory Birds and Wildlife benefit because revenue from the purchase of the stamp protects their wetland habitat.
- Wetlands protected by Duck Stamp dollars help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and provide spawning areas for fish important to sport and commercial fishermen.

### How much land has been purchased with Federal Duck Stamp Revenue?

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sales of the Federal Duck Stamp goes to purchase or lease wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In recent years, Duck Stamp revenue has totaled more than \$25 million annually, with overall stamp sales exceeding \$700 million. To date, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has proceeds from Federal Duck Stamp sales to help



2007 - 2008 Federal Duck Stamp

Richard C. Clifton/USFWS

purchase and protect more than 5.2 million acres of wetlands and habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the continental United States, at least one refuge in every state has acquired important waterfowl habitat with Duck Stamp funds!

### How can I buy a Federal Duck Stamp and Duck Stamp Products?

Federal Duck Stamps are sold through U.S. post offices across the country, Amplex, National wildlife refuges, and various sporting goods and outdoor stores. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Federal Duck Stamp Office does not sell duck stamp products, but it does allow licensed vendors to produce and sell products bearing the images of both Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. Visit the Federal Duck Stamp Program website for information about licensing agreements.

### 2007 Federal Duck Stamp Value Added Products

Produced on small format paper, each Artist-signed Pane of One incorporates a single perforated Federal Duck Stamp and the artist's signature. This value-added product is released primarily for sale to stamp collectors.

In 2007, the Federal Duck Stamp Program offered 10,000 of the Artist-signed Pane of One for sale, each selling for \$25 and featuring a pair of ring-necked ducks by Delaware artist Richard Clifton. Other products, such as the Artist Commemorative Issue, may be purchased through the USPS Philatelic Center in Kansas City.

**Can I purchase an Electronic Federal Duck Stamp Online and hunt with it?**

Beginning in September 2007, the Department of Interior is initiating a three-year pilot program in which up to 15 states can sell and distribute electronic Federal Duck Stamps. Paper stamp fulfillment will still be necessary, but hunters may hunt with the electronic stamp proof of purchase for a specific time period while waiting to receive their actual duck stamp.

**Buy Duck Stamps, Save Wetlands**

To purchase a Federal Duck Stamp, please contact:

United States Postal Service  
www.usps.com  
1-800-782-6724 or 1-800-STAMP24

Amplex Corporation  
www.duckstamp.com  
1-800-852-4897

Local Post Offices  
Hunting and Fishing Retailers/  
Outfitters  
National Wildlife Refuges  
www.fws.gov/Refuges

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Federal Duck Stamp Program  
(703) 358-2000  
<http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps>**

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