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May 2, 2013

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Reinstates Winner of 2013 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that after careful reconsideration, it will reinstate Madison Grimm, 6, of Burbank, S.D., as the winner of the 2013 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

The Service's decision means that Peter Coulter 17, of Washington, Mo., will be awarded second place for his acrylic painting of a pair of snow geese, while Drake Schlosser of Rubicon, Wis., will be awarded third place in the contest for his acrylic painting of a single common goldeneye.

At the National Junior Duck Stamp Contest, held on April 19 in Shepherdstown, W. Va., a panel of five judges selected Grimm's painting of a single canvasback as the winning entry. Following the contest, concerns were raised about the authenticity of the work. The Service disqualified the artwork last week. Since that time, the Service has continued to evaluate its decision and has decided to reinstate the original winner.

The Service's decision to reinstate Grimm's work was made in recognition of the fact that her work was judged the winner during a fair and open public contest. The Service respects the decision of the contest judges, and apologizes for any distress this process may have caused the top-placing artists and their families, teachers and friends.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>