

# Federal Duck Stamp Program

*Put Your Stamp on Conservation... Buy a Duck Stamp*

One of the easiest ways that anyone can support conservation is by buying Federal Duck Stamps, which are among the most successful conservation tools ever created to protect habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Duck Stamps are conservation revenue stamps produced annually by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Nearly all of the purchase price - 98 percent, by law - goes directly to help protect wetlands and associated habitats through fee acquisition, lease and conservation easements. The habitat acquired with Federal Duck Stamp dollars becomes part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, a network of U.S. lands and waters set aside specifically for wildlife conservation.

Wetlands acquired with Duck Stamp dollars also benefit humans and communities. They help purify water, aid in flood control, reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities such as hunting,



Many birds and other wildlife benefit from the lands protected with Duck Stamp funds. Great egret/Credit: USFWS



2015-2016 Federal Duck Stamp featuring ruddy ducks. Art by Jennifer Miller of Olean, N.Y.

fishing, bird watching and outdoor photography.

### One Stamp, Many Uses

While waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older are required to purchase them, anyone can participate in conservation by buying Duck Stamps.

In addition to serving as a hunting license and conservation tool, a current Federal Duck Stamp is also a free pass to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee.

Because nearly all Duck Stamp proceeds are used to conserve habitat for birds and other wildlife, birders, nature photographers and other outdoor enthusiasts buy the stamps to help ensure that they can always see wildlife at their favorite outdoors spots.

And because they are finely detailed, miniature works of art, Federal Duck Stamps are prized by stamp collectors

and wildlife art enthusiasts around the world. The stamp image is featured on products such as t-shirts, calendars, mugs and blankets, through the Duck Stamp Licensing Program.

### Where to Buy Duck Stamps

Federal Duck Stamps are sold at many sporting goods stores and other retail locations - both large and small - that sell sporting and recreation equipment. You can also buy them at many national wildlife refuges and U.S. Post Offices, and online through Amplex.

As an added convenience, especially for hunters, the E-Stamp Program allows you to buy a Duck Stamp online and instantly obtain a printable receipt valid as your Duck Stamp for 45 days, within which time a physical Duck Stamp is mailed to you. Nineteen states participate in the E-Stamp Program.

*(See reverse for details on how to buy Duck Stamps and E-Stamps.)*



Judges weigh in at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the nation's only juried federally sponsored art competition. Credit: Garry Tucker/USFWS

### Taking Action for Conservation

At the turn of the 20th century, market shooting to supply food to restaurants; bounty hunting and unregulated sport hunting; and collecting feathers for the fashion industry had contributed to the loss of millions of birds and other wildlife. Millions of acres of U.S. wetlands were drained to feed and house the ever-increasing population, greatly reducing waterfowl breeding and nesting habitat.

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In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (or "Duck Stamp Act"), and an increasingly concerned nation took firm action to stop the destruction of wetlands vital to the survival of migratory waterfowl.

The first Duck Stamp, depicting mallards in flight, was designed in 1934 by J.N. "Ding" Darling, then the director of the Bureau of Biological Survey (forerunner to today's U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service).

### Art for Wildlife's Sake

In addition to being the nation's only conservation revenue stamp, the Federal Duck Stamp is also unique in the way the stamp is created. Each year in the fall, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service holds an art contest, the only juried art competition sponsored by the federal government.

Anyone 18 years or older may enter, and the winning artist sees his or her work featured as the design on the following year's Federal Duck Stamp, which goes on sale July 1.

The Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest is open to the public; anyone can witness a bit of history in the making as a panel of five judges selects the winning art from among hundreds of entries.

## Buy Duck Stamps and Save Wetlands!

### How to Buy Duck Stamps:

#### U.S. Postal Service

[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

1-800-STAMP24

1-800-782-6724

Local Post Offices (call first to ensure they sell the stamps)

[usps.whitepages.com](http://usps.whitepages.com)

#### Amplex Corporation

[www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com)

1-800-852-4897

Sporting good and equipment retailers, including BassPro Shops, Cabela's, WalMart and Kmart

National Wildlife Refuges (call first to ensure they sell the stamps)

[www.fws.gov/Refuges](http://www.fws.gov/Refuges)

#### E-Stamps:

Buy from any participating state

Find a list at: <http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/e-stamp.php>

If you can't make it to the contest, you can still see original Duck Stamp art; the top entries each year tour the nation to be exhibited at museums, refuges, festivals and other venues. You can find the art tour schedule online at <http://go.usa.gov/3dPHz>.

### Beyond Federal Duck Stamps

Many states issue duck stamps. In some states, the stamps are purely a collector's item, but in others, the stamps have a similar role in hunting and conservation as Federal Duck Stamps. Some states hold contests to choose the art for their stamps.

### Educating the Next Generation

The Junior Duck Stamp Program is the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's premier conservation education initiative. The program teaches students across the nation conservation through the arts. Revenue generated by the sales of Junior Duck Stamps funds environmental education programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several territories.



*If you would like to sell Federal Duck Stamps and Junior Duck Stamps at your location, find out about our consignment program by emailing [duckstamps@amplex.com](mailto:duckstamps@amplex.com).*