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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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JANZEN DECLARES DUCK STAMPS INSURANCE FOR FUTURE DUCK HUNTING

A call to the duck hunter to "have enough faith in the future of the sport to contribute his \$3 for a duck stamp even though the hunting prospects for this fall look pretty grim", was made yesterday by D. H. Janzen, Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Director Janzen's appeal was made at the annual meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He explained explicitly the probable plight of the waterfowl resource. A severe drought in the duck production areas of Canada and the two Dakotas has dried up 50 to 80 percent of the potholes around which the millions of ducks gather annually to nest and hatch their young. Unless something entirely unforeseen happens, that condition "is likely to force us to curtail the hunting season this fall--we will have no choice but to recommend severe restrictions on waterfowl hunting".

He then declared that the duck hunter should consider "this \$3 investment as an insurance payment against the permanent retiring of his duck hunting equipment and his dreams of future duck hunting trips for himself and for those who come after him". Janzen asked the Outdoor Writers to point out that thought to their readers.

During the course of his talk, Janzen indicated that not only was the drought taking a terrific toll in the 1959 crop of young birds but that it could also contribute to the loss of a race which the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is making against time in the acquisition of habitat for duck wintering and nesting. He pointed out that for years it had been necessary to utilize part of the duck stamp funds for maintenance and development but that legislation recommended by the Secretary of the Interior corrected that situation. This legislation provided for a \$3 duck stamp (instead of the \$2 stamp) but specified that all of the money except that required for printing and handling the stamps would be used for selection and acquisition of waterfowl habitat. It is anticipated that congressional appropriations would have to take care of the operations previously paid for by duck stamp funds. The \$3 duck stamp becomes effective July 1 of this year and the earmarking becomes effective July 1, 1960, when the funds are made available.

Acquisition planning had been based upon the expectation of having six or seven million dollars available annually through the \$3 duck stamp. A backlog of projects has already been approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Options already obtained are enough to obligate all of the available funds for the coming fiscal year.

Thus any decrease in the sale of the duck stamp will jeopardize the accelerated acquisition plans. Such delay will mean that more habitat will be otherwise utilized and what remains will be harder to get.

Director Janzen explained how priorities were being made in the selection of areas for purchase. A master acquisition plan, he said, is being developed cooperatively by the four Flyway Councils--on which the States are represented--and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He also explained that some oppose the acquisition program because it means taking lands off the tax rolls, but he added that in many instances the county share of refuge receipts amounts to more than the tax revenue lost.

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