

Federal Duck Stamp Program

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

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.

Formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the Duck Stamp was conceived in 1934, when Congress passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act.

Why Buy Federal Duck Stamps?

- Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamp is, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make in the future of America's wetlands.
- Artists buy them because the Federal Duck Stamp Contest is one of the most prestigious art competitions and a way for artists to show their work in support of conservation.

- Hunters are required to buy a Federal Duck Stamp, but they know that their purchase helps acquire prime habitat for ducks and geese to feed, breed, rest and nest.
- Birders and other outdoor enthusiasts annually buy Duck Stamps to gain free admission to national wildlife refuges.
- Stamp collectors buy them because the beautiful stamps are sought after collectibles.
- Wetlands acquired with 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.



2012- 2013 Federal Duck Stamp
by Minnesota artist Joseph Hautman

How much land has been purchased with Federal Duck Stamp dollars? Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes to purchase or lease wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since 1934, \$750 million in proceeds from Federal Duck Stamp sales have helped acquire and protect more than 5.3 million acres of wetlands within the National Wildlife Refuge System. In the continental United States, at least one national wildlife refuge in every state has acquired important waterfowl habitat with Duck Stamp funds.

E-Stamp: A More Convenient Way to Buy

The E-Stamp Program allows states to sell and distribute Federal Duck Stamps electronically. Customers still receive paper stamps but hunters may hunt with an E-Stamp receipt as proof of purchase for up to 45 days or until they receive their Duck Stamp in the mail. Legislation currently in Congress would make this pilot program permanent but we continue to offer the E-Stamp as a convenience to the public.



Duck Stamp dollars help protect habitat for birds and other wildlife on national wildlife refuges - providing great opportunities to get out in nature. Credit: John and Karen Hollingsworth.

The Federal Duck Stamp Contest Each fall, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosts the Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest to select the art that will provide the design for the following year's stamp. A panel of judges reviews hundreds of entries and selects the winner. The Federal Duck Stamp Contest is the only Congressionally mandated, federally sponsored art competition.

The 2012 Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be held Sept. 28 and 29 in Ogden, Utah, on the campus of Weber State University. The judging is free and open to the public. For more details, go to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

How can I buy Federal Duck Stamps and Duck Stamp Products?

Federal Duck Stamps are sold through U.S. Post Offices nationwide; on-line through the U.S. Postal Service and Amplex, a distribution company; and at national wildlife refuges as well as some sporting good and outdoor equipment stores. The Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Duck Stamp Office does not sell duck stamp products, but we do allow licensed vendors to produce and sell products bearing the images of both the Federal and Junior Duck Stamps. Find more details on our website.

2012 Federal Duck Stamp "Value Added" Products

Produced on small format paper, the 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 2012, the Federal Duck Stamp Program will sell 5,000 Artist-signed Panes of One for \$25 each. This is sold online only by Amplex and is available at www.duckstamp.com

Other products, such as the Artist Commemorative Issue and silk cachet, may be purchased through Amplex and the USPS (see sidebar for details).

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Federal Duck Stamp Program
(703) 358-2002
www.fws.gov/duckstamps

June 2012



Judges at the 2011 Federal Duck Stamp Contest score the winning art. Credit: Ryan Hagerty/USFWS.



Minnesota wildlife artist Joe Hautman won his fourth Federal Duck Stamp Contest. His art appears on the 2012-2013 Federal Duck Stamp. Credit: Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

Buy Duck Stamps - Save Wetlands!

Where to buy Duck Stamps

Online:

U.S. Postal Service
www.usps.com
1-800-STAMP24
1-800-782-6724

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

On location:

(call first to ensure they sell Federal Duck Stamps)

Local Post Offices
usps.whitepages.com

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

National Wildlife Refuges
www.fws.gov/Refuges

Where to find us!

On the Web:
www.fws.gov/duckstamps

On Facebook:
USFWS_Federal Duck Stamp

Email: duckstamps@fws.gov