

December 4, 2014



WINGTIPS

Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Federal Duck Stamp Act Passes Senate

On the afternoon of December 2, Senator Mark Warner (D-Va.) got unanimous consent on the Senate floor to pass H.R. 5069, the Federal Duck Stamp Act, and another bill, S. 1000, the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act.

Of course, last month, the House itself passed H.R. 5069, which would increase the price of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp from \$15 to \$25. The extra \$10 would be dedicated to easements. It has been estimated that an additional \$16 million per year for habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System could be available through this increase.

Sen. David Vitter (R-La.), who had strongly pushed for the bill as lead Senate sponsor, said that the bill was needed for conservation efforts since the price of stamps had not increased since 1991. One of Vitter's chief allies in the Senate, Mark Begich (D-Ak), emphasized the importance of bringing the stamp up-to-date, stressing, that "the program has lost buying power because of inflation and because the price of targeted habitat has tripled over the past two decades." Vitter added, "This [Senate passage] is huge news for conservation and duck hunters."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director, Dan Ashe, commented, "By restoring the lost purchasing power of the Federal Duck Stamp, this legislation will give us the opportunity to work with thousands of additional landowners across the nation to maintain vital habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and hundreds of other native species".

Dale Hall, CEO of Ducks Unlimited, added, "The additional duck stamps funding provided by waterfowl hunters and other conservationists will not only conserve critical waterfowl habitat, but will also help ensure the future of our water-

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Did You Know?

- 1) The price of the stamp has been raised only seven times since its enactment in 1934. Once this 2014 law goes into effect, it will represent the eighth time for a price increase.
- 2) The last time that stamp sales topped two million was the 1980-1981 stamp, when 2,045,114 stamps were sold across the country.
- 3) Before the 1958 revisions of the law (effective 1 July 1960), land acquisition was only one of several programs financed at least in part with stamp dollars. Previously, about 20 percent of these funds were used to acquire refuge lands and approximately 50 percent had been used to

fowling traditions."

The bill has now headed to President Obama's desk for his signature. The current stamps expire on June 30, 2015, and the new price, once the President signs the bill into law, is expected to appear on stamps for 2015-2016.

This law should strengthen *the means* by which crucial funds for wetland and grassland habitats are collected. Still, *the case* for saving these habitats has to be made again and again to Americans preoccupied with other issues. More of the public also needs to appreciate the constructive role of easements at this particular time and the necessity to increase overall sales of the stamp, especially among those people not currently required to buy the stamp.

Ultimately, it's all about the habitat!

develop and maintain migratory bird refuges after acquisition.

4) The highest number of stamps sold in California was in the 1952-1952 year when there were 214,456 stamps sold in the Golden State.

5) The first national Jr. Duck Stamp contest began with 8 states participating in 1993: Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, South Dakota, and Vermont.

6) Bob Hines (1912-1994) created the original rules for a Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest and managed the competition for over three decades.

New T-shirt Available with Stamp Image

The Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp has recently created a t-shirt with the 2014-2015 image of the Stamp. The stamp image, of course, shows a pair of Canvasbacks painted by Adam Grimm. The stamp is shown here on the left. Through the t-shirt, we wish to spread the word about the unique role that the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp provides. Basically, we have a simple goal in producing the t-shirt: to increase the appreciation and sales of the stamp.



The t-shirt comes in five standard sizes (S, M, L, XL, and XXL), and it comes in two colors (Cardinal Red and Dark Chocolate).

At \$23.49 each (and that includes all postage and handling anywhere in the U.S.) a t-shirt or two might be just perfect for a holiday gift!

You can find more details and order your own t-shirts by [using this form](#).

Finally, by using the 2014-2015 stamp image on the t-shirt, our Friends acts as a Nonexclusive Licensee of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, with the Stamp design the property of the United States Government. Also, as part of our use of the stamp image, five percent (5%) of the price of this t-shirt is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, the fund where Duck Stamp dollars are sent for acquisition of wetland, bottomland, and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Yes, by buying a t-shirt you will also help secure actual habitat!

About the Friends of the Migratory Bird/Duck Stamp

Our Friends Group is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to two basic goals:

1. To increase promotional and educational efforts among various target audiences concerning the stamp and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
2. To increase the regular, voluntary purchase of the stamp among hunters and non-hunters alike.



Our "Regular Friend" fee is kept modest, equal to the cost of one current Stamp (\$15), but all Friends are *also* asked to pledge to buy two stamps per year, joining with other individuals and organizations across the country with that promotional effort. Our "Friend's Year" also corresponds with the "year" of a valid Stamp - from July to July.

[Buy a Stamp. Join the Friends Group!](#)

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