

WISCONSIN WATERFOWL STAMP PROPOSED STAMP PRICE INCREASE

BACKGROUND:

The Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp has generated \$13,236,927 for habitat work since the stamp was authorized in 1978. Projects include wetland restoration and protection, wetland development, and management, including increased and improved public access for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

First issued in 1978 at a price of \$3.25. The stamp price was increased in 1991 to \$5.25 and again in 1997 to \$7.00. However, the price of the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp has not been raised for 14 years. Inflation, increasing user demand, increasing public land base, and the cost of maintenance for significant wetland infrastructure means many habitat activities are going unfunded.

NEED:

- Current Waterfowl Stamp Fund is approaching zero balance.
- Annual estimated need approaches \$2 million.
- Federal grants (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and North American Wetlands Conservation Act funds) require state and private match. Each WI dollar can be matched/leveraged 3 to 4 times!

PROPOSAL:

Increase the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp fee from \$7.00 to \$12.00. This increase of \$5.00 is less than a box of shotgun shells, and would generate an additional \$445,500 for wetland habitat conservation.

PUBLIC SUPPORT:

- A recent survey of waterfowl hunters indicated that 93 percent supported an increase in the waterfowl habitat stamp.
- Recently completed statewide habitat plans support an increase in wetland habitats and recreational access to wetlands and associated habitats (Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan, Wisconsin's Great Lakes Strategy, WI Joint Venture Plan).
- Wisconsin's premier conservation organizations support an increase in the Waterfowl Stamp, including Ducks Unlimited (39,000 members), Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (160 clubs, 100,000 members) and Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (4,000 members).

BENEFITS:

- Hunting, fishing and wildlife watching is BIG BUSINESS in Wisconsin with 2.9 million participants who spend \$3.92 Billion annually in pursuit of their activities. Increasing funding through the waterfowl stamp will help expand this recreational business in Wisconsin.
- Waterfowl hunting is enjoyed by 80,000 waterfowl hunters, who hunt approximately 770,000 days afield pursuing ducks and geese. These hunters expend \$14 million on trip and equipment expenditures, with a total economic output of \$21.2 million. Waterfowl hunting in Wisconsin supports 226 jobs, generates \$1.22 million in state tax revenue and \$1.54 million in federal tax revenues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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