

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Duck Stamp Drama in Washington DC

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There's a proposal to raise the fee for the Federal Duck Stamp from \$15 to \$25 dollars. This would be the first raise in the cost of this stamp in over two decades. If you're not familiar with the Federal Duck Stamp, this is a program that dates to the 1930s in which duck hunters purchase a stamp much like our state trout stamp (although in this case there is still the literal "stamp" with a color image). Funds go to the feds for conservation of wetlands. As far as I know, the FDS is the only art competition conducted by the feds and winning the annual contest can bring great prestige (and no small financial remuneration) to an artist. Anyway, the proposed increase in the cost got tangled in a complicated Senate committee, the details of which are arcane.....but the result is that partisan budget politics have put the price increase on hold, for now.

Whatever the case, I'm pleased to see some publicity in national media for the FDS and hopefully the result will be a greater appreciation by the non-hunting public for this legacy conservation program.

[Duck Stamp Article](#)