



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-HQ-MB-2024-0042; FXMB1233090000-245-FF09M13200; OMB

Control Number 1018-0172]

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew an information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

**ADDRESSES:** Send your comments on the information collection request (ICR) by one of the following methods (reference “1018-0172” in the subject line of your comment):

- Internet (preferred): <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments on Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2024-0042.
- U.S. mail: Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at [Info\\_Coll@fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov), or by telephone at (703) 358-

2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

(1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of

appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Abstract:**

***History of the Federal Duck Stamp***

On March 16, 1934, Congress passed, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (16 USC 718–718k). Popularly known as the Duck Stamp Act, it required all waterfowl hunters 16 years or older to buy a stamp annually. The revenue generated was originally earmarked for the Department of Agriculture, but 5 years later was transferred to the Department of the Interior and the Service.

In the years since its enactment, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has become one of the most popular and successful conservation programs ever initiated. Today, some 1.5 million stamps are sold each year, and as of 2023, Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than \$1.2 billion for the preservation of more than 6 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the United States. Numerous other birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have similarly prospered because of habitat protection made possible by the program. An estimated one-third of the Nation's endangered and threatened species find food or shelter in

refuges preserved by Duck Stamp funds. Moreover, the protected wetlands help dissipate storms, purify water supplies, store flood water, and nourish fish hatchlings important for sport and commercial fishermen.

### ***History of the Duck Stamp Contest***

Jay N. "Ding" Darling, a nationally known political cartoonist for the Des Moines Register and a noted hunter and wildlife conservationist, designed the first Federal Duck Stamp at President Roosevelt's request. In subsequent years, noted wildlife artists submitted designs. The first Federal Duck Stamp Contest was opened in 1949 to any U.S. artist who wished to enter, and 65 artists submitted a total of 88 design entries. Since then, the contest has been known as the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Art (Duck Stamp) Contest and has attracted large numbers of entrants.

The Duck Stamp Contest (50 CFR part 91) remains the only art competition of its kind regulated by the U.S. Government. The Secretary of the Interior appoints a panel of noted art, waterfowl, and philatelic authorities to select each year's winning design. Winners receive no compensation for the work, except for a signed pane of their stamps; however, winners retain the copyright to their artwork and may sell the original and prints of their designs, which are sought by hunters, conservationists, and art collectors.

For the Duck Stamp Contest, the Service selects five or fewer species of waterfowl each year; each entry must employ one of the Service-designated species as the dominant feature (defined as being in the foreground and clearly the focus of attention). Designs may also include national wildlife refuges as the background of habitat scenes, non-eligible species, or other scenes that depict uses of the stamp for waterfowl hunting, conservation, and collecting purposes. Entries may be in any media, except for photography or computer-generated art.

Designs must be the contestants' original hand-drawn creation and may not be copied or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs, or from images in any format published on the Internet.

### ***History of the Junior Duck Stamp Contest***

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program (Junior Duck Stamp Program) began in 1989 as an extension of the Migratory Bird Conservation and Hunting Stamp. The national Junior Duck Stamp art contest started in 1993, and the first stamp design was selected from entries from eight participating States. The program was recognized by Congress with the 1994 enactment of the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act (16 U.S.C. 719). All 50 States, Washington D.C., and 2 of the U.S. Territories currently participate in the annual contest.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program introduces wetland and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. It crosses cultural, ethnic, social, and geographic boundaries to teach greater awareness and guide students in exploring our nation's natural resources. It is the Service's premier conservation education initiative.

The Junior Duck Stamp Program includes a dynamic art-and-science-based curriculum. This nontraditional pairing of subjects brings new interest to both the sciences and the arts. The program teaches students across the nation conservation through the arts, using scientific and wildlife observation principles to encourage visual communication about what they learn. Four curriculum guides, with activities and resources, were developed for use as a year-round study plan to assist students in exploring science in real-life situations.

Modeled after the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, the annual Junior Duck Stamp Art and Conservation Message Contest (Junior Duck Stamp Contest) was

developed as a visual assessment of a student's learning and progression. The Junior Duck Stamp Contest encourages partnerships among Federal and State government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and volunteers to help recognize and honor thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States for their participation in conservation-related activities. Since 2000, the contest has received more than 570,000 entries.

The winning artwork from the national art contest serves as the design for the Junior Duck Stamp, which the Service produces annually. This \$5 stamp has become a much sought after collector's item. One hundred percent of the revenue from the sale of Junior Duck stamps goes to support recognition and environmental education activities for students who participate in the program. More than \$1.25 million in Junior Duck Stamp proceeds have been used to provide recognition, incentives, and scholarships to participating students, teachers, and schools. The Program continues to educate youth about land stewardship and the importance of connecting to the natural world. Several students who have participated in the Junior Duck Stamp Program have gone on to become full-time wildlife artists and conservation professionals; many attribute their interest and success to their early exposure to the Junior Duck Stamp Program.

### ***Who Can Enter the Federal Duck Stamp and Junior Duck Stamp Contests***

The Duck Stamp Contest is open to all U.S. citizens, nationals, and resident aliens who are at least 18 years of age by June 1. Individuals enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 may participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest. All eligible students are encouraged to participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program annual art and conservation message contest as part of the program curriculum through public, private, and

homeschools, as well as through nonformal educational experiences such as those found in scouting, art studios, and nature centers.

### ***Entry Requirements***

Each entry in the Duck Stamp Contest requires a completed entry form and an entry fee. Information required on the entry form includes:

- “Display, Participation & Reproduction Rights Agreement” certification form;
- Basic contact information (name, address, phone numbers, and email address);
- Date of birth (to verify eligibility);
- Species portrayed and medium used; and
- Name of hometown newspaper (for press coverage).

Each entry in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest requires a completed entry form that requests:

- Basic contact information (name, address, phone numbers, and email address);
- Age/grade (to verify eligibility and so they may be judged with their peers);
- Parent’s name and contact information (email address and phone numbers);
- Whether the student has a Social Security or VISA immigration number or is a foreign exchange student (to verify eligibility to receive prizes);
- Title, species, medium/style used, and conservation message associated with the drawing;
- Basic contact information for their teacher and school (name,

address, phone numbers, school/studio/organization/troop name, and email address); and

- Certification of authenticity.

Students in grades 7 through 12 and all national level students are also required to include citations for any resources they used to develop their designs. We use this information to verify that the student has not plagiarized or copied someone else's work. The Service also translates entry forms into other appropriate languages to increase the understanding of the rules and what the parents and students are signing.

*Title of Collection:* Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp Contests.

*OMB Control Number:* 1018-0172.

*Form Number:* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved information collection.

*Respondents/Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents:* 25,200.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 25,200.

*Estimated Completion Time per Response:* Varies from 7-20 minutes, depending on activity.

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 8,356.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Frequency of Collection:* Annually.

*Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost:* \$53,000 annually (entry fees of \$125 plus an average of \$15 for mailing costs, for an estimated 200 annual submissions to the Federal Duck Stamp Contest). There are no fees associated with the Junior Duck Stamp Contest submissions. We estimate the

mailing costs associated with entering submissions to the Junior Duck Stamp contest to be approximately \$25,000 annually. Most of the student entries are mailed directly by schools, who utilize the bulk mail option, thereby reducing the amount of postage and packages received.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

**Madonna Baucum,**  
*Information Collection Clearance Officer,*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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