

From: Nancy Wright
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2007 4:31 PM
To: Nancy Wright
Subject: Wildlife Habitat Canada/Habitat faunique Canada - UPDATE
Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp

We are writing to provide you with an update on the state of discussions regarding the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp program which we highlighted in our January Update message.

At the WHC Board of Directors meeting (Ottawa, Jan. 22 & 23), Environment Canada representatives informed the Board they are recommending extension of the enabling contribution agreement for the Conservation Stamp Program through to March 31, 2008. However, this requires the approval of the Minister of Environment. Without this agreement, the conservation money that hunters will pay for their stamps to validate their 2007 migratory game bird hunting permits will not be able to be transferred to WHC. We remain hopeful that this issue will be resolved soon, and certainly before the end of March.

As well, Environment Canada representatives announced their intent to initiate a consultation on the future of the Habitat Conservation Stamp and Permit program in the coming months. These consultations will help them determine the future options for the program. If you are interested in keeping up to date as the discussions progress, please let us know (nwright@whc.org). You will also find attached an Information Sheet that provides additional detail about WHC and the current situation as we see it.

Grant Program for 2007-2008

The Board of Directors reviewed and approved a number of grants for the upcoming fiscal year. The approved grants are all subject to confirmation of the extension of the Contribution Agreement with Environment Canada (as noted above). We wish that we could be more definitive about the grant program, but unfortunately we can't be until these issues are resolved.

Art Competition for 2008 Stamp

The Board has decided to initiate an art competition to select an image for the 2008 stamp. While there is no commitment to a stamp program for 2008 at this point from Environment Canada, the artists that choose to enter the competition need time to produce the works that will be reviewed. Further details will be made available about the competition in early March.

Nancy Wright
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Without habitat, there is no wildlife ... it's that simple!

www.whc.org
www.stewardshipcanada.ca

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Si vous désirez retirer votre nom de la liste d'envoi de communication d' Habitat faunique Canada, veuillez contacter nwright@whc.org.



WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA INFORMATION

Who are we?

- A national non-profit organisation established by governments (federal and provincial) and the conservation community in 1984
- Formed to invest money paid by waterfowl hunters for the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp in habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement
- Raises additional funds from a variety of other sources
- For projects with a focus on wetlands and wetlands-associated species
- Responding to the continuing loss of wildlife habitat across the country

How Much?

- Since 1984 we have invested about \$52 million in projects and activities
- Of that, about \$32 million has come from the Stamp program
- Our grant program in 2006/07 was about \$1 million of the \$1.35 million raised by the Stamp

Where are the projects?

- There are projects right across the country
- Over time, there is a rough balance geographically related to where the hunters are, which is where the money comes from
- In any given year, projects may be concentrated to make best use of the money

Who do we work with?

- Landowners who have an interest in habitat conservation and stewardship
- Farmers and ranchers on the working agricultural landscape
- Other rural landowners
- Provincial and municipal governments
- Other non-governmental organisations
- Almost all projects are done as part of a funding partnership
- Many have been part of NAWMP (North American Waterfowl Management Plan)

What don't we do?

- WHC is not an advocacy group, launching petitions or court cases
- WHC does not fundraise in competition with other national or local NGOs

Why is the Stamp program important?

- Hunters contribute directly to habitat conservation through WHC
- Now about \$1 million per year in projects on the ground
- Plus the value of WHC as a national voice for habitat conservation and stewardship as habitat loss continues as a major threat to wildlife
- With a strong record of leadership in habitat conservation and stewardship program development



What is the current situation?

- WHC’s current agreement with Environment Canada expires at the end of March 2007, and Environment Canada has not yet made arrangements for future years
- Without an agreement, the money hunters pay for the Stamp in 2007 can not be transferred to WHC, and WHC can not invest it in conservation projects
- For the longer term, Environment Canada is considering a range of options, including possibly cancelling the Habitat Conservation Stamp program
- Environment Canada is also considering possible major changes to the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, including the possibility that it will no longer be sold through Post Offices all across the country

What can you do?

- Environment Canada tells us they are planning to consult widely about the proposed changes, so you can make sure they know you want to be involved in the consultations
- You can also express your support for the continuation of a long and successful partnership among waterfowl hunters, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and Environment Canada by writing to the Minister, with a copy to Cynthia Wright, Associate ADM, Environmental Stewardship Branch

David Brackett
 President
 Wildlife Habitat Canada
 Suite 310
 1750 Courtwood Crescent
 Ottawa, Ontario K2C 2B5

<p>The Honourable John Baird Minister of Environment Les Terrasses de la Chaudière 10 Wellington St., 28th Floor Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3</p>	<p>Cynthia Wright Associate ADM, Environmental Stewardship Branch Environment Canada 21st Floor, Place Vincent Massey 351 Boulevard St. Joseph Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3</p>
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