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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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AMERICAN WILDLIFE WILL BE HONORED FOR FIRST TIME
ON UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS

For the first time, United States postage stamps this year will be used to call attention to the country's important wildlife resources, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today.

The United States is one of the few major countries in the world that has not given recognition to wildlife as a motif of postage stamp design, according to the Secretary. Although conservationists and interested stamp collectors started a movement in 1949 for a "wildlife on stamps" series, they met with no success. However, when the matter was brought directly to the attention of President Eisenhower last September he immediately recommended that such stamps be issued to create and maintain greater public interest in the country's natural resources.

As already announced by the Post Office Department, the subject matter for the three stamps will be the pronghorn antelope, king salmon, and wild turkey.

Selection of the designs and responsibility for their authenticity was delegated to the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Post Office Department. Robert W. Hines, chief illustrator of the Service and noted wildlife artist, made the drawings for the stamps.

The designs selected by the Service--representing a mammal, a bird, and a fish--have been chosen because they are three different species of typical American wildlife and because they offer outstanding examples of conservation work carried on by the Federal and State Governments.

All three of the stamps will be in the 3-cent denomination. Places and dates of first-day sale will be announced later by the Post Office Department.

The new stamps are expected to be tremendously popular not only with conservationists but with topical stamp collectors, Secretary McKay said.

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