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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 30, 1959

### ELEVENTH ANNUAL FEDERAL "DUCK STAMP" DESIGN CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The eleventh annual contest for the selection of a design for the 1960-61 Federal "duck stamp" will open this year on September 1 and close on November 2, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Wildlife artists who desire to enter their drawings in the contest should submit them on or before the deadline date to the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C. The judging of the designs will take place in November by a committee composed of waterfowl authorities.

The theme to be portrayed on the stamp for the 1960-61 issue will be:

"Wildlife Needs Water: Preserve Potholes."

The potholes, as they are known in the midwest and prairie provinces of Canada, or small marshes--as potholes are called in some sections--are small water areas which are essential to the reproduction of wild waterfowl. Waterfowl must have such wetland territories to meet and bring off broods of young which perpetuate their species.

Many of these water areas, essential to wildlife in the midwest and Canada, disappeared this year from drought. The result was a waterfowl crop failure which has brought a restriction of fall hunting. The disappearance of these important water areas as a result of drainage makes permanent what is only a temporary natural duck decline from drought, say conservationists.

"That is why we are using the duck stamp next year to call public attention to this serious wildlife conservation problem," said Director Daniel H. Janzen of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. "Unless we are successful in finding a way to encourage landowners to preserve the potholes needed by wildlife rather than drain them, future prospects for maintaining the large North American duck and goose population needed for an important form of public recreation grow pretty gloomy."

Although all forms of treatment of this theme will be considered by the judging committee, the Fish and Wildlife Service officials urge artists to portray either a nesting bird or a duck and her brood in the design in order to emphasize the important waterfowl production aspect of potholes.

All interested artists are eligible to enter the contest and may submit as many designs as they wish. Upon request to the Service, prospective contestants will be sent a leaflet containing contest rules, along with a copy of the agreement covering reproduction rights. This agreement is to be signed and returned to the Service prior to the contest judging. If an artist submits more than one design, he is required to sign a separate agreement for each one. Contest rules and copies of the agreement may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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