



WISCONSIN WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION

RESTORATION

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Wisconsin Waterfowl Association applauds Governor Evers for including Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp increase in biennial budget proposal

[Wales, WI] The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association applauds Governor Evers for including a \$5 increase to the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp in his 2021 – 2023 budget proposal.

“We are grateful that Governor Evers included this modest increase in his budget proposal,” said Executive Director Bruce Ross. “The waterfowl hunting community has been asking for an increase to the waterfowl stamp for over 10 years. In our most recent survey, 84% of our membership supported raising the stamp fee by at least \$5.”

The current price of the waterfowl stamp (\$7) has been in place since 1997. Unfortunately, the inflationary erosion that has taken place over the last 23 years has significantly reduced the buying power of this critically important conservation funding mechanism. The result is less habitat work is done every year. Each year, more than half a million dollars’ worth of projects cannot be funded because the scale of the funding available does not match the scale of the strategically identified wetland and waterfowl management targets.

For the upcoming budget biennium, 51 projects totaling \$1.6 million will be competing for waterfowl stamp funding. However, there is only about \$700,000 to distribute for new projects which means nearly \$1 million in critical habitat restoration work cannot be funded.

“The cost of moving dirt and doing restoration work has increased significantly over the last 23 years, and because of that there are many important projects that cannot be funded,” said Ross. “This modest increase – which is less than the cost of a box of shotgun shells – will go a long way to enhance and restore habitat to produce more waterfowl in Wisconsin.”

Since its inception by duck hunters in 1978, the Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp has helped fund hundreds of projects to protect, restore, enhance and maintain tens of thousands of acres of wetland habitat across Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association is a 7000-member non-profit conservation organization that is dedicated to the conservation of Wisconsin’s waterfowl and wetland resources. Since 1984, WWA has worked to restore critical habitat in Wisconsin, educate the next generation of waterfowl hunters, and advocate for policies that protect Wisconsin’s resources and the rights of citizens to hunt and fish.

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