

Habitat Stamp Reauthorization

Contact Your Legislators and Ask Them to Support SB-235!

Colorado is currently losing 690 acres of agricultural land a day. Between 1997 and 2002 Colorado lost over 1.26 million acres of agricultural land, and if current trends continue Colorado will lose 3.1 million more acres by 2022. Depending on where development occurs, our quality of life, the agricultural lifestyle, and our wildlife populations may be impacted significantly.

Forward-looking sportsmen recognized this problem and teamed up with other conservation organizations and created the habitat stamp, a dedicated funding source to protect habitat. The habitat stamp is now an important funding source for the Division of Wildlife's habitat protection program - particularly for hunted species - contributing about 3.5 million dollars per year. Since the inception of the habitat stamp, the Wildlife Habitat Protection program has protected over 66,000 acres of habitat (over 96% through easements), provided additional access to sportsmen, and helped agricultural producers stay on the land.

The habitat stamp is currently set to expire next year, and in order to continue this important funding for Colorado's wildlife, stakeholders devised SB-235 to improve and reauthorize the program. The measure is supported by organizations such as the Colorado Outfitters Association, Colorado Bowhunters Association, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Mountain Club and The Nature Conservancy.

Passage of SB-235, reauthorizing the Colorado habitat stamp program, is a top priority of the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), and conservation and sportsmen organizations this legislative session. Please contact your legislators and let them know that passage of SB-235 is your priority, too!

Three Years of Habitat Stamp funds:

- Collected over \$10.4 million in Habitat Stamp Funds
- Since the inception of the Habitat Stamp, the DOW's Wildlife Habitat Protection Program has protected over 66,000 acres
- Gained more public access
- Protected big game winter range and other critical habitat for fish and wildlife – including habitat for sage-grouse and other species of concern.

THE HABITAT STAMP WILL EXPIRE IN 2010. IF IT IS NOT RENEWED, THIS FUNDING SOURCE FOR HABITAT PROTECTION WILL BE LOST!

SB-235 – Reauthorization and Improvement of the Habitat Stamp Program

- Requires purchase of one \$10 stamp for all license buyers with exceptions for 1-day licenses detailed below
- Requires purchase of habitat stamp prior to applying for, or purchase of a license
- Eliminates access requirement for State Wildlife Areas
- Provides flexibility to incorporate non-consumptive user participation at greater rate, including:
 - Match requirement for project funding
 - Sell a Colorado Wildlife Passport (the non-sportsman version of habitat stamp) outside of DOW licensing system
 - Include purchase of Colorado Search and Rescue card with Colorado Wildlife Passport
 - Allow percentage of funds obtained from non-consumptive users for marketing
 - Work with non-consumptive users to pursue other funding opportunities
- Replaces 60% big-game habitat requirement with legislative intent language acknowledging the importance of big-game hunting to DOW program revenues and the State of Colorado, and importance of the habitat stamp to achieve big-game program needs and objectives, in addition to the helping achieve objectives for other wildlife habitat
- Maintains sunset provision for periodical review
- Allows certain percentage of funding for operation and maintenance of CWHPP properties
- Requires purchase of habitat stamp prior to purchase of 3rd one-day license
- Maintains current selection of habitat stamp committee and makeup
- Makes youth and senior license exemptions for habitat stamp consistent with other youth and senior age cutoffs used by DOW
- Increases cost of lifetime habitat stamp to \$300