

# Habitat Stamp 2013



## SB 13-175 Habitat Stamp Renewal

Senate Bill 13-175 extends the Habitat Stamp Program and the Habitat Stamp Advisory Committee. The primary goal of the reauthorization bill is to renew the program and ensure that funds continue to be available to conserve important habitats, increase recreational access and help landowners around the state remain in farming and ranching.

### What changes are being proposed:

- Eliminates the unimplemented Colorado Wildlife Passport and Passport Fund.
- Eliminates the repeal date and sunset provision for the Habitat Stamp Program and Committee.
- Eliminates language pertaining to contracting with a nonprofit organization for the design of a Habitat Stamp. No stamp artwork has been generated for several years and prior to that, the artwork cost more to implement than it recovered in sales.
- Allows habitat stamp dollars to be used for operations and maintenance on access easements.
- Eliminates language specifically pertaining to \$500,000 being available annually for the Colorado Water Conservation Board to acquire water, water rights, and interest in water for in-stream flow use. Elimination of the language does not preclude the CWCB from applying for eligible projects.

### What remains the same:

- The price of the stamp remains unchanged.
- Requirements to purchase the stamp remain unchanged.
- The composition of the Habitat Stamp Committee remains unchanged with four sportspersons, two conservation representatives, two agricultural landowners and one citizen-at-large.
- Program priorities continue to include big game winter range and migration corridors, public access for wildlife recreation including fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing, protecting habitat for species of concern, and preserving wildlife diversity.
- The program shall continue to emphasize conservation easements and use fee title acquisition only after all other avenues have been pursued.
- The Habitat Stamp Committee continues to make recommendations to the CPW Director and the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- Third-party conservation easements that do not include public access must include at least 15 percent non-CPW funds.

## Since 2006, the Habitat Protection Program has:

- Conserved 173,864 acres of key wildlife habitat
- Secured 78,693 acres of new public access
- Opened 25.85 miles of new fishing access
- Protected more than 100,397 acres of big-game winter range/migration corridors
- Preserved critical habitat for sage-grouse and other imperiled species



## Background:

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 64 who applies for or buys a hunting or fishing license in Colorado is required to buy an annual \$10 Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp. Habitat Stamp revenue from hunters and anglers allows the agency to support habitat protection by leveraging a variety of other funds, including funds from the Colorado Lottery through Great Outdoors Colorado and US Fish and Wildlife Service managed State Wildlife Grants.

The Habitat Protection Program was first created in 2006 and has grown into one of our state's most important conservation programs. The Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp was reauthorized in 2009.

The Habitat Stamp Committee is an advisory committee that makes annual recommendations to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director and the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission regarding proposed projects for distribution of program funding. Each year, Colorado Parks and Wildlife receives numerous proposals related to the protection of wildlife habitat and wildlife related recreation.

