



Habitat Stamp FAQs

Updated: December 4, 2020

Who is required to purchase a habitat stamp?

A habitat stamp is required for anyone 18 years of age or older who purchases or applies for a hunting, fishing or furbearer license. This includes both residents and nonresidents. The habitat stamp must be purchased before obtaining or applying for a license or at the time of a license sale or application.

How much does a habitat stamp cost?

The annual fee for the habitat stamp is \$10 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents.

How do I purchase a habitat stamp?

The habitat stamp will automatically be added to your first purchase of a hunting, fishing or furbearer license for the year.

Will my habitat stamp auto-renew?

If you are signed up for license auto-renew, your habitat stamp will automatically be added to your cart when your other license(s) auto-renew.

Do I have to carry the stamp in the field with me?

No, there is no physical stamp to carry. Once you have purchased your habitat stamp for the year, there's nothing more you need to do.

I just want to purchase a one-day license, do I have to buy a habitat stamp?

No, a habitat stamp is not required for the one-day hunting or fishing license, youth hunting license, private shooting preserve license, hunt for habitat application fee, or landowner hunting license.

Am I required to purchase a habitat stamp in order to apply for a license or am I required to purchase one once I am successful in the draw?

All individuals 18 years of age or older are required to purchase a habitat stamp prior to applying for a license.

Am I required to purchase a habitat stamp to purchase preference points?

No, you are not required to purchase a habitat stamp to purchase preference points.

Will I be required to purchase a habitat stamp for my park entrance license or campground reservation?



No, park entrance licenses and camping fees are not subject to the habitat stamp requirement.

I would like to support habitat by purchasing a habitat stamp, but do not want a hunting, fishing or furbearer license. Is this possible? Can I buy multiple habitat stamps?

A habitat stamp does not require an individual to purchase a hunting, fishing or furbearer license. You are only allowed one habitat stamp per license year; it is not possible to purchase multiple habitat stamps in a license year.

You can also support habitat in South Dakota by making a gift to the Second Century Habitat Fund or the Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

- <https://www.sdhabitatfund.org/donate>
- parkswildlifefoundation.org/donate

Am I required to purchase a habitat stamp to purchase a furbearer license?

Yes, a habitat stamp is required to purchase a furbearer license for trapping.

Is a habitat stamp required for a landowner license? What about other hunting, fishing or trapping that takes place on my own land?

A habitat stamp is not required for a landowner hunting license. Hunting small game, fishing and trapping on a landowner's own land does not require a license purchase nor does it require a habitat stamp. The purchase of any license or permit to hunt, fish or trap when not on the landowner's land requires the purchase of a habitat stamp.

Benefits of the Habitat Stamp

Why do we need a habitat stamp?

The key to abundant wildlife is habitat. Thriving wildlife populations are directly related to the amount and type of habitat on the landscape. Improving the habitat we have, and providing access to that habitat is a win-win for everyone – photographers, birders, kayakers, anglers, hunters, and anyone else who loves the outdoors.

Created by the 2020 South Dakota State Legislature, the habitat stamp provides protection and improvement of habitat and public accessibility while ensuring our world-class outdoor resources are available for the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy.

How does the habitat stamp improve terrestrial habitat?

Habitat stamp funds associated with hunting and furbearer license sales will fund wildlife habitat developments and public access improvements on public lands across South Dakota. Additionally,



habitat stamp funds will be used to provide public hunting access to private lands that offer quality hunting opportunities.

How does the habitat stamp improve aquatic habitat?

Habitat stamp funds associated with fishing license sales will fund aquatic habitat projects on public waters across South Dakota. In addition, projects like improving boat docks, roads or vault toilets can increase access to public waters.

How will the money from the habitat stamp benefit South Dakota?

Habitat stamp funds associated with hunting and furbearer license sales will fund wildlife habitat developments and public access improvements on public lands across South Dakota. Projects will include things like establishing nesting and brood-rearing cover, tree and shrub plantings, food plots, and hunting access trails. Habitat stamp funds will also be used to provide public hunting access to private lands that offer quality hunting opportunities.

Habitat stamp funds associated with fishing license sales will fund aquatic habitat projects on public waters across South Dakota, as well as projects that create or enhance public access to those waters. Dam maintenance, repairs and replacements will be conducted on aging structures around the state. Boat docks, roads and vault toilets may be added or improved to create more opportunities for users. Small-scale projects may include dredging, aeration, shoreline restoration, stream restoration, artificial and natural habitat structure placements, and outlet structure repair and maintenance. Large-scale projects may include whole-lake restorations, river/stream restorations, watershed improvements, sediment removal and controls, chemical renovations of the fish populations, riparian buffer zone creations, and habitat diversifications.

How will money from resident combination licenses be split between terrestrial projects and water projects?

If both a hunting and fishing or a combination (resident) license is purchased, the fee will be split equally between terrestrial enhancements and aquatic enhancements.

Federal Funding/Money Usage

Will revenue generated from the habitat stamp have an impact on the amount of federal funding the state receives?

Though revenue from the habitat stamp is eligible for federal match, Game, Fish and Parks already receives the maximum amount of federal funds the department is eligible for, so the habitat stamp will not impact this amount.

Typically, the federal government will require a 25% nonfederal match for fish and wildlife grants such as Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson grants. Habitat stamp fees are nonfederal funds and can therefore be utilized as a source of match for federal grant funded habitat projects. For more information on federal funding for South Dakota through GFP, visit gfp.sd.gov/economic.



If the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) should pass, could revenue from the habitat stamp be used to provide the required match and enable South Dakota to maximize federal funds from RAWA?

Yes, in the same way they are eligible as match towards other federal fish and wildlife grants, habitat stamp funds may also be used as nonfederal match towards RAWA grants if the habitat projects being funded meet eligibility criteria of both the habitat stamp legislation and RAWA.

Will funding from the habitat stamp be utilized for species of greatest conservation concern (threatened or endangered species) or focus on game species such as pheasants, deer and walleye?

Habitat stamp funds will be used to create and improve habitat for a variety of wildlife and fish species. In many cases, habitat enhancements made with habitat stamp funds intended to benefit game species will also provide direct benefits to species of greatest conservation concern.

What is the difference between the habitat stamp and "license dollars," or are they the same?

Revenue obtained from the habitat stamp can only be used to develop habitat on public land and waters, or to provide public access to private land.

License dollars, or money generated from the sale of hunting, fishing and furbearer licenses, can also be used for these purposes as well as everything else the Department of Game, Fish and Parks does to manage South Dakota's wildlife resources. Management tools used by GFP include law enforcement, research, surveys, fish hatcheries, education, and habitat development on private land.

Will revenue from the habitat stamp be used to purchase land?

No, the legislation stated that proceeds from the habitat stamp fee may not be used to purchase property in fee title.

Other States

Is a Habitat Stamp specific to South Dakota or have other states implemented these?

Multiple other states have a habitat stamp or certificate that is required for license purchase.

Nebraska (\$25), Wyoming (\$12.50), Montana (\$8.00), and Iowa (\$15.00) are neighboring states with a license very similar to South Dakota's new stamp. Fifteen other states have stamps/licenses in various degrees similar to ours. Most are required and a handful are voluntary.

Are there any success stories to share from other states that have had habitat stamps?

Yes, in 1996 Nebraska implemented an aquatic habitat stamp. The habitat stamp has raised \$23.8 million to improve habitat and access to 132 water across the state. The \$23.8 million has been paired



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with \$55 million in grants for a total of \$78 million spent (Courtesy of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission).

New Mexico has a habitat stamp program that started in 1986 for a cost of \$5.00 and has remained the same price today. Their stamp money has to be used only on BLM lands. It generates annually around \$1.2 million for habitat projects. Over the 32 years of the program, 2,398 wildlife and habitat projects have been funded at a level of over \$49 million, improving approximately 849,854 acres of terrestrial habitat, approximately 11,462 acres of riparian habitat, build 801 places for wildlife to obtain water, and completed 825 wildlife population, habitat surveys and/or program needs assessments, completed 17 wildlife transplants, improved 88 aquatic habitat/fishing areas, maintain and/or monitor previously built structures 11,100 times, installed approximately 805 erosion control structures for watershed improvements, provided habitat and shelter for wildlife, and reduced human impacts on wildlife and overall public enjoyment of wildlife (Courtesy of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish).

Colorado has a habitat stamp program that started in 2006 for an annual cost of \$10.13. Highlights of the program from 2006 to 2013, 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, and preserved critical habitat for sage-grouse and other imperiled species (Courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife).