



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## NEWS RELEASE

DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
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### **2001 FEDERAL JUNIOR DUCK STAMP COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the winner of Idaho's 2001 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program and Scholarship Competition this week. Art entries were submitted from 44 schools and 3 home schools throughout the State of Idaho. Abigail Gutting, a 16-year-old homeschool student from Kendrick, Idaho, was awarded the blue ribbon and Best of Show for her watercolor painting of a Canada goose. This is the second year Abigail has placed in the contest; last year she was awarded second place.

Assistant Refuge Manager and Idaho contest director Todd Fenzl was pleased with the 348 entries from K-12 grade students statewide. This is the seventh year that Idaho students have participated in the national contest. Fenzl remarked, "The quality of this year's Junior Duck Stamp entries was great. I expect Abigail's piece to compete well in the national contest. We were encouraged by the level of participation this year from students across the state. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition provides an excellent opportunity for young people to learn about wetlands and wildlife conservation through art."

Judges for the contest were Ted Smith, wildlife carver; Mike Dustin, painter; Jeff Gagnon and Jim Stelter, Ducks Unlimited; and Dan Papp, Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Prizes were supplied by Ducks Unlimited and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Young artists are encouraged to accurately portray North American waterfowl in their natural habitat. Each state's Best of Show design is entered into the national competition in Washington, D.C. This year's competition is scheduled for April 25, 2001. The winning design will be used for the 2002 Junior Duck stamp.

Congress passed the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation & Design Act of 1994, which authorized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use revenues from the sale of Junior Duck stamps to promote conservation education in the form of awards and scholarships to the students, teachers and schools that participate in the program. This Act also allows for corporate and individual contributions to the awards and scholarship program, and it encourages partnerships with state agencies, conservation groups and local communities.

Federal Duck Stamps may be ordered through: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Duck Stamp Office, 1849 C St., NW, Room 2058, Washington, DC 20240; telephone (202) 208-4354; fax (202) 208-6296; website: <http://www.fws.gov/~r9dso/homedk.html> or <http://www.fws.gov/> then go to Junior Duck Stamps.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre

National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 530 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and

78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.