

**Program Area:** Wildlife Management

**Subject:** Proposed guidance for pheasant, wild turkey, and waterfowl stamp funding guidelines.

**Length of Public Input Period:** This guidance was available for review from January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Public Comments:** Three public comments were received during the review period for this guidance. These comments and specific responses from WM staff are summarized below. There have been no revisions to the guidance document following public review.

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Wildlife stamp funds are allocated biennially, and funding guidelines for each stamp are developed as recommendations by the Wild Turkey, Pheasant, and Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committees. All 3 guidance documents have been approved by the Wildlife Policy Team, and have been available for public comment for 21 days. Each committee strives to identify priorities for stamp expenditures that ensure they are used to address species-specific habitat, outreach, and research needs. All stamp funds are accessible by partner groups, and guidelines define the process whereby individuals can apply for funds. The deadline for applications for the FY 16-17 biennium is April 10<sup>th</sup>, and funds will be allocated to successful applicants by 1 July, 2015, after review and ranking by the relevant advisory committee and WPT approval.

**Comments received on FY16-17 wildlife stamp funding guidance documents.**

Program	Public Comment	Response
Turkey Stamp	<i>Under Turkey: Fig 1 I thought by direction of Walker's great Deer Trustee, GMU were eliminated and I assume that applies to turkeys as turkey zones are much different.</i>	Though not used as deer management units any longer, the Game Management Units still exist in Code and were used as the basis of the habitat analysis summarized in Figure 1. The Turkey Committee recognized that these GMUs provided the appropriate resolution to conduct the analysis and improved the ability to focus habitat stamp dollars based on turkey habitat needs (Open:Forested ratios). No revision recommended.
Waterfowl Stamp	<i>As for ducks, I don't see any reference to the priorities established in the original sate duck plan. I feel there are definitely regions in the state that should receive higher priority than other areas.</i>	Part V in the Waterfowl Stamp Guidance refers to primary project selection criteria.. The Wisconsin Plan of the Joint Venture is referenced, allowing applicants to figure out if their project is located in a priority focus area and township. The application form itself, which was included in the public review, also asks the applicant if their proposed project is located in these priority areas. Part 3d. of the application form also asks if the project is located in other high priority landscapes, such as the GHRA. Thus, stamp funds are prioritized to take into account spatial variation in waterfowl habitat quality and restoration needs. No revision recommended.
Turkey Stamp	<i>I would like to see some of the funding from the wild turkey stamps being spent on oak tree regeneration projects on more public hunting lands throughout the State of Wisconsin.</i>	Oak regeneration remains a priority for the Turkey Stamp program. During the FY14-15 biennium, \$647,310 were allocated to 34 projects across the southern 2/3rds of the state (where oak regeneration is the focus). Guidelines for the FY16-17 biennium retain this focus on oak regeneration. Both public and private lands are eligible for Turkey Stamp funding to regenerate oak. No revision recommended.