



January 30, 2010

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
c/o Aaron Meier
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

Please accept this application to sponsor the 2011 and 2012 Nevada Duck Stamp art contests.

**APPLICATION TO SPONSOR
THE NEVADA DUCK STAMP CONTEST
2011 AND 2012**

SUMMARY

The Nevada Waterfowl Association (NWA) proposes to sponsor the Nevada Duck Stamp Art Contest for 2011 and 2012 in compliance with the guidelines established by the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners with the goal of promoting the competition and the need to protect Nevada's wetland resources.

NWA understands that there has been a preliminary discussion regarding changes to Commission Policy 50; however, as of the date of this Proposal, no changes have been authorized. As such, NWA proposes to sponsor the Duck Stamp Art Contest within the mandates of the current Commission Policy 50. Should any changes to that Policy be made, however, NWA requests that the Department notify NWA immediately so that steps can be taken to be in compliance with any such changes.

BACKGROUND

Nevadans vitally concerned over the continuing loss of Nevada's remaining wetlands founded the Nevada Waterfowl Association in 1987. *Since that time another chapter of NWA has been formed in Fallon.* The priority at the time that the organization was founded was and still is, to obtain water rights for the Lahontan Valley wetlands. Since most wetlands in the state and those in Lahontan Valley in particular did not have water rights, the future for their survival looked bleak. Over the last several years, members have held annual fund-raising events in both the Fallon and Reno areas. Money raised through these events is used for the perpetuation and enhancement of Nevada wetlands.

NWA was responsible for purchasing the very first water rights for the Stillwater NWR, Carson Lake and Humboldt WMA, which paved the way for

many future purchases by both the State of Nevada and the Federal Government. In addition we have provided funding for wetland projects on the Mason Valley, Scripps, Humboldt and Steptoe Valley WMA's, along with habitat projects on Carson Lake and the Stillwater NWR. We have been active in providing assistance for other projects such as Wings Over the Valley, Spring Wings and co-sponsored the Youth Waterfowl Days in Lahontan Valley.

NWA was a founding member of the Lahontan Valley Wetland Coalition and contributed to the policies and positions to include water rights acquisitions in the Negotiated Settlement bill (P.L.101-618). NWA supported the Nevadans for Parks and Wildlife with members volunteering at events featuring the Q-5 Park Bond. We were active participants in the Stillwater CCP process to protect and enhance the Stillwater NWR and protect hunting recreation on that area.

In 1991, NWA received national recognition when it was given the National Wetlands Conservation Organization of the Year Award by the Fish and Wildlife Service. NWA also shared in the award with the Lahontan Wetlands Coalition for our joint efforts to save the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge.

NWA has been the Nevada Duck Stamp Art Contest sponsor since 1992 and has made the art work of the top ten participants a key part of its fund raising banquets. NWA hopes to continue its long-standing relationship with the contest and to build upon that success to help increase the public's awareness of the plight of Nevada's endangered wetland resources

JUDGES

The NWA will identify judges in accordance with the criteria established in the Board of Wildlife Commissioner's policy P-50. As stipulated in policy P-50 at this time, two judges will be chosen by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Five additional judges will be chosen by NWA from people who not only have an interest in waterfowl and wetlands, but have some background in wildlife art, waterfowl identification and other suitable expertise. At least one, and possibly more of the judges from previous contests, will be asked to be members of the judging panel. It is the desire of the NWA that the high standards set by previous contest winners be maintained in the future.

CONTEST RULES

A representative of the Board of Directors of the NWA will work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife to develop and publish the rules for the contest, well in advance of the contest date. NWA will also choose the species to be portrayed on the individual year's stamp and will notify the Department of Wildlife of its choice by late April, 2010 as stipulated.

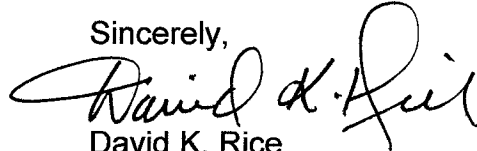
PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

While the general public will not be allowed to participate in the actual judging of the contest artwork, it is the full intention to display the winner and nine runner-up contestants at its annual fund raising event in November at the annual fund-raising event of the Fallon chapter. This will expose about 350 people to the artwork and hopefully to generate further interest in the contest. Security for all artwork will be provided by the NWA. NWA will be responsible for all paintings when they are in its possession

PRINTS

Nevada Waterfowl Association is requesting that prints numbered 1-75 be designated as the "conservation edition" reproductions from the winning artist for fund raising purposes. Up to ten prints may be auctioned at various NWA fund-raising events and the balance will be provided to other organizations for the benefit of Nevada's wildlife. NWA, in conjunction the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will develop a list of eligible conservation organizations to receive the remaining prints. A list of the recipients will be maintained and provided to the Department upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Rice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

David K. Rice

NWA Business Manager