



# PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

## NORTHWEST REGION

1509 PITTSBURGH RD, FRANKLIN PA 16323 | 1-833-742-4868 (PGC HUNT) 1-833-742-9453 (PGC WILD)

### **Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp Contest Rules and Procedures:**

**SPECIES:** Qualifying submissions must portray one of the five eligible species as the dominate feature of the design.

**1) Bufflehead   2) Northern Shoveler   3) Gadwall   4) Redhead   5) Canada Goose**

#### **1. Purpose**

The winning artwork will be printed as the 2027 Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp and fine art print, which will be available in early 2027. Revenues received from the sale of signed and numbered prints help enhance waterfowl management programs through habitat development, land acquisition, and maintenance of existing wetlands throughout the Commonwealth.

#### **2. Artist Scope of Work**

- A. Create an original, full color, horizontal painting featuring one of the five eligible species. Entries must be matted (white & core) "over" and affixed to the front of the painting. Entries should be protectively covered with an easily removable sheet of plastic, in a plastic bag or shrink-wrapped. This covering will be removed prior to judging. Entries should not be more than a total of 3/8 inch thick. No entry will be accepted in a wooden frame or under glass.
- B. The winning artist must pencil sign limited edition fine art prints and Waterfowl Management Stamps produced from the original painting. Signing will be done at the Pennsylvania Game Commission headquarters in Harrisburg. The artist will be responsible for lodging, meals, and travel expenses.
- C. The winner of the 2027 contest shall not be eligible to compete for one (1) year and shall serve as a judge to select the 2028 Waterfowl Management Stamp design.

#### **3. Artist Eligibility**

- A. Sufficient experience and talent to provide an original painting that will complement the accuracy and quality of paintings selected for previous Waterfowl Management Stamps and fine art prints. Entering artists must be residents of Pennsylvania. Each artist may submit up to two (2) entries.
- B. **All entries must be submitted electronically via email to Heather Flick, Environmental Education Specialist, at [hflick@pa.gov](mailto:hflick@pa.gov) by Friday, July 31, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** Artwork must be the artist's own creation, neither copied nor duplicated

from previously published art, paintings, drawings in any medium, photographs, including any previously published work of the artist. Non-winning entries may be submitted in subsequent contests providing they are depicting eligible species. *Published, for purposes of this contest, shall mean any artwork that has been sold by the artist or their representatives.* The artist is required to obtain adequate insurance coverage for entries since the Game Commission will not do so. Precautions will be taken to protect all entries, but the Game Commission is not responsible for loss by fire, other damages, or theft.

- C. No scroll work, lettering, signature, or initials can appear on the artwork itself. The artist's name cannot appear on the front of the entry, but the artist's name, address, phone number, species illustrated, and medium used must be attached to the back of the entry by way of the lower portion of the Reproduction Rights Agreement. *Scroll work, lettering, signature, or initials, for purposes of this contest shall mean the artist's name, species depicted, title of artwork, or any type of ornamental border as a part of the painting or drawing itself. Incidental lettering that is an integral part of the subject of the artwork itself will not be considered scroll work or lettering.*

#### 4. Initial Entry Evaluation

- A. All entries received will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of qualified Game Commission personnel. A maximum total number of 24 entries will be selected for the judging contest.
- B. The following areas of consideration will be used in making the initial selection:
  - 1. Artist Qualifications – This will relate to guidelines A, B, and C in Section 3. Entries must follow the attached submission format (See Attachment No. 1). Artists not meeting these minimum qualifications will not be considered for selection.
  - 2. Artists must complete and sign the Reproduction Rights Agreement and attach the lower part of the agreement to the back of the artwork.
  - 3. **There is a non-refundable \$50.00 entrance fee per entry payable to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Entry for artists under the age of 18 will be waived.**
  - 4. Completed agreements and entry fees shall be mailed to: *Waterfowl Management Stamp Design Contest, PA Game Commission, Northwest Region Office, Attn: EES Heather Flick, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323.*
- C. **The top 24 entries will be selected by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 13, 2026. Game Commission Northwest Region staff will notify those chosen on Friday, August 14, 2026.** Original artwork shall then be mailed to the Northwest Region Office and postmarked by August 31, 2026.
  - 1. Entries shall be submitted in a protective storage and mailing carton suitable for the return of the entry to the artist and mailed prepaid, United

Parcel Service (UPS), FedEx, U.S. Mail or hand delivered to: Waterfowl Management Stamp Design Contest, PA Game Commission, Northwest Region Office, Attn: IES Daniel Schmidt, 1509 Pittsburgh Road, Franklin, PA 16323.

2. The artist's name should be carefully marked on the outside of the package. Jiffy bags, padded envelopes, or similar containers are not suitable for mailing your entry.
3. Artists should include return postage.

## 5. Judging Procedures

The final judging of the top 24 paintings will tentatively be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2026. The contest location will be Pymatuning Sportsmen's Club in Linesville, PA. The top 24 entries will be on display for public viewing that morning.

- A. Prior to judging, each entry will be assigned a number. This number will be used for judging purposes.
- B. Five judges will be selected annually. Any of the following circumstances would disqualify a potential judge: having an entry of his/her own; having a relative with an entry; having or planning any kind of financial interest in the work of any entering artist; having or planning any financial interest in the printing, distribution, or sale of waterfowl prints with an entering artist.
- C. There will be no communication between the judges during the entire judging of the entries. The judging will be open to the public, but the Contest Director may close the contest to the public if there is any sign of communication between the audience and the judges.
- D. Judging will consist of three (3) rounds:

**Round 1** – Each judge may nominate an unlimited number of entries for preliminary consideration by the entire panel. Any entry not receiving a vote by at least one judge will not be further considered.

**Round 2** – The entries will be silently voted on by assigning each entry a score from one (1) to ten (10). Ten (10) being a high score. Judges may utilize the scoring criteria from one (1) to ten (10) as many times as needed in the scoring process. The entries receiving the five highest point totals (ties included) will advance to the final round.

**Round 3** – Each entry making the final round will be silently voted on by assigning each entry a score from one (1) to five (5), with five (5) being the highest. Each score shall be used only once in Round 3. If more than five entries make the final round, due to a tie, the highest score will be equal to that of the number of entries making

the final round. For example, if six entries make the final round, then six (6) will be the highest score attainable. Each score will be used only once in Round 3.

- E. Scores in both the preliminary and final rounds will be calculated by the Contest Director and his/her assistant(s). In case of a tie for first place in the final round, the entire panel of judges will silently vote again on deadlocked entries, with each judge voting for only that entry believed to be most qualified to win.
- F. Official scoring will be preserved for thirty (30) days and available for public review upon request.
- G. Protests, by contestants only, may be registered with the Contest Director, in writing and clearly stated within five (5) working days after the judging. In the event of a disqualification, the entry receiving the second highest score shall be declared the winner.
- H. Entries will be returned to the contestants via United Parcel Service (UPS), FedEx, U.S. Mail or they may be picked up at the PGC Northwest Region Office, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Artists desiring to pick up their entry should contact the Northwest Region Office to make the necessary arrangements. Contestants or their representatives will not be permitted to remove their entries from the room in which the contest is held without first obtaining permission from Contest Director.
- I. Upon selection, the original painting becomes the property of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and all reproduction rights are surrendered to the Pennsylvania Game Commission

## **6. Remuneration**

The artist whose painting is selected for the 2027 Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp will receive payment in the amount of \$5,000, plus one hundred (100) artist's proof prints and two hundred (200) stamps. Payment will be made after the artist has signed all prints. In Addition, cash awards will be provided to other high placing entries in the following amounts: 2nd place \$1,500; 3rd place \$1,000; 4th place \$800; 5th place \$500. In the event of a tie, the awards for two places will be combined and split evenly.

*Example: Two prints tie for fourth place – fourth and fifth place prizes will be combined (\$1,300) and then split evenly between the tied artists (\$650 each). First, second, third, and two fourth place prizes will be awarded. No fifth-place prize will be awarded.*

## **7. Administration**

The contest to select the design for the 2027 Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp is conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Bureau of Information and Education.

**2027 PENNSYLVANIA WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT STAMP DESIGN CONTEST**  
**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS AGREEMENT**  
(Attachment No. 1)

If his or her design is the winner of the PA Waterfowl Management Stamp Design Contest, the undersigned who has submitted an original design featuring \_\_\_\_\_ to the Game Commission, agrees to the following conditions concerning reproduction rights.

- 1) Upon selection, the original painting becomes the property of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and all reproduction rights are surrendered by the artist to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The artist will receive remuneration as outlined in the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp Design Contest Rules and Procedures.
- 2) By signing this agreement, the contestant confirms they have read the contest rules and agrees to abide by them and all other conditions outlined in the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp Design Contest Rules and Procedures.
- 3) I hereby affirm my entry is a design of my own creation, neither copied nor duplicated from previously published art, paintings, drawings in any medium, photographs, including any previously published work of my own.

To be eligible, entrants must submit a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 – Check or money order payable to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Artist's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**State Vendor # or Social Security #** \_\_\_\_\_

Artist's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<i><b>For Pennsylvania Game Commission Use</b></i>
Accepted By: _____
Date: _____

Detach this lower part of the agreement and attach to the back of your entry

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**Entry for 2027 PA Waterfowl Management Stamp Contest** (Type or Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Species \_\_\_\_\_ Medium Used \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter my design in the 2027 Waterfowl Management Stamp Contest. Enclosed is a \$50.00 non-refundable entry fee check or money order payable to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.