

New way to buy federal duck stamps: the E-Duck Stamp

Waterfowl hunters in Texas will have the option of purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp electronically this year, as part of a three-year joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and nine state fish and wildlife agencies, including the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Hunters who buy the Federal Duck Stamp from license retailers this year will be issued the actual stamp at the time of purchase and pay the face value of \$15. However, purchases of the Federal Duck Stamp at TPWD locations — game warden offices, state parks and other sites that sell licenses — as well as online and phone transactions, will consist of an electronic authorization and the actual stamp will be mailed separately. These locations will only sell the new electronic Federal Duck Stamp, which costs \$17, reflecting additional shipping and handling fees.

The "E-Duck Stamp" option is designed to make it more convenient for hunters, birdwatchers, stamp collectors, and others who support conservation of the nation's

wetlands to buy federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps, commonly known as the Federal Duck Stamp.

To hunt any migratory game bird in Texas, hunters must have a valid Texas hunting license, HIP (Harvest Information Program) certification and a Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp (\$7). Along with this state stamp, they must also have a Federal Duck Stamp (\$15 hard copy or \$17 electronic) to hunt ducks or geese.

The new electronic Federal Duck Stamp program allows the fish and wildlife agencies of Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin, to sell stamps electronically through their individual automated licensing systems, providing a special receipt as proof of purchase. This proof of purchase — a unique code given to the purchaser instantly — will be accepted as evidence of a Federal Duck Stamp purchase for 45 days — time enough for the printed stamp to arrive in the mail.

A Federal Duck Stamp and

a Texas Migratory Game Bird Stamp are required of anyone 16 years of age and older to hunt waterfowl in Texas. Federal Duck Stamps also provide free entry into national wildlife refuges that charge entrance fees.

"This pilot program explores one way to improve service to duck stamp purchasers, in particular those from rural or remote areas," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director, H. Dale Hall. "We are always looking for new ways to better serve the public, and enhance wetland conservation."

Funds from Federal Duck Stamp sales are a vital tool for wetland conservation, with 98 cents of every dollar generated used to purchase or lease wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since the stamp's inception in 1934, more than \$700 million has been raised to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of waterfowl habitat. In 2005, more than 1.6 million Federal Duck Stamps were sold.

"The Duck Stamp program provides much needed funding for wetland conservation,

and it is important that they are marketed appropriately for today's web-savvy public," said Matt Hogan, Executive Director of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. "The E-Duck Stamp meets the needs of modern day hunters and stamp collectors and ensures continued success for wetland conservation."

The Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005 directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with state management agencies, to conduct a three-year pilot program under which up to 15 states could issue electronic migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps. The pilot program will allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate the program and make adjustments or assess other distribution options to better serve stamp buyers.

Comments sought on proposed waterfowl seasons

Duck hunters are bracing for what could be one of the best waterfowl hunting seasons in many years, with near record duck populations building to the north and ideal habitat conditions awaiting them in Texas. State waterfowl biologists announced proposed hunting regulations for the upcoming season and are currently seeking public comment.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, along with four other states in the Central Flyway, will be in the second year of an experimental Hunter's Choice bag limit during the 2007-08 seasons.

The Hunter's Choice allows hunters to shoot five ducks daily, but only one in the aggregate of certain

species. In the aggregate category of less abundant ducks, that one bird could be either a pintail, or a canvasback, or a "dusky duck" (mottled, black duck or Mexican-like duck) or a hen mallard.

The general duck season length will be the same as last year in the North and South Zones at 74 days and up seven days in the High Plains. Mallard Management Unit to 96 days. "This year because of habitat conditions and duck population estimates we felt we'd be in the liberal framework, so we made the decision to several days off the early teal season and add them into the big duck season," said Dave

See Comments, Page 9B

2007 Property Tax Rates in County of Jasper

This notice concerns 2007 property tax rates for County of Jasper. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's *effective* tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's *rollback* tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

	Road & Bridge Special	General Fund
Last year's tax rate:		
Last year's operating taxes	\$1,900,631	\$7,518,820
Last year's debt taxes	\$0	\$267,539
Last year's total taxes	\$1,900,631	\$7,786,359
Last year's tax base	\$1,369,330,350	\$1,386,213,064
Last year's total tax rate	0.138800/\$100	0.561700/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$1,806,836	\$7,405,385
÷ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$1,372,382,344	\$1,387,476,001
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	0.131600/\$100	0.533700/\$100
Total effective tax rate	0.665300/\$100	

This year's rollback tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$1,806,836	\$7,150,936
÷ This year's adjusted tax base	\$1,372,382,344	\$1,387,476,001
= This year's effective operating rate	0.131600/\$100	0.515300/\$100
1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.142100/\$100	0.556500/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.000000/\$100	0.017800/\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	0.142100/\$100	0.574300/\$100
This year's total rollback rate	0.716400/\$100	

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If County of Jasper adopts a 2007 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of 0.665300 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2006 taxes by \$38,429.

Schedule A: Unencumbered Fund Balances: General Fund

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
General Fund	2,000,000
Road & Bridge Special	1,000,000
Debt	0

Schedule B: 2007 Debt Service: General Fund

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Series 2001 CO - Law Enforcement Center	125,000	108,638	0	233,638
Time Warrant - Precinct 1	38,000	3,150	0	41,150
Total required for 2007 debt service				\$274,788
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$34,788
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2007				\$240,000
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 96.000000% of its taxes in 2007				\$10,000
= Total Debt Levy				\$250,000

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 271

East Lamar, Jasper, TX 75951.

Name of person preparing this notice: [Bobby Biscamp](#)

Title: [Tax Assessor-Collector](#)

Date prepared: [August 10, 2007](#)

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The City of Jasper will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding tax year by 24.374278 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 23, 2007 at 6:00 PM at City Hall. A second hearing will be held on August 27, 2007 at 6:00 PM at City Hall.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows:

FOR:	David Barber; Joe Clyde Adams; Randy Sayers; Tommy Adams; Gloria Monzingo; Dianne Pace
AGAINST:	None
PRESENT and not voting:	None
ABSENT:	None

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	10.600000% (increase) or	% (decrease)
Debt service	0.300000% (increase) or	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	10.600000% (increase) or	% (decrease)

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value as calculated under section 26.04, Tax Code

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$262,404,398	\$315,926,813
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$1,209,416	\$2,940,109
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$217,425,240	\$249,044,696
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$1,191,576	\$2,934,109

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness:	\$10,225,000
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Tax Rates

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.323000 per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$0.323000 per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.000000 per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	0.000000 % Increase OR % Decrease

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Comparison of Residence Homestead Values

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Average residence homestead appraised value	\$48,694	\$54,764

Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)

	\$0	\$0
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Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled)

	\$157	\$177
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Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on a residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for person 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$157. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on the residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for person 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$177. The difference between the amount of the taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$20 of taxes.