Human Dimensions Research Program Fact Sheet

2008-2009 Habitat Stamp Funds Survey

Purpose of the study: To collect information from landowners, hunters and others to determine activities, attitudes and characteristics likely to affect upland game populations.

Methods: A random sample of 4,000 addresses was selected from Illinois resident habitat stamp purchaser data. Two thousand of the addresses were for individuals who had purchased a habitat stamp and deer permit in 2008, and 2,000 addresses were for individuals who purchased a 2008 habitat stamp, but not a deer permit. We received 2,125 usable responses for a 55% response rate.

Highlights of results:

- A majority of respondents (67%) reported that they had not received a permit to hunt on a State Habitat or Pheasant stamp-funded area in Illinois.
- Small game/upland game/wild turkey hunters (38%) and waterfowl/dove hunters (31%) were most likely to have received permits to hunt on Habitat stamp-funded areas.
- Most respondents were aware that Habitat stamp funds are used to enhance habitat for game species and to provide hunting opportunities in Illinois.
- Fewer respondents were aware that the same actions could be funded on private lands.
- Majorities of respondents felt it was important to acquire land to provide habitat for wildlife and public hunting opportunities and to improve habitat for wildlife on public lands with Habitat stamp funds.
- Respondents expressed less support for actions taken on private land and the lowest support for hiring biologists to administer the Habitat Stamp program and to provide financial incentives to private landowners.
- Nearly equal proportions of respondents felt that Habitat Stamp funds had either improved wildlife populations or were unsure.
- Plurals of respondents in all of the hunting groups were unsure whether Habitat Stamp dollars had improved hunting access.
- Majorities of respondents felt that Habitat stamp-funded actions had "average" overall effectiveness.
- Respondents felt that acquiring land for wildlife habitat and public hunting opportunities and improving habitat on public lands warranted additional funding in the future.
- Majorities of all respondents felt that the fee charged for the Habitat Stamp in Illinois was "about right," but a plurality found it acceptable to increase the price of the Habitat stamp, if the increase resulted in increases in the activities they found most important.

For more information:
For full text of this and other Human Dimensions reports and surveys, please go to www.inhs.uiuc.edu/programs/hd/