

[From Spring 1997]

New Annual Pass Available

This spring, local residents and CNWR visitors will be able to buy a refuge-specific \$12.00 annual pass valid for one year from the date of purchase.

The new annual pass is part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, mandated by Congress and designed to raise additional funds to improve infrastructure repairs on selected lands, including National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management sites.

The new annual pass will be offered at 15 of the most popular National Wildlife Refuges. Fees collected at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge will be used to plan interpretive facilities, upgrade interpretive exhibits, and make much needed repairs and improvements delayed by budget shortfalls.

The Federal Duck Stamp (Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp) will continue to be accepted as an annual pass to all National Wildlife Refuges, with proceeds continuing to be used to acquire wetlands. The Golden Age, Golden Eagle, and Golden Access Passports will continue to be accepted for entrance into National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management sites. Effective January 1, 1997, the cost of the Golden Eagle Passport increased to \$50.00; the Golden Access remains free to permanently disabled American citizens; while the Golden Age remains at \$10.00 for senior citizens.