



It's time to make the tax season just a little bit wild....

Raise your hand if you know you can make a difference for Iowa's wildlife on the state tax form. There should be at least 7,500 of you with your hands in the air. That's how many folks donated a bit or all of their state tax refund to the Fish and Wildlife Fund – affectionately called the Chickadee Check-off -- on 2015 tax returns, translating to \$132,000 in support of wildlife conservation in Iowa.

Since the 1980s, thousands of Iowans have supported Iowa wildlife by making donations when they prepare their taxes. Today, 100 percent of those dollars go to the state's Wildlife Diversity Program, which protects nongame and vulnerable species through habitat development, data collection and research, education and much more. You can learn more about the program on their website: www.iowadnr.gov/wildlifediversity.

Donating is easy. Simply enter your donation amount in the Fish and Wildlife Check-Off contribution line (usually between lines 55-59 on form 1040), and the sum is either automatically deducted from the refund or added to the amount owed. As with all charitable contributions, these dollars are deductible from next year's taxes. Don't forget to talk to your tax preparer if you have your taxes done professionally – many tax preparers forget to mention donation opportunities.

If every Iowa taxpayer donated just \$1 on the Fish and Wildlife Check-off, it would mean \$1.5 million for natural resource conservation! So, if you're able, take a moment this tax season to get a little wild and consider making a donation. The 1000+ species of birds, butterflies, mammals, frogs, toads, turtles and dragonflies that call Iowa home will thank you.

DNR CONTACT: Stephanie Shepherd at 515-432-2823 ext. 102 or stephanie.shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov