

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and through their license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding (System) – a “user-pays public benefits” approach widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Washington's sportsmen and women generated nearly \$71 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Washington's more than one million hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending approximately \$1.6 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 21,800 jobs in Washington and generates roughly \$159 million in state and local taxes each year; and

WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and, proclaim Saturday, September 24, 2016 as

Hunting and Fishing Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 9th day of September, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee

