

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril, and supported laws that stopped unregulated harvest and habitat destruction, the implementation of fishing and hunting license fees, and eventually, excise taxes on equipment to finance specialized state agencies that protected these natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, this "user-pays, public-benefits" system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and permanently linked revenue from hunting and angling licenses to conservation, beginning 80 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturers of fishing and hunting equipment and supplies have collected excise taxes and distributed these funds to the states through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the combined contribution of the American System of Conservation Funding to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$57 billion since 1939; and

WHEREAS, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations from coast to coast and in Alaska and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day highlights the vast economic contributions of sportsmen and women, and this year, marks the 80th anniversary of the American System of Conservation Funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2017, as

Hunting and Fishing Day

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



Signed this 15th day of August, 2017

Governor Jay Inslee