

# 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 82 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 since 1939 exceeds \$57 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resources agencies – including the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – 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**, Washington's 1.05 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy by spending more than \$1 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, National Hunting and Fishing Day highlights the vast economic contributions of sportsmen and women, and this year marks the 82<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the American System of Conservation Funding;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2019, as

### *Hunting and Fishing Day*

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

Signed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee

