

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, Washington has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that dates back to time immemorial and continues to this day; and

*WHEREAS*, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over recent years have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington's sportspeople were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) 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, sportspeople supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing tackle, and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

*WHEREAS*, to this day the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife is funded in part by sportspeople through licenses, tags, access passes, and federal excise taxes on equipment; and last year alone, Washington's sportsmen and women generated nearly \$92 billion to support the conservation efforts of WDFW; and 975,113 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$12 billion spent on all outdoor activities in Washington according to the most recent year of available data; and

*WHEREAS*, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, sportspeople nationwide spent more than \$38 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting in 2021, in addition to travel expenses and necessary license fees. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 1.8 percent of Washington's gross domestic product that same year;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023, as

### *Hunting and Fishing Day*

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

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

