

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Arizona has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling, that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward 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, Arizona's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Arizona Game and Fish Department 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 firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the Arizona Game and Fish Department continues to conserve and protect more than 800 wildlife species in this state without need of state General Fund tax dollars because it is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through the American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays - public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Arizona's sportsmen and women generated \$80,065,796 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Arizona Game and Fish Department; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Game and Fish Department reports 529,687 hunting and fishing licenses sold in the most recent fiscal year, supporting the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$9.8 billion spent on outdoor activities in Arizona last year; and

WHEREAS, according to 2022 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$38 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.3% of Arizona's GDP that same 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, I Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023 as

ARIZONA HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

a day to be set aside in celebration of Arizona's sportsmen and women and the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona



GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fourteenth day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Eighth.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE