

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

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 offer 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 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 is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through this 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 \$56.74 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Arizona Game and Fish Department; and

WHEREAS, 786,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.2 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 18,220 jobs in Arizona and generates \$132 million in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, according to 2017 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, sportsmen and women spent more than \$19 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, nationally not including associated spending on trips and travel, or necessary license fees; and

WHEREAS, this spending helps to fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.7% of Arizona's GDP that same year; and

WHEREAS, this year has seen even more Americans contributing to the cause of conservation as they take to the outdoors, some returning to and others discovering hunting and fishing for the first time as healthy outdoor recreation consistent with the need to be physically distant during the COVID-19 pandemic; 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, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2020, as

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

to be set aside in celebration of Arizona's sportsmen and women and recognize 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

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

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

ATTEST:

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE