



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, Idaho 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, Idaho's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game 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, 61% of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's budget is provided 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, Idaho's sportsmen and women generated more than \$96 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game; and

WHEREAS, 865,525 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$2.7 billion spent on outdoor activities in Idaho 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 2.9% of Idaho'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, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2023, to be

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in Idaho, and I encourage Idaho citizens to recognize this special observance.




PHIL MCGRANE
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 22nd day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-eighth, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-fourth.


BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR