

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the region presently known as Washington today has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that predates statehood by thousands of years 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 Tribal nations have practiced hunting and fishing since time immemorial and continue to do so today, including through the exercise of treaty-reserved rights and serving as co-managers of the state's fish resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington recognizes and values the importance of ongoing Tribal-state cooperation in the shared stewardship of natural resources, including efforts to conserve and recover fish and wildlife populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington's sportsmen and women were among the first to support the establishment of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat; 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

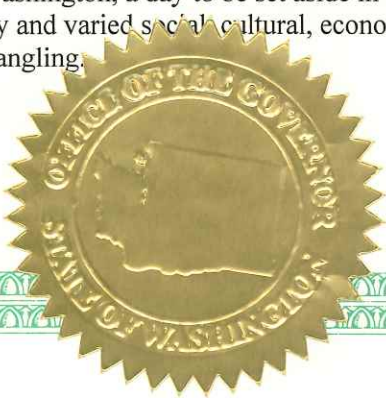
**WHEREAS**, to this day, WDFW is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding, a "user pays - public benefits" approach, that is widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1.1 million Washingtonians who fish and hunt support the state's economy through their spending, including over \$3.2 billion spent on equipment and trips in 2022 alone, and this spending supported over 25,000 jobs and generated \$395 million in state and local tax revenues; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2025, as

### *Hunting and Fishing Day*

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



Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2025

*Bob Ferguson*

Governor Bob Ferguson