

## **PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas 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: Arkansas's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission 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 hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS: To this day, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission receives significant funding from 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 of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS: Last year alone, Arkansas's sportsmen and women generated \$44,725,395 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's 696,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.55 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS: This spending supports over 25,393 jobs in Arkansas and generates \$163 million in state and local taxes; 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, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling and proclaim September 26, 2015 to be

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor