

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Hunters, anglers, and trappers in Arkansas and other states were among the first conservationists who supported the establishment of agencies to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and to help fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS: The primary authority to protect and manage fish and wildlife within individual state borders resides in the state’s fish and wildlife agencies, and their efforts and those of conservation leaders in Arkansas, led to passage of Act 124 of 1915, which created the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; and

WHEREAS: Upon realizing that licensing fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers from Arkansas and other states supported excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment as a means of raising additional funds to support restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS: This user pay, public-benefit system, known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, began 75 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, and was further bolstered with the passage of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950; and

WHEREAS: Since 1939, when money was first distributed to states from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs, the combined contribution to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded \$13 billion; and

WHEREAS: The cooperative partnership among industry, hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and other state agencies has resulted in a successful model of fish and wildlife management that has restored wildlife and sport fish populations throughout the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim 2012, as

**THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE
WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS**

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the important contributions of these programs to conserving our natural resources for the future.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2012.



ORIGINAL SIGNED
MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE