

Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, Wyoming 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 the past year 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, Wyoming's sportsmen and women were among the first people to support the establishment of the Wyoming 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 Wyoming Game and Fish Department is majority-funded 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, Wyoming's sportsmen and women generated \$48.96 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and

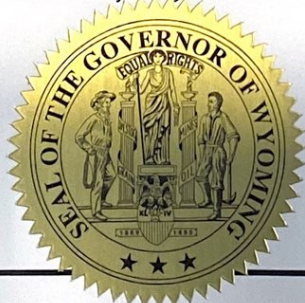
WHEREAS, 390,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$778 million while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 13,943 jobs in Wyoming and generates \$53 million in state and local taxes and helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 4.2% of Wyoming's GDP in 2019; 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, MARK GORDON, Governor of the State of Wyoming, 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 25, 2021 to be National Hunting and Fishing Day in Wyoming, a day to be set aside in celebration of Wyoming's sportsmen and women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 1st day of September, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Mark Gordon in blue ink.

The Honorable Mark Gordon
33rd Governor of the Great State of Wyoming