

GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS

ARIZONA PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Arizona 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 remain an integral part of the cultural fabric of communities throughout Arizona, offering a growing number of participants a way to connect with nature, while providing food security, self-sufficiency, and mental and physical health benefits; and
WHEREAS, Arizona's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Arizona Game and Fish Department to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, funding state conservation efforts through their license fees; and
WHEREAS, recognizing that license fees alone were not enough 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 Arizona Game and Fish Department is funded primarily by sportsmen and women through this American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays, public benefits" approach recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world - generating \$66.8 million last year alone to support AZGFD's conservation efforts, work that benefits all Arizonans who enjoy our state's lands, waters, and wildlife; and
WHEREAS, 732,271 hunters and anglers support Arizona's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$15.4 billion spent on outdoor recreation in our state last year, helping fuel an outdoor economy that has made up 2.7% of Arizona's GDP; and according to the most recent data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, sportsmen and women nationally spent more than \$41 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting - not including trip, travel, or license spending; and
WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to recognize hunters and anglers for their enduring contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our shared outdoor heritage.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim, September 26, 2026, as,

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY IN ARIZONA

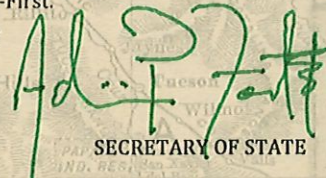


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona


GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-first day of September in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fifty-First.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE