

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling; and,

Whereas, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of communities throughout the state. In recent years, these pursuits have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks (GFP) to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat. Their license fees help 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, GFP 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. Last year alone, South Dakota's sportsmen and women generated \$51 million through this system to support GFP's conservation efforts. 430,877 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$2 billion spent on outdoor activities in South Dakota last year; and,

Whereas, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, nationally sportsmen and women spent more than \$41 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.7% of South Dakota's GDP that same year; 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:

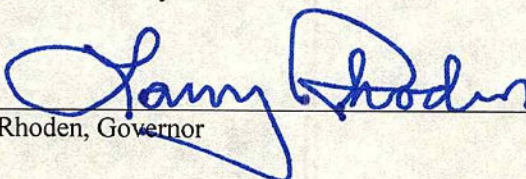
Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026, as

National Hunting and Fishing Day

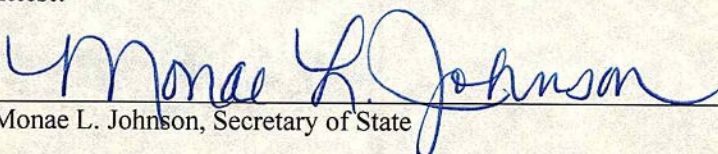
in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State