

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

Whereas, West Virginia 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 recent years 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, West Virginia's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources 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 West Virginia Division of Natural Resources 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; and

Whereas, last year alone, West Virginia's sportsmen and women generated \$29.4 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources; and

Whereas, 598,430 hunters and anglers support the State's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$2.2 billion spent on outdoor activities in West Virginia last year; and

Whereas, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level 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; and this spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.1% of West Virginia'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, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 19, 2026*, as:

National Hunting and Fishing Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Second Day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey

Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:

Kris Warner

Kris Warner
Secretary of State