



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING MONTH
October 2017

By the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS President Theodore Roosevelt observed, “In a civilized and cultivated country, wild animals only continue to exist at all when preserved by sportsmen”; and

WHEREAS for more than 150 years, hunters and anglers have led efforts to protect and conserve our Nation’s fish and wildlife, as well as their habitat for the benefit of future generations; and

WHEREAS through the leadership and financial support of hunters and anglers, the United States today encompasses the world’s greatest system of protected public lands, including national, state, and local parks; wildlife refuges; forests; recreation areas; and wilderness; and

WHEREAS sportsmen led and supported the passage of our first conservation laws, including the Lacey Act of 1900 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, both of which effectively ended the unfettered slaughter of native birds for food and feathers; and

WHEREAS at the height of the Depression, sportsmen answered the call and advocated for dedicated wildlife conservation funding. Consequently, their actions on passing legislation have generated nearly \$20 billion since 1937 to support wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and education in every State and U.S. territory. That figure does not include additional billions of dollars paid to states for hunting and fishing licenses, tags, and stamps – providing critical revenue to state wildlife agency operations; and

WHEREAS the foresight and sacrifice made by American hunters and anglers has given all Americans access to hundreds of millions of acres of public land across the Nation – land filled with spectacular wildlife and incredible vistas; and

WHEREAS this incomparable network of public lands, in turn, supports tourism and an outdoor recreation industry that employs hundreds of thousands of Americans and contributes more than \$145 billion into the economies of thousands of communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS hunting and fishing have created the ties that bind generations together, as millions of Americans have created lifelong memories and strengthened their bonds with

parents, grandparents, and children while participating in these sports. These moments have helped many Americans develop a personal connection with nature; and

WHEREAS Gifford Pinchot stated, “World-wide practice of Conservation and the fair and continued access by all nations to the resources they need are the two indispensable foundations of continuous plenty and of permanent peace”; and

WHEREAS the Department of the Interior and its bureaus, as stewards of millions of acres of public land across our great Nation, offer numerous opportunities for all Americans to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor recreation; and



WHEREAS our task now is to engage more Americans and to make it easier for them to access and enjoy all that our public lands have to offer; and

WHEREAS it is a top priority of this Administration to expand opportunities for all citizens to enjoy hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation across our Nation; and

WHEREAS I urge all Americans to explore opportunities to hunt and fish – and to bring family and friends along, or to mentor a young person when doing so. In this way, we can keep this bedrock American tradition going for generations to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the lasting and positive impact our true conservationists – hunters and anglers – have on our Nation’s wildlife, I, Ryan K. Zinke, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as National Hunting and Fishing month at the Department. I call upon all Americans to join us in recognizing the lasting benefits hunters and anglers have provided our society through their time, tireless efforts, and financial resources.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and in recognition of hunting and fishing, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of September, the two hundred forty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America.



Secretary of the Interior
