



STATE OF MISSOURI
Proclamation
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Missouri 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, in recent years, have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Missouri Department of Conservation 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 Missouri Department of Conservation is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women through the American System of Conservation Funding, a "user pays – public benefits" approach widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Missouri's sportsmen and women generated nearly \$75.4 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation; and

WHEREAS, this sportsmen-generated revenue complements Missouri's successful conservation sales tax, which generated nearly \$175 million last year alone; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1.3 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$10.6 billion spent on outdoor activities in Missouri last year; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, sportsmen and women nationally spent more than \$41 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, not including spending on trips, travel, or license fees, and this spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.4% of Missouri'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, MIKE KEHOE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026 to be

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in Missouri.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 31st day of August 2026.



Michael Kehoe
Mike Kehoe
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Denny Hoskins
SECRETARY OF STATE