



Office of the Governor  
State of Missouri

## Proclamation

**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**, Missouri's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of 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 hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, To this day, the Missouri Department of Conservation is funded 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 of fish and wildlife management in the world and is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

**WHEREAS**, Last year alone, Missouri's sportsmen and women generated \$63.61 million through this System to help support the conservation efforts of the Missouri Department of Conservation;

**WHEREAS**, Missouri's 1.28 million hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.67 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, this spending supports over 28,895 jobs in Missouri and generates \$181 million in state and local taxes; 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, Eric R. Greitens, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and,

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Eric R. Greitens, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2017 to be

### HUNTING AND FISHING DAY IN MISSOURI

and recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling.

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017.



Handwritten signature of Eric R. Greitens in black ink.

Eric R. Greitens  
Governor

Attest:

Handwritten signature of Jay Ashcraft in black ink.

Secretary of State