

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers, and trappers were among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvest and habitat destruction, and took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these conservationists established state game and fish agencies, similar to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, with the authority and mission to protect fish, wildlife and their habitat, and support fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources and manage for safe, compatible outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters, anglers, and trappers supported excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support restoration and enhancement efforts of the state agencies; and

WHEREAS, this "user-pays, public benefits" system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 80 years ago with the passage of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program also permanently linked revenue from hunting and angling licenses to conservation, creating the American System of Conservation Funding as it exists today; and

WHEREAS, the combined contribution of the American System of Conservation Funding to state fish and wildlife agencies exceeds \$57 billion since 1939 (the first year money was distributed to the states) – more than any other single conservation effort in American history; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, hunting, fishing, and boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine electronics, and motorboat fuel and distributed these funds to the states through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the cooperative partnership between hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state natural resource agencies has resulted in the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world, restoring populations from coast to coast and in Alaska and Hawaii.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby recognize America's hunters, anglers, trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their leading role in restoring healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, both game and non-game, to the abundance we see today in this the 80th anniversary year of America's greatest conservation story, the American System of Conservation Funding.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this twenty-second day of May in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-First.

ATTEST:

Michele Reagan

SECRETARY OF STATE



DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Terms and Conditions

Enclosed is a proclamation signed by the Governor of the State of Arizona. This proclamation is a formal public announcement made by the Governor and is provided pursuant to a request from an Arizona resident or approved non-profit organization. It is strictly honorary and designed to recognize notable state and local events.

Because this proclamation, as with all others, is given on a case-by-case basis, and is usually used to recognize a special day, month, week, event, non-profit organization, statewide milestones, and/or regional or national meetings held in Arizona, its only authorized use is in conjunction with the event for which it was given. This authorization extends to your right to read the proclamation aloud at the event, display the proclamation at the event and print it in materials associated with the event (i.e. event programs). *You may not otherwise republish the proclamation unless explicit written consent is granted from the Governor's Office.*

Because the Governor's Office receives many requests for proclamations and relies, in large part, on information submitted along with the request to complete the proclamation, you should not interpret the issuance of the proclamation as a sponsorship or endorsement of your organization, its activities or its membership, and you are prohibited from representing otherwise.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your intended use of this proclamation, please contact the Governor's Office of Constituent Services through email at proclamations@az.gov.