



WGFD

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

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News Release

September 22, 2009

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CELEBRATE NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

LANDER – Most Wyomingites realize the values of hunting and fishing to family and tradition, but few people understand the conservation and economic benefits Wyoming sportsmen and women contribute to our wildlife heritage. National Hunting and Fishing Day was established to celebrate the contributions of sportsmen and women, and this year National Hunting and Fishing Day will be held this Saturday September 26th.

Over a century ago hunters and anglers became the earliest and most diligent supporters of conservation and the North American Model of Wildlife Management, the only one of its kind in the world. The model has two basic principles – that wildlife and fish belong to all North American citizens, and that these resources are to be managed in such a way that their populations will be sustained forever. These principles of the North American model are explained through a set of guidelines known as “The Seven Sisters of Conservation”, which are that wildlife is held in public trust, a prohibition on commerce of dead wildlife, allocating wildlife use through the rule of law, equal hunting opportunity for all, non-frivolous use of wildlife, wildlife is an international resource, and finally science is the basis for wildlife policy. This model is the single best effort to manage wildlife in perpetuity the world has ever seen.

National Hunting and Fishing Day, unanimously passed by Congress in 1972, celebrates the efforts of early sportsmen and the history of North American wildlife management and conservation. Always falling on the fourth Saturday of September, National Hunting and Fishing Day recognizes the efforts of early conservation-minded sportsmen like President Theodore Roosevelt, who passed the first laws restricting commercial slaughter of wildlife and transportation of wildlife and created 51 wildlife refuges and 5 new national parks. President Franklin D. Roosevelt further enhanced the North American Model of Wildlife Management in 1937 when he signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, which places a federal tax on

the sale of hunting and fishing equipment. The money is then returned to the states to be used for wildlife and habitat enhancement projects.

According to a federal report, "Hunting and Fishing: Bright Stars of the American Economy ~ A force as big as all outdoors," hunters and anglers annually contribute \$76 billion to the American economy through taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, more than the annual revenues of Microsoft, Google, Ebay, and Yahoo - combined. In Wyoming alone, the 113,000 active sportsmen spend \$676 million a year on hunting and fishing, 89 percent of Wyoming's cash receipts for cattle. Contributions from sportsmen directly support 9,500 Wyoming jobs and pump \$1.8 million into the state's economy daily.

"Spending by sportsmen benefits not only the manufacturers of hunting and fishing related products, but everything from local mom and pop businesses to wildlife conservation," said Doug Painter, president of National Shooting Sports Foundation. "And because most hunting and fishing takes place in rural areas, much of the spending benefits less affluent parts of the state."

The contributions hunters and anglers have made to wildlife conservation and preservation are too numerous to count and as important today as these contributions have ever been. So remember to give thanks to hunters and anglers for all they do not only on National Hunting and Fishing Day, but every day. Without sportsmen and women we wouldn't enjoy the wildlife heritage Wyomingites enjoy today.

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