

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, SEPT. 24, 2021:

Governor declares Saturday, Sept. 25, National Hunting and Fishing Day in New Mexico

SANTA FE – Each year hunters and anglers contribute more than \$579 million dollars to the state's economy, providing the funding necessary to manage New Mexico's wildlife for the benefit of our citizens and future generations.

In honor of the sportsmen and women's contributions to wildlife conservation, Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham issued a proclamation, declaring Saturday, Sept. 25 National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD) in New Mexico.

Saturday, the Department will celebrate NHFD with a day of free fishing in New Mexico. All anglers, residents and nonresidents, may fish free on public waters statewide. No one needs a license or stamp, although bag limits and all other fishing rules apply.

Whether you feel like testing the waters for the first time or you are an old hand at fishing, it's the perfect time to get out and make a cast or two at lakes and streams across New Mexico.

For more information about places to fish on Saturday, check out this week's <u>Fishing</u> and <u>Stocking Report</u> and our new <u>Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner</u>.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, New Mexico 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 are an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, offering an opportunity to connect with nature while providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency and mental and physical health benefits; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's hunters and anglers were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Department of Game and Fish to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and help fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, to this day, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish's budget is provided by sportsmen and women, a user pays - all wildlife and people benefits system; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, New Mexico's sportsmen and women generated approximately \$40 million to support Game and Fish conservation efforts and support the state's economy, spending more than \$579 million during their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$33 billion on hunting, fishing and recreational shooting equipment, not including expenses such as travel or license fees, helping fuel the outdoor economy which comprised 2.2% of the state's 2019 GDP; 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, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2021 as:

"Hunting and Fishing Day"

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Foulouse Oliver Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this 19th day of July 2021.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham

Governor