



Executive Department
State of Idaho

State Capitol
Boise

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than a century ago, hunters, anglers and trappers were among the first conservationists to realize that America's natural resources were in peril and could not withstand unregulated harvest and habitat destruction; and

WHEREAS, hunters, anglers and trappers took it upon themselves to support laws that stopped excessive harvest of fish and wildlife by establishing game and fish agencies to protect wildlife and their habitat, and supported fishing and hunting license fees to help fund the new agencies' efforts to provide for healthy natural resources for 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, ammunition, archery equipment, hunting equipment and fishing equipment to raise additional funds; and

WHEREAS, this "user-pays, public-benefits" system became known as the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program that began 80 years ago with approval of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with approval of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950, further expanded with the Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program permanently linked revenue from hunting and angling licenses to conservation efforts, 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 – 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, this cooperative partnership between industry, 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim August 30, 2017 to be the

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING

in Idaho.



Lawrence Denney

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 30th day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-second and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-eighth.

C.L. Butch Otter

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR