

Johnny Morris
WONDERS OF WILDLIFE
NATIONAL MUSEUM &
AQUARIUM

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U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signs National Hunting and Fishing Month proclamation at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium



Springfield, Mo. – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today addressed prominent conservationists gathered at Johnny Morris' Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium and signed a proclamation naming October as National Hunting and Fishing Month.

The order recognizes the lasting and positive impact of hunters and anglers on wildlife and habitat conservation in America and paid tribute to the historic contributions of sportsmen and women, a goal shared by the not-for-profit Wonders of Wildlife, which celebrates people who hunt, fish, and act as stewards of the land and water. Zinke was joined by students from the Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility (WOLF) School, a comprehensive outdoor learning school that inspires and educates the next generation of conservation leaders operated in partnership with Springfield Public Schools, Wonders of Wildlife and Bass Pro Shops.

"I am proud to designate the month of October as National Hunting and Fishing month," said Secretary Zinke. "American hunters and anglers are the backbone of conservation efforts, generating over a billion dollars each year for conservation. For more than 150 years, sportsmen and women have led efforts to protect and conserve our Nation's fish and wildlife. In an effort to serve as good neighbors and stewards of our public lands, the Department has opened millions of acres for hunting, and we are currently working to protect big game migration corridors. I call upon all Americans to join us in recognizing the lasting benefits hunters and anglers have provided our society through their time, tireless efforts, and financial resources."

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$156 billion in economic activity in communities across the United States in 2016 according to the Service's [National Survey of Fishing, Hunting](#)

[and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#), published every five years. More than 101 million Americans – 40 percent of the U.S. population 16 and older – pursue wildlife-related recreation – hunting, fishing and birding among others.

“We’re honored to welcome Secretary Zinke to Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium and proud to join in his efforts to celebrate hunting and fishing,” said noted conservationist and founder of Bass Pro Shops and Wonders of Wildlife Johnny Morris. “Wonders of Wildlife is a tribute to all sportsmen and women for their significant and ongoing contributions to wildlife conservation in America. We hope more Americans take the time to enjoy hunting and fishing with their families throughout our beautiful and abundant public lands.”

The signing event marked the interior secretary’s second visit to Wonders of Wildlife. His first took place last year as part of a historic salute to conservation to commemorate the museum and aquarium’s grand opening with 400 prominent conservation leaders from across North America and the world. In addition to signing a similar proclamation, Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, went SCUBA diving with sharks and answered student questions while underwater.

The signing took place at the 11th Annual Private Lands Partners Day, presented by Partners for Conservation, a grassroots movement of private landowners working with agencies, non-profit organizations, and policymakers to collaborate on conservation projects to sustain our working landscapes for present and future generations.

Private Lands Partners Day brings together private landowner leaders and partners, typically from more than 30 states, to share their experiences with efforts to conserve rural working landscapes for both people and nature. The event represents one of the hundreds of conservation organizations and events hosted annually at Wonders of Wildlife and the adjacent White River Conference Center.

About Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium

Johnny Morris’ Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium consists of an all-new 1.5-million-gallon Aquarium Adventure showcasing 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds, and immersive Wildlife Galleries that bring visitors eye-to-eye with the greatest collection of record-setting game animals ever assembled. Created by noted conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder/CEO Johnny Morris, the 350,000-square-foot experience celebrates those who hunt, fish, and act as stewards of the land and water. Located next to Bass Pro Shops National Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri the campus is a centerpiece of America’s Conservation Capital in Missouri’s Ozark Mountains. Wonders of Wildlife has been voted “Best New Attraction in America” and “America’s Best Aquarium” by the readers of USA TODAY. For more information, visit www.wondersofwildlife.org.

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