

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to 668 species of vertebrates and thousands of species of invertebrates, including 72 species of mammals, more than 160 types of fish, 19 species of amphibians, 37 species of reptiles, 441 types of birds, 160 species of dragonflies, 153 species of butterflies, 52 species of mussels, and 20 species of bumblebees; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's fish and wildlife are among our most valuable resources, as they support our economy, our heritage, and our way of life; and

WHEREAS; despite our state's notable biodiversity, more than 100 wildlife species in Wisconsin are endangered and 400 wildlife species risk becoming endangered; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin was the first state to pass its own endangered species act in 1971, soon followed by administrative rules identifying specific species to be protected, as well as the first agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to inventory and manage endangered and threatened species; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) established the Natural Heritage Conservation Program in the early 1970s to protect and restore Wisconsin's rare wildlife and state areas, promote biodiversity, and track endangered and threatened species, which has resulted in the successful rehabilitation of wildlife and habitats across our state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to the oldest system of State Natural Areas in the United States—comprising 406,000 acres of land and nearly 700 State Natural Areas—which provide safer habitats for rare wildlife species as they adapt to warming temperatures, increased precipitation, habitat fragmentation, and invasive species; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the DNR in encouraging Wisconsinites to reflect on the importance of our state's wildlife, to contribute to ongoing conservation efforts, and to invest in the future of our state's biodiversity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 4, 2021, as

## **NATIONAL WILDLIFE DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State