



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

SHOOTING SPORTS MONTH

WHEREAS, hunting, firearms, and shooting sports are part of the history, tradition, and culture of Florida; and

WHEREAS, sport shooting and training ranges are widely used and enjoyed by Floridians across the state and are a component of the guarantees of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Governor DeSantis has delivered on preserving Florida's natural resources, and as Theodore Roosevelt and his fellow founding members of his hunting and habitat conservation club wrote in their 1887 founding charter, shooting sports "promote manly sport with the rifle," "promote travel and exploration in the wild and unknown... portions of the country," and encourage "preservation of the large game of this country;" and

WHEREAS, Florida's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and help fund state efforts to provide healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, FWCC hunter education courses cover the knowledge, skills, and attitude needed to be a safe hunter, and offer opportunities to safely learn to shoot and to responsibly increase public participation in shooting sports and hunting; and

WHEREAS, the FWCC is committed to safely supporting the needs of recreational target shooters, hunters, and hunter safety students, and manages 11 shooting ranges across the state; and

WHEREAS, sportsmen and hunters teach others to understand the responsibilities of owning and using a firearm, while also working to ensure that our natural resources are safeguarded; and

WHEREAS, the firearm and ammunition industry contributed as much as \$3.46 billion to Florida's economy in 2021 and supported more than 22,332 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Florida received more than \$20.5 million in funding for habitat conservation and science-based wildlife management efforts in 2021 through the Wildlife Restoration Program, which brings federal grant funding to Florida from the sporting arms and archery industries and the people of Florida who participate in hunting and target shooting.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing August 2022, as *Shooting Sports Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 1st day of August, in the year two thousand twenty-two.



Governor