**Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**

**Celebrating 100 years from January 1 to December 31, 2024**

**A PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge was formed 100 years ago by legislative action on June 7, 1924 to develop systematic evaluation and management of this protected area for the future generations; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Friends of Refuge organizations, federal and state partners, and others work to conserve, protect, and enhance habitat as a breeding ground for migratory birds, fish, other wildlife, and plants for the continuing benefit of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the refuge has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention and a Globally Important Bird Area; and

WHEREAS, the 240,000-acre refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from the confluence of the Chippewa River near Wabasha, MN to Princeton, IA. It crosses 4 states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin. The Americans that live in these communities along the river depend on the river for commerce, recreation, water supply, and environmental benefits; and

WHEREAS, the refuge hosts 3.7 million visitors annually. It provides a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation; and

WHEREAS, the refuge addresses significant issues including: threatened and endangered species, waterfowl migration, neotropical migratory birds, bottomland hardwood restoration, cultural resources, public use, and forest fragmentation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I (we), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (person or group), do hereby proclaim 2024 as

**Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Year**

in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I(we) encourage all businesses and community members to support community efforts to continue this legacy of cooperation and to participate in the refuge events throughout year of 2024 in celebration of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge vision.

Official Signature and Seal IN WITNESS, WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to be herein affixed.

